

Association for companion animals headed by Dr. Ellett

A group of small animal owners and breeders have formed a new state-wide organization to offer information, provide education and sponsor research beneficial to all companion animal lovers.

The non-profit group, Texas Association for Companion Animals (T.A.C.A.), will benefit owners of small pets normally kept in the home, such as dogs, cats, birds, fish and some domesticated wild species.

Dr. E. W. Ellett of College Station was selected president and board chairman of the organization by the 14-member founding committee meeting in Austin early this year. Dr. Ellett is chief of the Small Animal Clinic at A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine, yet his involvement in T.A.C.A. is strictly as an interested individual.

T.A.C.A. is the first organization of its kind in the nation and is offering charter memberships

Wirasnik rejoins EES

Charlie J. Wirasnik will rejoin the Engineering Extension Service's Police Training Division Monday after serving as chief of the Wharton Police Department the past two years.

Chief Instructor Ira E. Scott said Wirasnik will be an extension staff instructor, conducting law enforcement training courses throughout the state. The police division, a part of extension programs offered by A&M, has seven full-time staff instructors.

Wirasnik first joined the training program in 1967, after serving as chief of the Irving Police Department for eight years.

He is a 30-year veteran of the U. S. Navy Shore Patrol and a former police chief in Kingsville.

during 1972, Dr. Ellett reported. The founders believe there are many reasons for joining T.A.C.A., including a growing and desperate need for an official organization to benefit small animals and their owners.

Therefore, the committee developed a state-wide membership campaign, with all major metropolitan areas assigned to volunteers for charter year enrollments.

Dr. Ellett said applications and

brochures that fully explain T.A.C.A. should be available from most pet stores, grooming parlors, veterinary offices and local Chamber of Commerce offices.

Potential Texas membership in T.A.C.A. was estimated by Dr. Ellett at nine million persons. This means a one per cent membership would bring a substantial 90,000 members, he pointed out.

Individuals presently in dog, cat, kennel and exotic pet clubs are encouraged to join T.A.C.A.,

plus individual pet owners without club affiliation.

"If you have a pet, you belong in T.A.C.A.," is the organization's membership drive theme.

One particular interest of the organization is small animal disease research. The state at present does not directly support small animal research and money from other sources is very limited, Dr. Ellett noted. T.A.C.A. members will devote substantial

effort to alleviating this inequity, he added.

The T.A.C.A. president said activities will include educational programs for young people in prudent selection and care of pets, owner-breeder assistance in current trends of health practices and a dedicated effort to alert the public to animal abuse.

T.A.C.A. membership benefits include a monthly newsletter to each member, an annual symposium featuring experts in

small animal fields, full voting privileges, eligibility to hold office and an information service if funds permit.

T.A.C.A. is not responsible to any other animal or professional group. Organizers hope to augment other programs in the state, Dr. Ellett said.

Membership drives are expected to begin in late June in the large urban areas.

Memberships are \$6 per adult, \$10 joint adult membership and

\$3 for a junior membership. More than 18. In addition, there are training memberships for more and contributing to the fund at \$25.

All contributions over membership fees are taxable as contributions to a profit organization, Dr. Ellett said.

Any person interested in T.A.C.A. should contact: 4909 Tomahawk Trail, Texas 78761.

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