



## Membership Requirements

Membership is generally limited to not-for-profit organizations and governmental agencies. In addition, shelters, rescue groups and fosters must have PACFA licenses, if applicable. For PACFA-licensed organizations requesting membership in MDAWA, an open records request will be done to check for any issues with PACFA. An entity whose membership would not reflect positively on MDAWA can be declined membership.

**Membership Commitments:** The following commitments are set forth to ensure the viability, effectiveness, and positive image of MDAWA.

1. Members shall use terminology that is clear, positive in tone, and builds understanding among animal care and control agencies, veterinary professionals, and the public.
2. Member shall embrace the values of a Socially Conscious Animal Community (SCAC).
3. In the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration, members will use positive language when communicating with the public or media about MDAWA activities and members. Members shall not state that they “rescue animals from shelters” nor refer to other shelters as “kill” or “high kill.”
4. Members will attend MDAWA meetings and actively support MDAWA activities by participating in networking groups, providing in-kind services, participating in cooperative events, and the like.
5. Members’ communications (website, Facebook, newsletters, etc.) will align with the principles of MDAWA.

If an organization fails to meet these commitments or if its behavior reflects negatively on MDAWA, the organization may be designated “inactive” or its membership revoked by a majority vote of member organizations. An inactive organization will no longer be identified by MDAWA as a member nor be permitted to refer to itself as a MDAWA member or participate in MDAWA activities.

Members are encouraged to publicly identify themselves as members of MDAWA to promote understanding and awareness of MDAWA in the community and as supporters of SCAC. Members will be listed on the MDAWA website, which will include links to members’ websites, and in other MDAWA documents such as the MDAWA Pet Resource Guide. Likewise, members’ sites will link to the MDAWA website. Membership in the Animal Welfare Alliance of Colorado is also encouraged.