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Association of Shelter Veterinarians Welcomes First Executive Director

After extensive search, Thomas Van Winkle is selected to lead the association

APEX, North Carolina (September 19, 2022) – The Association of Shelter Veterinarians — the professional organization for veterinarians working in all aspects of animal sheltering — is excited to announce the newest member of its leadership team, Tom Van Winkle. Van Winkle will join as the organization’s first full-time executive director beginning mid-October. In this new position, he will oversee strategic, operational and administrative duties for the organization.

“Since its inception, ASV has been dedicated to its mission to advance and support the practice of shelter medicine in order to improve community animal health and well-being,” said Sonya Hennessy, association manager of ASV. “We’re honored to welcome Tom to the team in this position specifically created to move ASV forward. His expertise in leading humane societies and business management will provide the push we need to continue advancing our mission.”

Throughout his career, Van Winkle has worked closely with humane societies and similar organizations to further their business goals. Prior to joining ASV, Van Winkle served as CEO of the Hinsdale Humane Society and executive director of Animal Care League (ACL). He led these organizations in their strategic visions, organizational growth with improved employee satisfaction, implementation of new policies and procedures, and oversaw operational budget growth with expanded donor engagement.

“Tom’s experience is perfect for our needs,” said Lucy Fuller, DVM, President of ASV. “His well-rounded perspective of the animal shelter industry will serve us well as we work to expand our reach and provide better community animal health across the country.”

With more than 2,000 current members and 20 student chapters internationally, Tom will play a key role in the growth of the organization and the shelter veterinary medicine profession.

“Since 2001, ASV has worked to change the animal shelter industry, establishing advanced consistent care for all animals,” said Van Winkle. “I am humbled to join a team where the well-being of animals comes first. I’ve dedicated my career to this cause, and now I get to share that dedication with the team at ASV and the shelters we work with.”

Van Winkle has also played a key role on the boards for other organizations such as Pets for Vets’ Chicagoland Chapter, the Illinois Animal Welfare Federation (IAWF), the National Federation of Human Societies and more.

For more information on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, visit <https://shelternvet.org/>.

About the Association of Shelter Veterinarians

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) was founded in 2001 at the American Humane Conference. That same year, ASV was integral in developing the first shelter medicine residency

program at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Since its founding, ASV has served as the voice of veterinary shelter medicine, providing access to comprehensive, evidence-based resources and education for its members and shelters. These resources include the Standards of Care in Animal Shelters guidelines, which were initially completed in 2010 and are undergoing updates this year. The organization also led the efforts to develop a Board-recognized specialty in shelter medicine, which has grown to 30 diplomates. With more than 2,000 active members and 20 international student chapters, ASV has expanded its reach around the globe. To learn more about the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and its resources, visit <https://www.sheltervet.org/>.

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