



Rabies Control Board Minutes Filing

Meeting Date: May 5, 2010

Meeting Location: 235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
Room 370

Meeting Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman), Utpala Bandy, MD (DOH Designee), C.H. Hannafin, DVM (Veterinarian), Charles Brown (DEM Designee), Dave Holden (Providence PD), Betsy Hanson (ACO).

Meeting Agenda:

Meeting Called to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:30 by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all attendees.

Old Business:

- 1) **Acceptance of the minutes of the RCB meeting on 2/22/10:** Dave Holden made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Chris Hannafin and then approved by a unanimous vote.
- 2) **Unfilled Seat:** The only member not present was the Livestock Owner seat. Kevin Breene has accepted this position and is currently waiting on senate confirmation to become a member of the board.
- 3) **New Rabies Protocol:** Dr. Marshall stated that although there was a large amount of confusion and a number of questions initially by veterinarians, the new protocol seems to be becoming much clearer. Dr. Hannafin has received a number of calls regarding the due date of vaccinations from veterinarians. They are unclear on when the three year rule goes into effect. Dr. Marshall stated that there was a mass mailing of the new protocol sent to all veterinarians, animal control officers and town clerks. Additionally there was a notice in newspapers as well as the DEM, RIVMA, and Secretary of State websites. Dr. Marshall also noted that he made several minor changes to the originally released protocol and the corrected protocol now dates April 15, 2010. The changes are in regards to the term strict confinement in reference to non - vaccinated victim animals. All members of the board received a copy of the up to date regulations at this meeting.

- 4) **Motion to accept old business:** Dr. Hannafin made a motion to accept the old business and move onto new business. This motion was seconded by Dave Holden and approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business:

- 1) **Define Direct Supervision:** Dr. Marshall will draft a letter to send to Dr. Dimeo of the Veterinary Licensing Board regarding setting a definition of the terms “direct supervision”. This will then be supplied to veterinarians to clarify any questions regarding the concept of direct supervision in terms of administering rabies vaccinations. Dr. Hannafin stated that at his clinic, if staff has been properly trained in administration and rabies protocol they are then permitted to administer rabies vaccination if a doctor has instructed them to do so. Dr. Bandy questioned the use of standing order in the veterinary setting, as this is a common concept in human medicine. Dr. Hannafin informed her that there is no specific use of standing order. Dr. Marshall added that the delivery of standing order would be slightly different in the veterinary setting, as veterinary technicians are not licensed in the same manner as nurses and etc. in human practice. Dr. Hannafin requested that either Dr. Marshall or himself be present when Dr. Dimeo is drafting this definition so that someone from the board is present to clarify any questions that they may have. Dr. Marshall agreed that this would be a good idea.
- 2) **Training schedule from rabies stakeholders:** Dr. Marshall would like to set a formal training schedule for three groups of officials, veterinarians, ACO’s and Health officials, and wildlife groups. Dave Holden will be sponsoring a training session on April 14th at the RISPCA from 9:30 am – 2 pm, which will be geared towards ACO’s. Dr. Bandy would like her officials to attend this training session so that they can get to know each other as they are frequently working together. She additionally commented that the health officials have a hard time getting in contact with ACO’s from Providence regarding bite wounds. Dave Holden stated that he would work to repair problem. Dr. Bandy suggested that these training sessions be held once every 2 – 3 years. Dr. Hannafin noted that there has already been one session held for veterinarians and questions whether there is a necessity for another. Dr. Marshall said that he would be happy to work with veterinarians on an individual basis and speak with clinics one on one. Dr. Bandy suggested e-mailing the protocol and a powerpoint presentation to all of the veterinarians in the state. She also feels that nuisance wildlife removal people should be educated as well. DOH is frequently giving post exposure treatments to entire households because nuisance wildlife removal personnel have allowed a bat or etc. to escape. Charlie Brown stated that there are approximately 25 individuals who are licensed. In order to receive a license they must first pass a test, which does include questions about rabies. They do not however need to re-take this test at any point, just to receive their first license. Dr. Hannafin then mentioned the need for continuing education. Charlie Brown will be sending all of the licensed individuals a new protocol. He also stated that

with such a small amount of people licensed, he knows each of them and will be more than willing to speak with each of them. Additionally the protocols will be sent to wildlife rehabbers. Dr. Marshall turned the discussion to educating the public. He suggested media releases. Officer Hanson suggests a TV commercial however the board feels that this is going to be costly. Dr. Hannafin suggested media releases in local papers simply as a rabies advisory. Dr. Marshall agrees that local papers may work well and that now would be a good time to approach it.

3) Seeking Variances: Dr. Marshall would like to set a process for animal owners to follow when seeking variances. In addition to this, Dr. Hannafin suggests creating a standardized refusal form for veterinarians. He with the help of the RIVMA can draft this paper. Dr. Marshall stated that a variance must be submitted by a written request to the RCB. There then will be an interview with the RCB and the requesting individual. Dr. Hannafin would like to stress the need for valid documentation of rabies certificates and medical history stating reasoning for the variance request. Dr. Marshall would like all written requests to include vaccination certificates, medical history to support reasons, veterinary statement, and any other documentation deemed necessary. Additionally, the town's ACO will be notified of the hearing and given the opportunity to attend. Dave Holden has concerns about involving the ACO's. Dr. Hannafin however feels that ACO's must be involved due to the need to enforce any confinement or quarantines that will be placed onto the animal if the variance is passed. If passed, the ACO will be notified within ten days of approval. Once the variance has been approved, there are a number of things that the owner must agree to. ID of the animal with a microchip, all potential rabies exposures such as the animal attacking others or the animal is a victim of an attack must be reported, all escapes or changes of address must be reported, the variance will not cross state lines, the owner is subject to routine check ups by the ACO, and the owner must then sign the document stating that they understand all of these requirements. Dr. Marshall suggested that this document be a triplicate form so that the ACO, the RCB, and the owner of the animal receives a copy. Failure to abide by these regulations could result in legal action and the variance will be considered null and void. Dr. Hannafin questioned whether the option for a variance should be in the refusal form. Dr. Marshall believes that it should so that the owners are aware of all their options.

4) Motion to accept New Business: Dr. Hannafin makes a motion to accept the new business; this motion is seconded by Officer Hanson, and approved with a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2010

Location: DEM Room 370

Motion to adjourn meeting: Charlie Brown makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion is seconded by Dr. Hannafin, and approved with a unanimous vote.