



Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Dear Friends & Colleagues:

We would like to extend an invitation to join a state-wide organization we have created solely for open admission and municipal shelters. The best part is there are **no dues!**

The name of this new organization is the **Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters (VAAS)** and we already have members representing all regions of Virginia. Our goal is to utilize our collective experience, commitment and resources on behalf of animals and those of us who operate regulated open access or municipal shelters. We are dedicated to improving and supporting the member shelters on behalf of the animals we serve and to weigh in on the larger issues related to animal welfare in Virginia. We are committed to educating our members and their communities state-wide on the status of animal welfare and advancing solutions and policies that will improve the status of companion animals.

We hope to work with each of our member organizations by listening to what you have to say about your own organization and its needs. We want to provide training opportunities both at your site and in your region on matters that pertain to your own operations or state regulations that apply to you. We want to ensure that the unique responsibilities of regulated public and private entities, which cannot or do not “pick and choose” the animals they receive, are respected and that these organizations are supported in their efforts to improve their operations compatible with the constraints imposed on them. We will work with VDACS and state legislators on behalf of shelters to insure a mutually respectful, productive relationship, while also engaging in matters of common interests on proposed or new regulations and legislation. Primarily, we will be a voice and a support for and to one another as we continue to focus on the significant obligations unique to our organizations.

I have attached the Case Statement, Statement of Purpose and Member Guidelines for VAAS for your review. One of our members will be following up in the next two weeks to talk with you about the organization. In the meantime, thank you for all you do on behalf of companion animals in Virginia. Your work and dedication is greatly appreciated and we hope you will choose to join us in this exciting new endeavor.

Regards,

Sharon Q. Adams, MPA