

# 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

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## Title Statement

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

**Subtitle:** A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Collection number M 285

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:34:03 -0400.

**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)