

The Governors' Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

Meeting Minutes
17 November, 2011

- 1) The regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals was called to order at 1:04 PM in the Attorney General's Conference Room by Chairperson Patricia Morris.
- 2) **Members Present:** Bob Haefner, State Representative; Joanne Bourbeau, National Humane Organizations; Joyce Arivella, Dog Breeders Association; Barry Hilton, ACO representative; Jerilee Zezula, Public Member; Roni McCall, Public Member; George Cook, Sled Dog Owners Association; Mark Ellingwood, NH Fish and Game; Steve Sprowl, NH Federation of Humane Organizations; Chief Andrew Shagoury, Police Chiefs Association; Patricia Morris, Chairperson, public member, Member NH Bar Association; Susan Morrell, Attorney General's Office; Christopher Conely, NH Sherriff's Association; Michael Hughes, public; Sheriff Chris Conley, NH Sheriffs Association
- 3) **Members Absent:** Wendy Munroe, Animal Health Technicians Association; Debra Simson, NH Cat Fanciers; Dr. Steve Crawford, State Veterinarian; Richard Wentzell, public; Amanda Merrill, State Senator
- 4) **Review of September Minutes:** Motion was made and carried to accept minutes as amended.
- 5) **Meeting at Governors Office:** Patricia met with our liaisons from the Governor's office a Miss Guzman, and James Richardson last summer.
 - a) Mr. Richardson will be at our December meeting to talk about our 2009 Report; the Commissions future for the next 6-8 months since the Governor is not running for re-election; and more on the Meat Inspection Act (Horse Slaughter Bill)
 - b) We as a Commission are not to be "sun-setted". We are not part of the current review of existing Governor's commissions.
 - c) Will look at current vacant positions. Most recently Joyce Mattot has stepped down and Maureen Prendergast will step down once our current project is finished. The commission now has six (6) open positions.
 - d) The Governor's Office would like to know what we see our future as. What can we get more involved in?
- 6) **Further discussion on 2010 Best Practices Manual:**
 - a) Susan Morrell: The manual has been forwarded to the Deputy Attorney General Ann Rice for her comments. Then upon her approval, the endorsement letter will be forwarded to the AG for signature.
 - b) Resources Section of Report: Still lacking. The questionnaire Jeri gave out last month did help bring more in. It was emphasized that:
 - i) No person or group would be on the list if they preferred not to be.
 - ii) Recommendations from the Commission will be assumed to be
 - iii) The document containing the resources we come up with is a downloadable document and can be easily revised from the web site. (www.neacha.org/resources)
- 7) **Vermont/New Hampshire Animal Care Brochures:**
 - a) Gotten from the Vermont Humane Federation

- b) Meant for pet/cattle owners focusing on common concerns owners may have when they acquire a pet.
 - i) May be used for educating owners that find they are not too clear on how to proceed with their new pet.
- c) We are to determine if we want to adapt these for use in this State.
- d) Trish made the point here that our 2009 Report, among other things, did emphasize educating the public on pet ownership.
- e) May be put on our “resource” website for easy access by anyone, plus the Commission website for public. Possible reasons for download would be:
 - i) If an animal welfare organization had an event that would warrant handing out such brochures
 - ii) Shelters putting them in their adoption folders
- f) Members of the Commission thought concept was great and will volunteer to take these brochures and edit them for use in NH.

8) New Legislation:

- a) RSA 427:2 Meat Inspection Bill
 - i) Actually passed last year
 - ii) What happened since was an outcry from the horse owner community on the interpretation of this bill indicating NH condones horse “slaughter”. (slaughter being a word that connotes cruelty) The horse owners basically called on the Gov. not to sign it into law.
 - iii) It was signed into law with the caveat that later (Jan 2012) it would be revised to take out references to equines. This change was easier than changing the definition of live stock. The horse communities are for accepting horses as companion pets and not livestock.
 - iv) Federally speaking, the Feds have severely cut back funding for USDA inspectors specializing in inspecting equine slaughter. So in areas with no inspectors it is illegal for anyone to slaughter horses. However, in areas that may have such inspectors, it is legal.
 - v) Rep. Haefner pointed out that even though the bill passed, it will take a long time before it gets implemented. Rules have to be written on a local level. That can’t be done until the Fed’s write theirs.
 - vi) Another thing that the Fed’s do not like about this bill is that it contracts out the duties of meat inspection, something the Fed’s will not allow. Even though the veterinarians that are used are State employees, it still will not work.
 - vii) Bottom line, as of now, horse slaughter is still allowed in this state.
- b) House Bill 325:
 - i) Hopes to stop transport of animals into NH that are sick.
 - ii) It requires that transferred animals be held at licensed facility for 48 hours before being given to new owner.
 - iii) Also allows transfer of ownership from out of state if new owner is aware of possible health problems.

9) Future of Commission: An important fact the Patricia found out during a visit to the Governor’s office it that the Commission will not be “sun setted” in the foreseeable future. This is very good news.

Adjourned at 2:35 PM Next Meeting: 19 January, 2012, 1PM, Attorney General’s Conference Rm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Michael Hughes, Secretary

