



Shelter Reform  
Action Committee

## Shelter Reform Action Committee (SRAC)

ShelterReform.org: Everything you ever wanted to know about the AC&C, but were afraid to ask.

June 17, 2011

## **THE DEPARTURE OF ACC-EMPLOYEE DR. STEPHANIE JANEZCKO AND HER RETURN AS ASPCA-EMPLOYEE, DR. STEPHANIE JANEZCKO**

**Dr. Stephanie Janezcko** recently accepted a position with the ASPCA. Her last day at the ACC will be July 1, 2011. According to her departure announcement (the announcement is at the bottom of the page), she'll be spending 75% of her time on ACC-related projects... but as an ASPCA employee.

Dr. Janezcko has been employed by the ACC for 1-3/4 years.

When she joined ACC in August 2009, Dr. Janezcko came with an impressive résumé: 2004 degree in veterinary medicine from Cornell; a residency (2006-2009) with Cornell's Shelter Medicine Division; and a second degree from Cornell in Epidemiology (the study of disease in veterinary medicine).

While still a resident at Cornell, Dr. Janezcko supervised a study of disease in ACC dogs. The City's Department of Health had commissioned Cornell to find out why ACC dogs get sick, and the prevalence of canine influenza in the NYC dog population as well as the ACC shelter population.

The [Cornell Disease Report](#), recommended several steps the ACC should take to dramatically control disease in dogs. One of the recommendations was that they hire an expert in shelter disease and management to be their Medical Director. One month later, the DOH hired Dr. Janezcko to be the ACC's Medical Director. That turned out to be only recommendation the DOH or the ACC ever successfully implemented.

It was Dr. Janezcko's bad luck that two months after her arrival, the DOH changed ACC's top management. (They hired the ACC's former general counsel to be the "*Interim*" Executive Director.). The DOH also began to slash the ACC's already pathetic budget. In response, the ACC started to slash its services and employee staff numbers.

Yet, Shelter Reform Action Committee remained hopeful that Dr. Janezcko would still be able to impose order and professionalism on ACC medical services.

Unfortunately, our hopes for Dr. Janezcko being able to make that change faded fast.

Early in 2010 she disappeared for two months; no one in ACC Management would explain why she left or where she was.

Dr. Janezcko resurfaced in April 2010, just when Julie Bank came on board as ACC's Executive Director.

Ms. Bank explained that – after promoting Richard Gentles to be Director of Development -- the ACC needed a new Director of Operations. She said that Dr. Janezcko had agreed to be the "Interim" Director of Operation until the ACC had funds to hire someone for that position. Then Dr. Janezcko would resume being Medical Director.

That excuse never made sense.

Why couldn't Dr. Janezcko have served as **both** the "Interim" Operations Director and Medical Director? After all, for the next 14 months she was the ACC's **de facto** Medical Director. Volunteers and rescuers were instructed to direct all medical questions to her.

We can understand why someone would shy away from the formal title of "Medical Director," which carries with it a host of professional responsibilities and liabilities. Why would anyone want to be the Medical Director of a shelter system that, without enough money, staff, vets, vet techs, volunteers, medical supplies, and even food, cannot properly care for its animals? Why would anyone want to be the Medical Director of a shelter system that has to jam animals into old factories that were never meant to be animal shelters?

Dr. Janezcko faced daunting staffing shortages within the Medical Department:

- only two fulltime vets and only one vet technician .. for the entire ACC
- no vet present one day a week in both the Brooklyn and the Manhattan shelters,
- no vet at the Staten Island shelter, period.
- From 8 PM to 8 AM, Brooklyn has no medical staff on duty. Staten Island has it even worse: there are no people physically present in that shelter for 12 hours a day.

ACC's medical care certainly doesn't measure up to acceptable shelter management, particularly for a shelter taking in over 40,000 animals a year.

Dr. Janezcko is well aware of what good shelter management is. She is on the Board of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. Please take a look at the Association's 2010 publication entitled "[GUIDELINES FOR STANDARDS OF CARE IN SHELTER MANAGEMENT](#)." [LINK to article] Clearly, the ACC doesn't measure up to those guidelines.

Various sources have described Dr. Janezcko as extremely knowledgeable about shelter medicine and genuinely committed to the welfare of shelter animals. Others add that she was the one true professional at Park Place (ACC's executive offices).

We agree.

Yet, what perplexes us is that Dr. Janezcko always appeared to lock arms with other ACC Park Place executives, at least publicly.

If only she had publicly and loudly challenged the DOH's indifference to ACC animals, and the disastrous management decisions coming out of Park Place.

All of that is academic now, however. Dr. Janezcko is going to the ASPCA as "Senior Director of Community Outreach, Shelter Medicine." The ACC's Manhattan shelter (located just 18 blocks north of the ASPCA's state-of-the-art shelter) can use all the "shelter outreach" the ASPCA is willing to provide.

Now backed by the ASPCA's substantial resources, prestige, and money – Dr. Janezcko may be able to help ACC animals far more effectively than she ever did as an ACC employee.

In the meantime, her departure leaves the ACC without even a **de facto** Medical Director as well as an

“Interim”  
Director of Operations.

What a sorry state of affairs for ACC animals.

We wish Dr. Janezcko the best in her new position and look forward to seeing her often at the ACC shelter buildings.

SHELTER REFORM ACTION COMMITTEE  
[www.shelterreform.org](http://www.shelterreform.org)

Dear Staff,

Effective July 1, 2011, Dr. Stephanie Janeczko will be stepping down from her position as Interim Director of Operations at AC&C, to accept a position with the ASPCA as the Senior Director of Community Outreach, Shelter Medicine Programs. In this capacity, she will continue her contribution to AC&C by dedicating approximately 75% of her time to specific AC&C projects, including drafting protocols, providing training and overall assistance in medical areas.

AC&C is actively looking to fill the Director of Operations position on a permanent basis and is optimistic about a smooth transition between Dr. J and a new appointment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Risa.

Julie Bank

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**Dr. Stephanie Janeczko departure announcement**

