



Rabies Control Board Minutes Filing

Meeting Date: October 27, 2010

Location: 235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
Room 370

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

Non-Board Attendees: Donna Costantino (DOH), Diane Brady (DOH), Ananda Bandyopadhyay (DOH), Lieselotte Morrill.

Meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Dr. Marshall, this was followed by roll call of all the attendees.

Acceptance of the meeting minute of the RCB for the May 5, 2010 meeting:

Dr. Chris Hannafin motioned to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by: Betsy Hanson, ACO.

This motion was then approved by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

1. Brief discussion by the board members about rotating schedule of duration of appointment to the board. Dr Marshall suggested that the statutory composition of the board was under RIGL 4-13. Issue remains unresolved, held for further discussion.
2. Dr Hannafin presented a draft version of a document that can be entered into a veterinarian's patient record if the owner declines rabies vaccination. Purpose of this document is to serve as proof that the veterinarian notified an owner of the statutory requirement for rabies vaccination in all dogs, cats, and ferrets. There was discussion by the Board but the issue remains unresolved, held for further discussion.
3. Update to the board regarding training opportunities for ACOs. Dave Holden updated the Board that he and Officer Tammy Mello of the Warwick PD host several training opportunities per year and asked that Dr Marshall and Dr Belinsky repeat a presentation that they hosted at RISPCA. Dr Marshall agreed to present material to ACOs.

4. Dr Marshall stated that the rabies vaccine variance and affidavit that he developed were being reviewed by DEM's office of legal affairs. He said he would check status of those documents. Issue remains unresolved, held for further discussion.
5. Definition of "direct supervision" as applies to rabies vaccination requires that veterinarian be on premises according to the Board of Veterinary Licensure.
6. Motion to hold all old business for further discussion made by Charles Brown, second by Betsy Hanson, all voted to hold old business for further discussion.

New Business:

1. Ms Lieselotte Morrill petitioned the Board for a variance from rabies vaccination for her dog, Chico. Ms Morrill presented the Board with verbal testimony and some veterinary records to support her case that a variance be granted. The basis of the request for variance was that Chico developed a dermatological condition several months after receiving a vaccine. Ms Morrill provided a record of the vaccine being administered, records of the diagnosis and treatment of the dermatological condition, and a suggestion by the veterinarian that diagnosed and treated the condition that the condition may have been induced by vaccine administration. Ms Morrill was concerned that vaccinating Chico again would precipitate another episode of the dermatological condition and that it may result in permanent harm or death to her dog. The Board discussed the case and concluded that they did not have enough information before them to rule on this case. Specifically, Dr Hannafin suggested that the veterinarian who treated Chico never stated with certainty that the rabies vaccine specifically precipitated the condition since Chico received several different vaccines prior to development of the condition. Dr Bandy asked why Ms Morrill is seeking a variance several years after the incident. Ms Morrill responded that the "housing authority" that manages the apartment where she lives requested proof of rabies vaccine. Dr Hannafin then pointed out that the housing authority might not accept a variance in lieu of vaccination. The Board then decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting and to give Ms Morrill an opportunity to provide further evidence that the dermatological condition was linked to the administration of the rabies vaccine.
2. Motion to continue variance discussion at next meeting to allow Ms Morrill more time to gather veterinary records to support her argument. Motion by Dave Holden, second by Dr Bandy, all voted in favor.

Next meeting: was set for April 11th at 9:30, same location, however, scheduling conflicts required that to be rescheduled to April 25th at 9:30, same location

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott N Marshall, DVM
RI State Veterinarian