



RABIES CONTROL BOARD MINUTES FILING

Meeting Date: April 25, 2011

Location: 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908

Board Members Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman), C.H. Hannafin, DVM (Veterinarian), Charles Brown (DEM Designee), Betsy Hanson (ACO), Dave Holden, (ACO) Kevin Breene (Farmer)

Non-Board Attendees: Lieselotte Morrill, Steve Hall, Marisa Davis, and Diane Brady

Meeting Called to order: at 9:35 AM by Dr. Marshall, which was followed by the roll call of attendees.

Acceptance of meeting minutes: of RCB for October 27, 2010. Dr. Chris Hannafin motioned to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by Dave Holden. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Ms. Lieselotte Morrill petitioned the Board for a variance from rabies vaccination for her dog. Ms. Morrill discussed letter from Dr. Tapp, the veterinarian that diagnosed her dog with a condition that was likely attributable to rabies vaccination. Dr. Hannafin said it should be documented that the animal must be under the care of a veterinarian. Dr. Hannafin state that we also need to set a precedent that all veterinarians should be notified if an animal has variance for rabies vaccinations.

The Board discussed safeguards, such as yearly appointments to the vet, which should be mandatory upon issuance of a variance. The Board discussed the type of information that should go into the affidavit and that information should be sent directly to the veterinarian and to the ACO in the town where the dog lives.

Motion to vote for stipulations and grant variance by Dave Holden and seconded by Charles Brown. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

New Business:

Dr. Hannafin stated the Lab at DOH needed to be funded and staffed and given more resources to handle rabies testing. The Board discussed ACO submissions to the lab and concluded that only the head of suspect domestic animals should be submitted for testing rather than the whole body. Bats should be dead and only head delivered to the lab. Diane Brady talked about the transport of bats after a human exposure. Diane

Brady questioned whether DEM Law Enforcement Officers should be the primary means of bat submission to the lab since bats are wild animals. Chief Hall suggested that handling live bats by Environmental Police will increase his officer's risk of rabies exposure and suggested that any bats that are presented to his officers that are still alive, should be humanely euthanized in a manner and at a location that will not result in risk of exposure or escape of the bat. The Board determined that an isoflurane chamber at HEALTH should be explored as it will meet the requirements of being a humane means of euthanasia and that it will not require handling of the bat. Dr. Hannafin discussed the carbon dioxide chamber at DOH but it is small and not as efficient. Isoflurane is better than a carbon dioxide chamber but must have controlled substance license to use. A suggestion to look into how other states handle this issue might be helpful.

Diane Brady would also like the public to be informed to make sure the container is well labeled if the animal is alive when submitted so that HEALTH lab personnel will not be at risk for exposure.

Dr. Marshall offered help with larger animals at the lab. Betsy Hanson brought up discussion should the ACO where the incident occurred be responsible to deliver the head to the lab?

Dave Holden suggested to draft and clarify policy on the position for submission of animals to the lab. CC: Police Chiefs, ACO's, Veterinarians and RIVMA. This policy should also note business hours of the lab and encourage all to use these hours. The motion was approved to create this policy by Dr. Hannafin was noted and seconded by Dr. Marshall. It was also requested that this be submitted to Diane Brady and Dr. Bandy for review and also post all contact numbers.

Betsy Hanson asked to be sent vaccination refusal form that Dr Hannafin is developing for further review.

Next Meeting: is set for October 19, 2011 @ 9:30AM, same location.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Mr. Breen, second by Dave Holden at 11:00 AM.