



Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Present: Dr. Steve Crawford, Dick Wentzell, Chief Andy Shaguory, Jim Kennedy, Joanne Bourbeau, Sheila Presby, Deb Simson, Roni McCall, Joyce Mattot, Mike Hughes, Jerilee Zezula, George Cook, Joyce Arivella, Nancy Johnson and Trish Morris.

Also present Sherry Bezanson and Linda Dionne from the NH Animal Rights League.

- September 25th meeting minutes accepted.
- Update on commission members - Joyce Arivella joined the commission replacing Elin Phinizy, representing the NH Dog Breeder. Lisa Hall resigned due to family commitments thus vacating her Public position.
Mike Hughes will now be taking that Public position vacated by Lisa and when he receives his letter, he will be a voting member.

- Update on cruelty case costs report

The report was completed but needs to be proofed and finalized - the members present at the time of completion of the report voted unanimously to accept the cost analysis report.

Action Items to be completed before Thanksgiving:

1. Dr. Crawford will send Dr. Zezula some information for the final report as discussed today.
2. Mike Hughes will send Dr. Zezula the names of the towns for the cases that the NHSPCA cited for his report.
3. . Dr. Jerilee Zezula will complete the typing of the report and Roni McCall will assist in proofing it.

- No Updates on <http://www.nh.gov/humane> website
- No Update from subcommittee regarding researching permanent Humane Commission - Dr. Crawford reported that the subcommittee has not yet met to bring these details to the entire commission.
After some discussion the members voted not to request a submission for a house bill this next legislative session as deadline for bill requests is next week and with the

current economic situation in this state as well as around the country, it would not likely be accepted to request a budget for such a permanent commission.

This will now be a subcommittee project to be re-addressed in the coming months for possible submission to the 2010 legislative session. Jim Kennedy and Carla Skinder would like to be a part of this subcommittee.

Dr. Crawford gave us a brief summary of what the Department of Agriculture in Maine does in regards to their animal welfare division and he suggested after further study we might look into recommending this be something that NH does.

Briefly Dr. Crawford stated that the Maine Division of animal Welfare has 5 veterinarians on staff and they handle inspections and welfare complaints. They also license kennels and train ACO's.

- New Business - 3 items to discuss at our next commission meeting:
 1. to look into whether or not we suggest to the governor - to establish an animal welfare division of the NH's DOA.
 2. a re-write of the current Executive Order
 3. to move forward as a permanent commission in legislative year 2010.
- SWOT continued - because of the time taken at today's meeting to complete the cost analysis report to the Governor, Sheila Presby suggested we take this up at a future meeting.
- Announcements - None
- Next Meeting Dates - December 18th 1pm at Senate Room 100