



PACFA Update

Colorado Department of Agriculture

July 2012

Summer Edition

PACFA Symposium Synopsis

On May 8th 2012 the PACFA program presented the first-ever PACFA Spring Symposium. This event was generously hosted by the Denver Animal Shelter and held in their beautiful new shelter building. The use of the community room and meeting facilities was donated for the event and guided tours of the new shelter were provided. Thank you to the Denver Animal Shelter leadership and staff for helping us make this event possible and hugely successful.



Champ getting more active for summer! Anyone for doggie aerobics?

This one-day event was offered as a no-cost resource for any PACFA licensee. The event was advertised through a flyer that was emailed and posted on the PACFA web page. Space for this event was limited to 50 attendees and was given to the first 50 people to respond. Once filled, a waiting list was created. Although only about 40 people attended the event. Lunch was provided to the attendees.

The morning began with a brief introduction and welcome to the Denver Animal Shelter from Frank Boldoe, Director of Operations. Frank highlighted several interesting and unique features of their shelter including the eco-friendly design and innovative animal care features. It was quite a treat for attendees to get an inside look at the new shelter building and practices.

Dr. Kate Anderson, PACFA Administrator, followed with an update on the PACFA program. For 2012, the program is on track to exceed the number of total licensees from 2011. Dr. Anderson discussed the purpose of this event and PACFA's plans to continue offering similar events for our licensees if successful. 2012 looks to be as exciting as ever for PACFA and the Department of Agriculture in the legislative arena with several animal based issues continuing to arise each session.

Suzanne Hetts, PhD and Daniel Estep, PhD of Animal Behavior Associates, Inc. generously donated 2 hours of their busy schedules. Many attendees were looking forward to hearing these well-known animal behavior experts speak about safely managing commingled dogs and no one was disappointed. The presentation addressed how to screen, set-up, operate and control groups of dogs in various settings for safety and reduced stress (for both humans and dogs). Dr. Hetts described procedures for setting up a day care atmosphere that offers more than just exercise since an enriching group setting can lead to happier, more relaxed, better behaved dogs at the facility as well as at home – ultimately leading to happier customers. The presentation also included ideas about what to look for when hiring employees for a boarding or day-care facility as well as initial and on-going training tips for staff who manage dog play groups. Dr. Hetts emphasized the importance of a thorough and consistent screening process for incoming dogs and the need for initial testing as well as regular follow-up testing once the dog is accepted.

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PACFA Symposium Synopsis (cont.)

After lunch we heard from Julie Murad, Founder and President of The Gabriel Foundation and Dr. Noel Opitz, onsite Avian Veterinarian at The Gabriel Foundation. Dr. Opitz discussed the physiological needs of parrots in general and specifically during crisis situation such as illness, malnourishment, etc. She reviewed safe handling procedures for injured, ill or frightened parrots, some basic first aid and treatment principles. Attendees were also provided with signs of illness or distress in parrots and how to handle a parrot in distress until veterinary care is available.

Julie started with information on the background and mission of The Gabriel Foundation and their role as a leading parrot resource throughout the U.S. The Gabriel Foundation plays a role in many bird-related emergency operations throughout the country and particularly in CO. They are able to offer housing for birds and also highly skilled trained technicians to assist other agencies in bird-related situations. Julie presented basics on how and why parrots are in the pet industry and some common challenges associated with parrots as pets. Their unique anatomy and physiology, strict nutrition requirements, and potentially delicate nature make their husbandry more complex than many pet owners are prepared for, but with the right resources many people can successfully own a parrot. The Gabriel Foundation helps educate parrot owners and potential parrot owners towards better parrot ownership to improve the lives of parrots and reduce the number displaced from their owners.

Pete Walker, our next presenter, is the Senior Fish Pathologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Pete spoke about invasive aquatic species including fish, invertebrates and plants and their impact on ecosystems in Colorado and throughout the U.S. Pete discussed the background on several invasive species currently challenging native species and the impact of their presence. Particularly interesting were his stories and photos of various types of damage caused by mussels in the Great Lakes including damage to pumps, boats and the beaches of the Great Lakes. This type of impact is what Pete works to avoid in our state. Pete discussed the challenge of keeping up with the ever-increasing list of species that are moved throughout the world as part of the pet trade and their potential risks. He asked for our help in spreading the word about the importance of eliminating the practice of releasing aquatic pets into the wild.

Our final presenter for the day was Chris Thompson, PACFA Inspector. Chris addressed proper cleaning and sanitation in a PACFA facility including identifying cleaning or sanitation tasks, choosing the chemicals best suited to the task, and proper use of the chemicals. The difference between cleaning products, soap and detergent, and sanitation products, those licensed by the EPA and having an EPA registration number was explained in detail and is applicable to every PACFA facility. This is a common area of confusion among licensees and improper practices can cause problems including incomplete or ineffective disease and contagion control and can waste a lot of money. The information Chris shared can be used, in conjunction with advice from veterinarians of record, to create a comprehensive cleaning and sanitation protocol in any PACFA facility and to improve the care provided to the pets.

The PACFA Spring Symposium 2012 was a huge success. We are grateful to everyone who attended and also for the feedback we received. All of our speakers generously donated their time and the venue was also donated, helping us offer this opportunity at no charge. The presentations offered information useful to any PACFA licensee. The seminar also offered a rare opportunity to meet and interact with other PACFA facility owners and staff. **We are excited to announce that we will be offering another seminar for PACFA licensees this fall. Watch for the date and location announcement in your email and on our website, www.colorado.gov/ag/animals/pacfa and be sure to register early if interested as space may be limited.**



Did You Know?

- Once we receive a complete application packet for a new facility, we have up to 90 days before a license has to be issued. It generally doesn't take that long, but that time frame is afforded to us.
- For those who use grated surfaces while grooming dogs, please remember to turn the grate over and clean the underside as well. It often harbors dirt and germs.

Spruce Up Your Joint on the Cheap

It's nice to be able to update your facility, but not everyone can afford a huge overhaul. Here are six ideas that won't have you running out to get a loan.

- 1. Paint**— Maybe a focus wall in a bright uplifting tone paired with more muted neutrals would be just the thing to freshen it up a bit. Paint really updates any space.
- 2. New Task Chairs**— Worn out chairs not only impact productivity, but send a subtle message to your clients regarding your feelings about your team. This can be another place to add a pop of color if so desired.
- 3. Vinyl Flooring**— They have designs that look like wood and the clean-up is still a breeze. Lighter tones in professional settings are popular.
- 4. Declutter**— Remove knick-knacks, brochures, etc. Go through pens and toss those that don't work. Only keep items out that are used every day.
- 5. Artistic Display**— Instead of posters taped to the wall, get frames to display them. Or better yet, network with a pet photographer or local artist to display some of their work in your place of business. It could benefit both of you.
- 6. Signage Update**— Re-design and update your signs. Print them in color and consider laminating some. Be sure wording is positive such as, "Please use one of our leashes if you forgot to bring one today" instead of "No dogs without leashes". Putting up a bulletin board with current topics can also be helpful for clients.



Let us know what you've done to spruce up your spot.

Once Again

PACFA inspectors are dealing with facility owners who have not relicensed and have not notified the department that they have closed their facilities. The yearly reapplication process timeline is as follows:



January 20 – 30	Renewal applications are mailed to licensees
March 1	Renewal applications must be postmarked
March 2 – April 1	Renewal applications postmarked after March 1 must include a 10% late fee
April 1	If a renewal application has not been submitted, facility owner is operating in violation of the PACFA Statute
April 15 – 20	Fines are issued for violating state statute in the form of stipulated agreements. Recipients have 14 days to apply for their license with the 10% late fee and must include payment of the fine with the signed stipulated agreement.
June 1 – 15	Cease and Desist orders are issued to unlicensed facilities.

This process takes several inspector hours and countless administrative assistant hours that could be used for more beneficial activities. The cost of this process affects our goal of keeping license fees as low as possible. Please be responsible business owners and prepare yearly to relicense your facility when due.

Bleach Calculator



Below is a link sponsored by the ASPCA that will tell you the proper ratios for bleach dilution. It is an Excel spreadsheet with the formulas already plugged in. You can save it to your computer for future use.

www.aspcapro.org/mydocuments/shelter_sani_bleach_calculator.xls

Rule of the Month

About 18 months ago, the PACFA regulation for cats weighing over 15 pounds housed in licensed shelters was changed so that they must be provided with 8 square feet of floor space per cat. This was a slight increase in the amount of floor space previously required. Although this space requirement was changed some time ago, inspectors still regularly find facilities in violation of this rule. If you operate a licensed shelter, please check to see that your larger cats are being housed in the minimum required space.



**Pet Animal Care Facilities Act
Division of Animal Industry
700 Kipling St., Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000**

M231212000

Humane Euthanasia

If pet animals are euthanized in PACFA-licensed facilities, they must be humanely euthanized by techniques accepted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) pursuant to § 35-80-102(7). Licensees should refer to *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (Formerly Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia), June 2007*. This document can be found on our website.

The following are sample questions:

Q. Can PACFA licensees euthanize a snake by putting it in the freezer?

A. No. If you refer to Appendix 1 of the *Guidelines*, you will see that hypothermia is not an acceptable or conditionally acceptable method of euthanasia for a snake or any other reptile.

Q. Can mice and rats be euthanized with carbon dioxide in PACFA-licensed facilities?

A. Yes. Again, refer to Appendix 1 of the *Guidelines*. Euthanasia with carbon dioxide is an acceptable method for mice and rats if the source of the gas is compressed carbon dioxide in cylinders. Pages 7, 8 and 9 of the *Guidelines* described this method of euthanasia – including advantages, disadvantages and recommendations.

Q. What about gunshots? Can dogs be euthanized with a gunshot in PACFA-licensed facilities?

A. No. Gunshots are not an acceptable or conditionally acceptable method for euthanizing dogs.

Q. What if my veterinarian recommends a method which is not listed as acceptable or conditionally acceptable for pet animals in my facility?

A. PACFA licensees must use the acceptable or conditionally acceptable methods described in the *Guidelines*.

These *Guidelines* direct the general population to consult with a veterinarian before application of a euthanasia method.

