



Rabies Control Board Meeting Minutes Filing

Meeting Date: October 19, 2011

Board Member Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman) C.H. Hannafin, DVM (RIVMA representative), Charles Brown, (DEM Designee), Kevin Breene, (Farmer), Utpala Bandy, MD (HEALTH designee).

Absent Member: Dave Holden (Humane Association Representative), Betsy Hanson (ACO) Resigned

Non-Board Attendees: Christine Lamoureux

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance.

Acceptance of meeting minutes: of the RCB for April 25, 2011 meeting
Dr. Christopher Hannifin motioned to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by Dr. Marshall
Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business: NOTE: Old business was addressed after New Business in an effort to allow variance hearings to occur ahead of general board business

Discussion to create a operation working documents for wildlife and bat specimens taken to the lab for testing and forwarded to environmental police, police chiefs, ACO, veterinarians, RIVMA and DOH (Dr. Bandy) DOH.

Continued discussion on lab submissions. Dr Bandy suggested development of a lab submission protocol document that would cover submissions by all stakeholders. The key elements to be addressed include:

- DOH lab wants to accept only the head of the animal rather than entire animals.
- Protocol for dealing with bats that are brought to the lab alive. It was that stated the DOH lab has a carbon dioxide gas chamber, however isoflurane is a better alternative than the carbon dioxide chamber. It was discussed that the lab is the best existing site for euthanizing bats and it was stressed that it is important that bats be tested when exposures occur.
- The submission protocol must be clear that anyone submitting live bats must make certain that the container that they submit them in is clearly marked that it contains a live animal. This to protect lab personnel and to reduce the chance of escape of the bat.

- ACOs must develop policies and protocols to have small domestic animals decapitated. If they cannot do it themselves they should have an arrangement with a veterinarian who will do it for them.
- Dr. Hannafin suggested petition of RIVMA asking for volunteers to assist in the process.
- Come up with safe guidelines.
- Develop policy for submissions that occur out of regular business hours for lab.
- Dr. Marshall offered to assist the lab with larger animals when necessary.

MOTION: Dr Marshall is to draft a policy for submission to the lab. Once the policy has been accepted by DEM and HEALTH it will be distributed to all police chiefs, animal control officers, nuisance wildlife control specialists, wildlife rehabilitators, and RIVMA.

Dr. Hannafin made the motion, second by Dr. Marshall, all voted in favor, motion passed.

Dr. Marshall advised the board of public education training on rabies scheduled for November 30th, 2011 at RISPCA. Charlie Brown from Fish and Wildlife agreed to attend with Dr. Marshall. There was discussion on expansion of this to include DEM Enforcement officers, RIVMA veterinarians, and representatives from HEALTH to define all stakeholders' roles in management of rabies cases. The RCB agreed that Dr Marshall should approach the organizers of this training to see whether it was feasible to have this type of presentation. Dr Marshall also agreed to reach out to the Division of Law Enforcement to determine whether an Environmental Police Officer could attend this training.

Charlie Brown again expressed his concerns regarding exposure of nuisance wildlife control experts and wildlife rehabilitators at both this meeting and the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Variance hearing for Christine Lamoureux.

The letter sent by Dr. Ster regarding Ms. Lamoureux's dog was discussed. This letter indicated that there was a history of adverse events associated with rabies vaccination of this dog and that efforts made to pre-medicate did not prevent adverse events. The letter indicated that vaccination resulted in more severe reactions each time it has been given, the most recent requiring hospitalization. Dr. Hannafin discussed getting documentation of sequence of vaccinations for this animal. Dr. Marshall discussed the 4/2010 vaccine and if it was a 3 year vaccine because of the new law which make this animal up to date until 2013.

Dr. Hannafin stated if we are provided proper documentation of past date immunized that we could determine when the dog is actually due for a booster shot. Dr. Marshall stated determination based on past rabies certificates would give facts that could make issuance of a variance unnecessary at this time since the dog may actually be current for two more years. Dr. Hannafin stated that dog could be allergic to more than one vaccine and not to use the product with a history of adverse events again. Ms Lamoureux questioned the requirement for animal identification via microchip. The

board explained that identification via microchip is a reasonable and relatively inexpensive means of uniquely identifying the dog and that unique identification is required for issuance of a variance. Discussion took place with Christine Lamoureux for special arrangements to keep medical information about the dog with her and she agreed to have the dog microchipped and agreed to all stipulations. Ms Lamoureux was asked to read the variance stipulations, she was then asked whether she understood them and whether she would comply with them, she agreed in the affirmative that she understood them and that she would comply with them. Ms Lamoureux stated that she would notify Dr. Marshall when her dog has been identified by microchip.

Motion to grant variance – Mr. Breene - motion to grant variance upon receipt of confirmation of application of microchip. Second by Dr. Hannafin to grant variance. Motion passed unanimously.

B. VACANCY: Betsy Hanson (ACO) has retired and we need another ACO to be on the board. Dr. Marshall discussed whether a nominee should be forwarded to the Governor with the hope that the Senate would confirm during the special session of the General Assembly. Mr. Breene suggested that the Senate would not take this issue up under the special session, but would probably do it soon after they convene at the next regular session in January. Dr. Bandy suggested we send a letter to all ACOs to solicit nominations. Dr Marshall motioned that he would draft a letter to be distributed to all ACOs to solicit nominations for the vacant seat. Mr Brown seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous decision.

NEXT MEETING is set for April 4, 2012 @ 9:30 AM – Conference Room 370A or 340A

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Dr. Hannafin and second by Scott Marshall, DVM at 11:00 AM