



Virginia Animal Control Association
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For Immediate Release

VIRGINIA ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTS RICHMOND ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

April 30, 2010

The Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA) proudly supports Richmond Animal Care and Control. The primary duty of animal control officers is law enforcement. This essential duty exposes them to the same risks as fellow police officers and deputy sheriffs. In October 2005, VACA issued a statement recognizing the threats animal control officers encounter in the field from dangerous animals and violent subjects. Animal control officers enforce felony and misdemeanor criminal statutes, may arrest offenders, confiscate property, collect forensic evidence or issue Virginia Uniform Summonses. These are just some of the many duties. In the majority of jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia, animal control officers are found within a sheriff or police department. They are uniformed officers who must show a badge of office when performing their duties.

The training, certification and regulatory oversight required to ensure public safety and animal protection is best established under the same criminal justice guidelines applicable to law enforcement agencies. Therefore, VACA strongly recommends that animal care and control operations be placed under law enforcement departments and regulated by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Until such time as this occurs on a statewide level, VACA will continue to offer training, model policies for animal control operations and provide expert consultation in conjunction with over 280 animal control officers from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Visit the Virginia Animal Control Association website to read the full statement released in October 2005.

www.vacaonline.net