1043 Grand Avenue #115 • St. Paul, MN 55105 • info@animalfolks.org • 651-222-2821

Animal Folks Holds Training on Animal Cruelty for Law Enforcement

In December 2017, Animal Folks, working with the Oakdale Police Department, hosted training on Animal Cruelty Investigations for Oakdale peace officers and for statewide Animal Control Officers (ACOs) and Community Services Officers (CSOs).

It was a great success with 75 attendees. Continuing education credits were provided through the MN Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

This was a pilot program with the focus on basic training about animal cruelty, investigation techniques, and Minnesota anti-cruelty statutes. The program will be expanded to other police departments and sheriff offices throughout Minnesota.



Pine County Attorney Reese Frederickson presenting to peace officers.

Local and national speakers, including peace officers, prosecutors, veterinarians, and resource providers, presented; topics are listed on page 4. The peace officer training was for 3.5 hours, held in two shifts. The ACO and CSO training was a full 8-hour day.

Funding for the training was provided by generous donations to Animal Folks, a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and funds from the Oakdale Police Department.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Animal Folks is to protect animals and fight animal cruelty by creating a modern system of animal law enforcement in Minnesota.

OUR POSITIONING

Public safety and crime prevention.

WHO WE SERVE

Animals in Minnesota. We also serve Minnesota residents who believe animals should be treated humanely and authorities who are involved in the enforcement of animal law.

NEW: JOINT EFFORTS

In 2017, Animal Folks MN (legislative arm of Animal Folks; a 501c4 nonprofit) chose to dissolve and join, organizationally, with Animal Folks (501c3 nonprofit). Instead of operating under two organizations, now all efforts to meet our mission and protect animals will be streamlined and coordinated under Animal Folks; legislative actions will continue as one of the five core strategic programs.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Animal Folks accomplishes its mission through a systems-thinking approach. This strategic approach focuses on the development of long-term, sustainable solutions across multiple disciplines to improve the enforcement of animal law and protection of animals. Animal Folks speaks regularly with local and national stakeholders, such as prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, veterinarians, and others, for advice and discussion of new, systemic ideas. This strategic approach is supported by five primary programs: 1) Animal Cruelty Research; 2) Criminal & Civil Justice; 3) Animal Law Resources; 4) Legislative Action; and 5) Outreach & Communication.

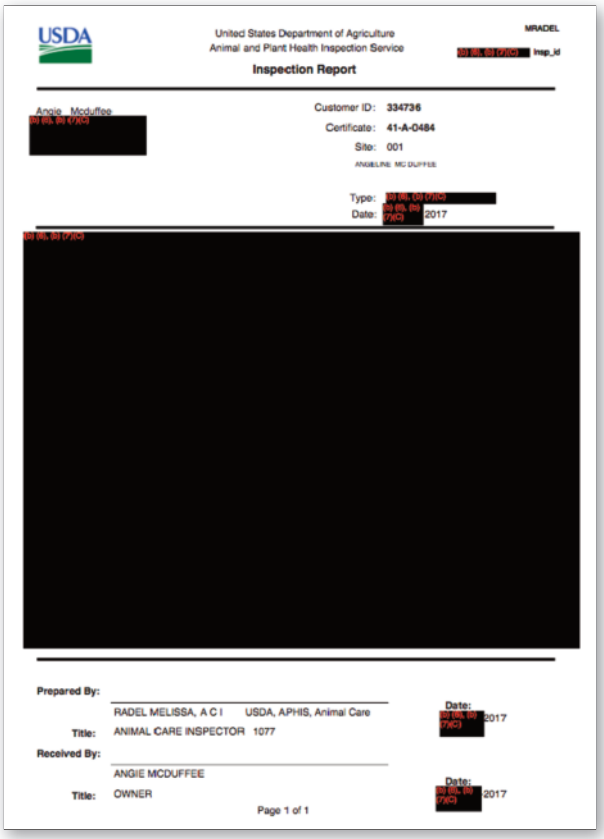
PROGRAM GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROGRAM 1: Animal Cruelty Research

GOAL: To research animal cruelty cases and issues pertaining to crimes against animals, and provide credible Minnesota-specific data to the public, agencies, and organizations upon request.

2017 Strategies and Actions

- **Data Requests: Federal** — In 2017, Animal Folks continued to regularly submit data requests to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for information related to licensing violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Due to the USDA removing animal welfare documents from its website, we have increased our individual FOIA requests in an attempt to obtain data that was previously online. Unfortunately, the USDA is now redacting data from requests — providing less transparency of government and licensee actions. This was the basis for the lawsuit (page 3); further details posted on the Animal Folks website.
- **Data Requests: State and Local** — Animal Folks filed data requests with local law enforcement agencies. Data collected is used to support cruelty complaints and to supplement training of authorities, providing examples of cruelty cases and violations of law. As the MN Board of Animal Health is now denying data requests for Certificates of Veterinary Inspections (CVIs), Animal Folks is obtaining CVIs from other states to track and monitor sales of animals (from breeding facilities) across state lines.
- **General animal cruelty** — Animal Folks continues to gather data on animal cruelty issues pertaining to all species and types of crimes. This research is used to generate awareness about general animal cruelty and lay a foundation for programs.


United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Inspection Report
Customer ID: 334736
Certificate: 41-A-0484
Site: 001
Prepared By:
RADEL MELISSA, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 1077
Received By:
ANGIE MCDUFFEE
Title: OWNER
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Example of FOIA redacted document of dog breeder inspection.

- **Animal Cruelty Databank** — During 2017, Animal Folks continued its study of animal cruelty cases (statewide) in all 87 Minnesota counties from 2008-2016. By the end of 2017, all cases (over 1,000) for this time period had been collected and coded with pro bono assistance from attorneys and volunteers at 3M. We have now entered the quality assurance phase of the project.

PROGRAM 2: Criminal & Civil Justice

GOAL: To investigate and report suspected or known animal cruelty (or related crimes against animals) and provide input to criminal and civil cases throughout the legal process.

2017 Strategies and Actions



- **Lawsuit against USDA** — Animal Folks is a plaintiff and part of a coalition that filed a lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). By abruptly removing animal welfare documents from its website, we believe the USDA violated the Freedom of Information Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. This lawsuit was filed in February 2017, led by the Animal Legal Defense Fund. We are asking the documents be restored online for public viewing. Animal Folks used these documents to monitor the actions of licensees and file civil and cruelty complaints.
- **Fulfill Requests** — Animal Folks provides guidance to citizens who request help in filing complaints involving suspected animal cruelty or understanding Minnesota laws related to the health and safety of animals. Animal Folks also acts as a resource to professionals requesting assistance with MN animal law.
- **Lawsuit against MN Board of Animal Health** — Animal Folks, in conjunction with the Animal Humane Society and taxpayers, sued the MN Board of Animal Health (BAH) for violation of the Commercial Breeders Licensing and Enforcement law by granting a state license to a commercial dog breeder convicted of cruelty against animals. In 2012 and 2013, Animal Folks had filed multiple complaints against this dog breeder which resulted in a cruelty conviction and seizure of over 120 dogs. The complaints documented dogs with severe physical and psychological damage. By the BAH granting a state license to this breeder, the breeder has now repurchased animals and has continued its breeding operations. See photo at right; details posted on Animal Folks website.



Photo of an older female breeding dog and her litter at Rowell kennel; all animals seized at time of investigation. Lawsuit due to this case.

PROGRAM 3: Animal Law Resources

GOAL: To foster professionalism and competency by providing training, resources, and support to Minnesota authorities responsible for the enforcement of animal law.

2017 Strategies and Actions

- **Veterinary Manual for Reporting Animal Cruelty: Oklahoma and Massachusetts** — Animal Folks worked with local and national experts to develop a manual entitled "Reporting Animal Cruelty — The Role of the Veterinarian: Establishing Protocols to Identify and Report Suspected Animal Cruelty in Minnesota." The purpose of the manual is to assist veterinarians in how to identify, document, and report animal cruelty. Multiple states have asked Animal Folks to adapt the manual for their state. In 2017, Animal Folks worked with organizations in Oklahoma and Massachusetts to adapt the manual to reflect the laws in their states.

2017 Strategies and Actions (continued)

- **Animal Cruelty Training for Veterinarians** — In February 2017, Animal Folks partnered with the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) to host a training session at the MVMA annual meeting. Over 100 veterinarians and veterinary technicians attended the full day session, which included topics on Minnesota animal law and protocols for identifying, documenting, and reporting animal cruelty. A mock trial was also held. Animal Folks organized the training, bringing in local and national speakers to present.



Animal cruelty presentation by Nicole Eller, DVM, to attendees at conference.



Mock trial was held as part of training; Honorable Judge Shumaker assisted.

- **Animal Cruelty Training for Law Enforcement** — In December 2017 and in cooperation with the Oakdale Police Department, Animal Folks held training on animal cruelty and investigation techniques for the Oakdale peace officers and statewide Animal Control Officers and Community Service Officers. This training was a pilot program and will be used to execute other training sessions in the state. Materials were also created and distributed, including Q&A sheets for seizure of animals and examples of incident reports and sentencing orders.

  Below are topics and speakers.

  - MN Animal Cruelty: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach *Ann Olson, Founder and Executive Director, Animal Folks*
  - MN Animal Law: What's needed for evidence? *Reese Frederickson, Pine County Attorney*
  - Veterinary Forensics: What is Pain?, *Daniel Almeida, DVM*
  - The Role of the Veterinarian, *Lisa McCargar, DVM*
  - Animal Cruelty Basics, *Leigh Anne Garrard, ASPCA*
  - MN Process: Complaint to Charging and Case Submission *Sergeant Lindsay Herron, Minneapolis Police Department; Officer Michelle Stark, Oakdale Police Department*
  - MN Investigation Process: Case Examples & Search Warrant, *Sergeant Lindsay Herron, Minneapolis Police Department*
  - MN Animal Cruelty: Cases & Convictions, *Ann Olson, Sergeant Lindsay Herron, Officer Michelle Stark*
  - What We Do: Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC), *Caroline Hairfield, Executive Director, MACC*
  - What We Do: Animal Humane Society Critical Response Team, *Kathy Mock, Animal Humane Society*



Dr. Daniel Almeida, U of M, speaking at training session about pain to animals.

PROGRAM 4: Legislative Action

GOAL: To lead and support state and local legislative efforts, including crafting of humane laws, lobbying, and advocacy, that protects animals and lays a foundation for systemic reform. NOTE: For part of 2017, lobbying and advocacy efforts were performed under Animal Folks MN, the 501c4 legislative arm.

2017 Strategies and Actions

- **Veterinary Immunity Bill** — Animal Folks introduced the "Veterinary Immunity" bill (HF 787/SF 1167) in 2017 at the MN Legislature. This bill will grant civil immunity to MN-licensed veterinarians for good faith reporting of animal cruelty. (Minnesota-licensed veterinarians are mandated reporters of animal cruelty.) The bill passed through the civil law committees in the House and Senate and will continue in the 2018 legislative session.
- **Humane Pet Store Ordinance** — Animal Folks compiled a 60+ page report with supporting photos and documents explaining the link between dogs and cats sold through pet stores and obtained from commercial breeders/brokers (the "pipeline"). This report, with testimony, was submitted to the Roseville City Council to support actions to pass a humane pet store ordinance. Working with community members and a coalition, Animal Folks coordinated the writing of the ordinance and advocacy efforts to build supporters and testifiers. The ordinance was passed in March 2017, making it the first "humane pet store ordinance" in Minnesota. Photo at right shows dogs in the Har Mar Pet Store in Roseville; animal welfare violations at this store prompted action. Based on these violations, Animal Folks also filed a cruelty complaint against this store.



PROGRAM 5: Outreach & Communication

GOAL: To educate the public on animal law and cruelty issues, and enhance communication and cooperation between various stakeholders involved in the enforcement of animal law.

2017 Strategies and Actions

- **Federal Input** — At various times, the USDA requests public input on matters relating to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and other federal laws and regulations. In August 2017, input was requested by the USDA on AWA regulatory changes. Animal Folks submitted formal comments, citing 15 specific items requiring change or support with an emphasis on improved processes for confiscation of animals at risk. Report posted on the Animal Folks website.
- **Community Events** — To create awareness and educate the community about animal cruelty, Animal Folks (with Animal Folks Minnesota) hosted booths at community events throughout Minnesota. In 2017, we attended seven events, gathering over 1,000 new supporters through petitions.
- **Outreach** — To collaborate and build relationships to support our mission, Animal Folks attends local and national conferences on animal law, animal forensics, and animal cruelty.

FINANCES

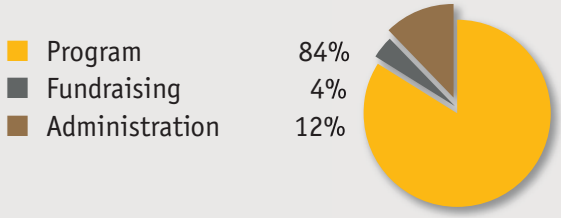
Animal Folks is proud to be a Charities Review Council Meets Standards® organization and a Gold Guidestar participant.

STATEMENT – Fiscal Year 2017 — January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Support and Revenue	
Individual Contributions	$103,991
In-kind Contributions	$209,759
Corp/Fdtn Contributions	$63,454
Total Support and Revenue	**$377,204**

Expense	
Program Services	$318,052
Fundraising	$13,634
Administration	$45,970
Total Expenses	**$377,656**





Balance Sheet – Fiscal Year 2017

Assets – Cash	$66,405
Assets - Accounts Receivable	$0
Liabilities – Accounts Payable	$6,641
Net Assets	$59,764
Liabilities & Net Assets	$66,405

GOVERNANCE

Animal Folks: Board of Directors

Reese Frederickson, Esq.
Louise Dobbe, Esq.
Lisa McCargar, DVM
John Kingrey, Esq.
Ann Olson
New members as of December 2017 (former AFMN board members):
Kerry D'Amato
Deb Ouellette
Pat Ormston
Cotton Wilson
Fund Advisor: Cynthia Erickson

Our Team

Ann Olson, Founder and Executive Director
Amy Lake, Fund Development
Arianna Pittman, Researcher and Project Manager
Mike Tincher, Design and Marketing
Megan Wright, Administrative and Event Coordinator
Jeff Moravec, Social Media and Public Relations

VALUES

Our actions are guided by our values: Innovation, Respect, Humility, Accuracy, and Ethics.