

A Guide to the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals records, 1892-1972 M 285

Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals records
1892-1972

Title Statement

A Guide to the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals records, 1892-1972 M 285

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libjbcsc@vcu.edu

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 285

Unit Date

1892-1972

Language

English .

Creator

Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Richmond, Va.)

Extent

5.2 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for use without restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of the Executive Director in 1990.

Preferred Citation

Box/folder, Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, M 285, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University

Biographical / Historical

In February 1883, Mrs. W. Ben Palmer held a meeting in her home for those interested in forming a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The following month, an entertainment was given at the old Richmond Theatre (Broad and Seventh streets) to raise funds to finance such a Society. Eight years later, in October 1891, there were finally enough interested persons to organize the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The organization was incorporated in the City of Richmond in February 1892 and its first elected officers were Dr. Jud B. Wood, President; Mr. S.H. Hawes, first Vice-President; Mr. Joseph Bryan, second Vice-President; Mr. W. Ben Palmer, third Vice-President; Rev. H. Carmichael, fourth Vice-President; Mr. James Lyons, fifth Vice-President; Mr. Ira Mowery, Secretary; Mr. W. Ben Palmer, Treasurer; and MR. A.B. Guigon, Attorney. The first agent was Mr. Emmett C. Taylor, who filled this position until his death in January 1929.

For nearly twenty years the Society struggled to survive with very little money and little outside support. The city of Richmond appropriated \$500 a year to help the organization fulfill its goal. These funds, with the contributions of friends and the dues from members, constituted the entire budget for the RSPCA. In 1911, the Society received the good news that it was the sole beneficiary of the estate of Louisa B. Nelle, a relative of Mrs. Palmer's. From 1917 through 1923 the work of the Society foundered, public interest languished and funds were not forthcoming. Plans for a shelter had to be put aside for the time.

In June of 1924, interest was revitalized in the Society and the Charter amended to allow for the opening of a shelter. The first shelter opened in October 1924 and housed over 950 animals in its first year. The Society was fortunate at the same time to be incorporated into the budget of the Richmond Community Fund.

Since this time the work of the Society has increased and become a well-known presence in Richmond. A new shelter was constructed in the 1960s and a cooperative arrangements negotiated with the appropriate city offices in areas where the two overlap.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of reports, statistics, promotional materials, correspondence, blueprints, clippings and miscellaneous items relating to the growth and development of the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The bulk of the collection concerns the construction of the new shelter on Chamberlayne Avenue in the 1960s, but also includes sporadic annual reports and statistics, presidents reports and laws under investigation for the protection of animals.

Keywords

Animal welfare -- History -- Virginia -- Richmond

Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Richmond, Va.)

Arrangement

Materials arranged alphabetically by subject and chronological therein. The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein. The oversize materials are stored separately. The scrapbooks are shelved in the oversize area in chronological order. Photographs have been separated and are located in the University Photograph Collection. The book *Dogs as I See Them* by Lucy Dawson has been transferred to the Department's book collection.

Description of Subordinate Components

Annual Reports 1925-1962

Annual Statistics 1923, 1947-1970

Appeal 1967

Appeal 1968

Appeals undated

By-Laws undated

Cages 1952-1955

Calf feeder/Shipping Crate 1970

Charter undated

City Pound Contracts 1943-1955

Community Council Survey (Richmond Area) 1950-1954

Court Cases Prosecuted 1967-1968

Dedication of New Shelter 1963

Furnace 1953

Glasgow, Ellen undated

History, 1942-1972 undated

House Tour 1962

House Tour 1963

Humane Association 1946, 1954, 1966

Kennel Renovation Committee 1977-1978, undated

Laboratory Animals (#2) 1963-1966, undated

Laws Concerning Animals 1912, 1926, 1935, undated

Minutes 1954-1955

Miscellaneous, undated

New Shelter (Baskerville and Sons) 1960-1966

New Shelter Correspondence 1961-1963

New Shelter Correspondence 1964-1966

Newspaper Clippings

Officers and Directors 1894, 1924-1954, undated

Organizational Survey 1968

Pal's Page 1965-1966

Photographs undated

Plan for Joint Operation with City of Richmond 1968-1971, undated

President's Report 1953, 1957, 1961, undated

Program of Service undated

Promotions undated

Publications 1961, 1967-1968, undated

Richmond, City of 1957-1963

Trucks 1957-1966

Virginia Kennel Club 1965, undated

Wayfarer's News 1960-1969

Women's League 1961-1972, undated

Scrapbook 1955-1956

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scrapbook 1961-1965

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scrapbook 1967

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Records 1911-1919

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scrapbook 1965-1968

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Book of Fines for Cruelty to Animals 1916

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Ledger 1892-1910

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Architectural Plans for new shelter between Jefferson and Adams (9 sets)

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Mr. A. Mutt Posters (2 posters)

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

House Tour Posters 1962-1963

Mixed Materials 5 (box)