OUR MISSION
To promote the sharing of information among and within animal welfare and control agencies
To enhance a positive and professional image of animal welfare and control agencies
To provide educational opportunities for members
We believe in the intrinsic dignity and sanctity of human life.

We believe in the intrinsic dignity and sanctity of animal life.

We believe all animals are entitled to be free from suffering, abuse and exploitation.

We believe that companion animals are a product of human intervention and that we have a special obligation to them in regard to humane treatment and responsible stewardship.

We believe we have an obligation to alleviate suffering.

We believe we have an obligation to prevent cruelty.

We believe that people should treat each animal as kindly as possible.

We believe we have a duty to protect and care for the suffering and homeless.

We believe that our values, decisions, conduct and behavior should set the tone and be a model for others in their care and treatment of animals.

The commitment, care and attention we afford to both human beings and animals are only differentiated by degree and not by kind.

“Unless all members of an organization share a common vision and a similar series of values, the objective, purpose, and/or goals of that organization cannot and will not be achieved.”

James MacGregor Burns
A YEAR OF HARD WORK

2007 proved to be an interesting and productive year for the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators; interesting because we lost our management company and somehow did more with less. Productive because of the efforts of the Development Committee headed by Greg Bloomfield along with Bob Rohde, Bob Downey, Rick Gabrielson, and Mike Retzlaff. Along with gains in support from new sponsors and maintaining existing relationships, a landmark sponsorship was developed with Hill’s.

The Management Conference and the National Conference broke attendance records. Consultants Judy Burnett and Martha Armstrong worked solidly with the Conference Committee led by Martha Boden, Alice Calabrese Smith, and Cheryl Naumann. SAWA’s commitment to professional development remains strong.

I must thank my Administrative Assistant, Paully Brengel, first for putting up with me but foremost for taking on the tasks of the management company without complaint. Earlier I stated SAWA did more with less and that is true in dollars and cents. With respect to effort, there was much more from Paully as well as every SAWA Board Member.

Please pursue certification and reach out to have others join SAWA. Our strength comes from our membership and our strength grows as we share information.

Sincerely,

Harold “Harry” Dates, CAWA
WHERE ARE WE TODAY WITH MICROCHIPPING?
by Carl Bandow

Electronic pet identification continued to be a focus for SAWA in 2007. Our list serve generated heavy traffic on a variety of topics around microchips. SAWA is disappointed that the USDA announced that it lacks the regulatory authority to mandate a national standard for microchips and microchip scanners. The federal Animal Welfare Act does not grant the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) the power to mandate standardization for pet microchips or the scanners that read them.

SAWA was pleased to see that Home Again, Bayer ResQ and Banfield distributed more than 50,000 universal scanners to the animal sheltering and veterinary communities. SAWA members were invited to participate on the microchip advisory boards for Home Again and Bayer ResQ. This recognized the need to have the animal sheltering community at the table and make recommendations as to our needs to effectively reunite pets with their families. In 2008, SAWA will continue to work with the industry on these issues.

SAWA will keep members informed of updates, and continue to provide a voice for the animals on this issue. My thanks to Don Mitton for providing me updates on SAWA’s participation with the microchip industry. All the best to Don, the past Chair of the Issues Subcommittee; he retired from our field last year.

ISSUES COMMITTEE
The Committee assumes a national leadership role on issues affecting shelters and animals. It identifies and prioritizes concerns, engages key leadership on state and federal levels, and proactively advocates and tracks developments on behalf of more than 500 SAWA members.
The SAWA disaster committee continued working with the National Animal Rescue & Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) made up of nine national organizations: ASPCA, HSUS, IFAW, UAN, American Humane, Code 3, Best Friends, and NACA. The coalition met and trained together five times throughout the year. Trainings included incident command 400 and both planning and public information officer roles related to disasters. We practiced our trainings and coordinated our efforts in multiple deployments including a large-scale puppy mill operation, tornadoes in the Midwest and with the fires in Southern California.

SAWA was also represented at the AVMA disaster committee in August and the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) conference in Orlando, Florida. This newly formed organization provides the framework to enhance communication and cooperation among state program members with a variety of important stakeholders, including local and tribal animal or agricultural emergency programs, non-governmental organizations, private industry, and federal agencies.

For our members, we completed a template for a Memorandum of Understanding to be used as a standardized agreement between two organizations for disaster-related partnerships. This template is available for downloading on the SAWA website.

Finally, we are continuing to represent shelters in the development of resource typing for the National Response Framework and emergency training guidelines for sheltering and animal rescue standards.

DISASTER COMMITTEE
The disaster committee was formed in 2006 to support members in disaster preparedness, advocacy, education and in facilitating partnerships with community and government agencies.
As a member of the National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy, SAWA works with other members to further NCPPSP’s mission, which includes the gathering and analysis of reliable data that characterizes the number, origin and disposition of dogs and cats. Two most recent studies initiated by NCPPSP are providing us with important information relative to our work.

The first, Population Dynamics of Free-Roaming Cats, includes the following components:

- A field-work assessment of free-roaming cats
- A survey of community member attitudes
- Citizen observation logs of free-roaming cats and their activities
- Free-roaming cat genetics analysis

The second study, Shelter Population Index in Companion Animals, will:

- Establish a valid and consistent estimate or index of shelter dog and cat populations
- Provide an indicator of pet population trends similar to the Dow Jones Industrial Average
- Create a tool that will be reflective of the community’s health and well-being rather than an evaluative instrument for shelter analysis

Through its work, the National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy aims to provide the animal welfare community with important data, which is useful in the development of strategies to address pet overpopulation.
SAWA established the certification program in 2003 and has offered the exam to qualified animal welfare professionals each year at the annual conference. The certification exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions, covering varied topics in animal welfare and control. These exam questions were researched and written by highly qualified professionals in our field, using a variety of professional texts as source material. Each year the test committee researches and writes additional questions for the exam to make sure that we are keeping the test questions current and to make sure the exam changes each year.

Part of the certification process is the requirement for CAWAs to seek continuing education and submit those credits every three years to maintain CAWA status. The first group of CAWAs, who passed the test in 2004, just submitted their CEUs to maintain their CAWA status. This process is available online through our test provider CPS.

At the Management Conference in Indianapolis in 2007, we offered a class to help SAWA attendees understand the certification process and how best to prepare for the exam, with input from CAWAs who had taken the test once (or twice) and could share their experiences. We will next offer the exam at the annual conference in Scottsdale in November 2008, but plan to move the exam to the SAWA Management Conference beginning in 2009. HSUS and HSU continue to offer approved courses for CEU credit and we are expanding the pool of education providers to make it easier to obtain CAWA credits. We will alert you as those opportunities become available.

The certification process continues to be financially supported by our charter sponsors, Avid the Microchip Company and Hill’s Science Diet, both of which have just renewed multi-year financial commitments to the program. To help offset the cost of the exam in 2007, Avid offered a box of microchips to each candidate.

For more information about the exam, the reading list, sample questions, eligibility requirements, etc., please visit www.sawanetwork.org/certification/htm

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Professional Certification Program is designed to distinguish the knowledge, skills and achievements of upper-level managers working in animal welfare and animal care and control; to support best practices within the profession; and to broaden understanding about the specialized qualifications required for excellence in leadership in this unique field of work.
The two SAWA annual conferences are designed to offer networking, relationship-building and learning opportunities for our members and friends. Our conferences are recognized in the industry as being among the best available to animal welfare professionals.

For the first time, a joint management conference was held in June 2007, combining operations, development and administrative professionals and topics. One hundred and six people attended the Indianapolis conference, a 50% increase over the prior year, when two management conferences were held. The topics included CAWA, Asilomar Accords, shelter performance measures, hot topics in shelter finance/administration, board fundraising, and incorporating licensed veterinary professionals in shelter operations. From the opening reception to an evening of great food and a comedy show, most participants felt the networking opportunities presented by the conference were among its greatest benefits.

The 2007 SAWA National Conference was held in Ponte Vedra Beach Florida in November. The conference boasted SAWA's largest participation ever with over 250 animal welfare professionals attending. In between the eight educational sessions there was plenty of time for networking and building relationships with colleagues from the United States, Canada and as far away as England. The overwhelming sentiment of participants was that they appreciated the different opportunities to network — during the roundtable session, at meals, receptions and at our closing night party on the beach!

Our many sponsors and exhibitors are to thank for making the conference possible.
OVER 500 MEMBERS STRONG IN 2007
by Robert A. Downey

The value of SAWA has never been more evident and the 2007 membership total reflects that value. This year, SAWA passed the five hundred-member mark with 502 members, an all-time high and a slight increase from 2006’s roster of 492.

| 218 | Executive – chief executive of an agency that operates an animal shelter or enforces animal regulations |
| 170 | Manager – managers in agencies that operate animal shelters and/or enforce animal regulations, or board members and commissioners |
| 52  | Associate – all parties interested in animal welfare and control, excluding for-profit businesses |
| 45  | Business – for-profit businesses interested in animal welfare and control |
| 17  | Honorary – a member in good standing who has officially retired from animal care and control |

JOIN US & BECOME A MEMBER

A major benefit of joining SAWA is the opportunity to network with peers from across the country. Face to face networking takes place at the annual National and Management Conferences. All members receive an annual membership directory, quarterly e-newsletters, and have the opportunity to join SAWA’s online discussion group to interact with peers. Other benefits include special discounted member rates for SAWA conferences, access to the bi-annual Salary Survey and SAWA’s professional certification program. To become a member, visit sawanetwork.org.
SAWA’s financial position continues to strengthen. In 2007, the organization continued to increase revenue from members and sponsorships – a clear indicator of SAWA’s value to the animal welfare community and corporate supporters.

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$473,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>$245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAWA Certification</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Grants</td>
<td>$30,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Expenses</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Planning</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$386,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>