



MINUTES RABIES CONTROL BOARD

Meeting Date: October 16, 2012

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

Board Member Absent: Kevin Breene, (Livestock Farmer)

Non-Board Attendees: Scott Scofield (Providence ACO), Dr Henry Leibovitz (RIDOH), Danielle Quilliam (DOH), Ms Patricia Arrow, Mr Coulton, and Ms Danielle Richards

Meeting called to order: at 10:35 AM by Dr Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance.

Motion to take care of New Business: Motion by Dr Hannifin, 2nd by Charlie Brown, all voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Variance Petition for Patricia Arrow

The Rabies Control Board received a petition for a variance from compulsory rabies vaccination by Ms Patricia Arrow. Ms Arrow requested this petition on the advice of her veterinarian who stated that vaccination against rabies could have life jeopardizing consequences due to a medical condition that the dog has. The dog is a 4 yr old standard poodle that lives with 2 indoor cats that are up to date on their vaccinations. Ms Arrow stated that her dog was overdue for vaccine but the dog has been diagnosed with an immune mediated hemolytic anemia in 2011. The Rabies Control Board received a letter from Amy Trow, DVM of Ocean State Veterinary Specialists stating that development of this disease has been linked to vaccinations and has been noted by her veterinarian to discontinue vaccinations. Ms Arrow stated that her dog has been trained to stay in the yard and is confined and kept in an enclosed area. She also stated that her dog is not on any medication at this time and has a microchip. It was also stated that she has a fenced in area, and the dog is accompanied by a person whenever outside. The board stated that her dog should be kept on a leash when out side and Ms Arrow agreed.

The conditions of variance adopted by the Rabies Control Board were read by Dr. Marshall to Ms. Arrow. Ms Arrow was then asked whether she agreed to the conditions of the variance before this variance could be considered. Ms. Arrow agreed to conditions of variance. Ms Arrow was then told that the Board would vote and she would be notified in writing as to the outcome of that vote.

B. Variance Petition for Danielle Richards

The Rabies Control Board received a petition for a variance from compulsory rabies vaccination by Ms Danielle Richards. Ms Richards' dog, Tyko, is a 7 ½ year old neutered Labrador retriever mix. She has submitted a request for variance and presented a letter from Lori L. Schneider, DVM from Gansett Animal Hospital stating that she recommended that Tyko not receive any vaccinations due to the likelihood that receiving a vaccination could result in exacerbation of a medical condition that is known to be exacerbated by vaccine administration. Ms Richards stated that Tyko is still on medication and continues the recovery process. The Rabies Control Board discussed at length the circumstances related to vaccine administration, the dog's medical condition and the likelihood that the condition was caused by vaccination. Of note, it was determined that Tyko actually may not be due for rabies vaccination at this time since his most recent vaccination may still be current. The board emphasized to Ms Richard that the vaccine status of her dog was important to know because any management decisions that would be made as a result of an exposure or bite would be predicated on whether the dog was considered currently vaccinated or not at the time of the exposure or bite.

Dr. Hannafin asked Ms. Richards if she heard the conditions of variance that were read earlier and whether she was she in agreement with the terms. She agreed and also stated she would get a micro chip as requested. Dr. Hannafin noted that variances are on a case by case basis, are open-ended and subject to all protocols. Ms Richards was then told that the Board would vote and she would be notified in writing as to the outcome of that vote.

Motion to grant the Arrow Variance: Dr Marshall made a motion to grant a variance from compulsory rabies vaccination for Ms Arrow's dog. Motion second by Dr Hannafin. All members present voted in favor of granting the variance except for David Holden who voted in the negative.

Motion to stay a vote on granting the Richard Variance: Charles Brown motion to stay the vote until more information was provided. Second by Dave Holden. Discussion by the Board concluded that Ms Richard provide more detailed veterinary records to support her petition for variance and that she provide the most current rabies vaccination certificate so that the board can determine whether the dog is currently vaccinated. All present members voted to stay a final vote until Ms Richards provides satisfactory records.

OLD BUSINESS:

Acceptance of meeting minutes of the RCB for April 4, 2012 meeting Dr. Christopher Hannifin, motioned to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by Charlie Brown. All voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

Discussion on submission of animals for testing.

Dr Henry Leibovitz (RIDOH) stated that the State Health Lab is now satisfied that DEM Enforcement officers are using proper containers to submit bats for testing. He stated

that he still has concerns that the containers are not being properly marked when they contain live bats and also that some containers that are submitted that contain live bats do not have adequate air holes. The Board acknowledged that there are occasions when DEM Law Enforcement officers are presented with a bat that has been captured by a homeowner and that bat has already been placed in container that is improper according to State Health Lab protocol. It is the position of the Division of Law Enforcement that their officers should not be required to repackage the bat into a proper container due to the potential for the bat to escape or for the Enforcement officer to be potentially exposed to rabies while repackaging the bat. Dr. Hannafin suggested putting any improperly contained bat into a large plastic bag after punching air holes in the primary container. This way the animal can be euthanized by isoflurane without need to remove it from the primary container. Dr Leibovitz also discussed the ongoing issues with animals arriving at the SHL without being decapitated. Dave Holden discussed that finding a veterinarian to decapitate animals remains an issue for ACOs. Dr. Marshall said if a situation arises where it's a wild animal enforcement can call on him to decapitate. Dr Marshall also stated that he will draft and send a letter to RIVMA regarding requirements that all animals submitted to the SHL be decapitated.

Dr Leibovitz suggested drafting a letter regarding submission of live bats to be sent out to all ACOs referencing proper submission procedures. Dr. Marshall agreed to generate a letter and send it to all the animal control officers.

Unfulfilled Seat:

Scott Scofield (Providence ACO) has accepted the nomination for the open seat on the Rabies Control Board. Notification has to be sent to the Governors office for approval and then the Senate has to confirm which will take place in January 2013. Dr. Marshall stated that Kevin Breene still wishes to hold his seat on the board but he needs to submit his resume. Issues about the Livestock welfare board were also discussed.

Other Business:

Dr. Hannafin discussed informing veterinarians on how to handle submission of BSE and Scrapie testing in livestock and they should be sent to UCONN for testing and that the state veterinarian and DOH should be notified also as soon as possible.

NEXT MEETING is set for Tuesday, February 12th , 2013 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn by Dave Holden and seconded by Dr. Marshall. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at noon.