



## Rabies Control Board Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date:** August 20, 2013

**Board Member Attendees:** Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman), Charles Brown, (DEM Designee), Kevin Breene, (Livestock Farmer)

**Board Member Absent:** C.H. Hannafin, DVM (RIVMA), Utpala Bandy, MD, (DOH Designee), Scott Scofield (Providence ACO)

**Non-Board Attendees:** Steven Hall (Chief, DEM Enforcement), Elizabeth Mermel (DOH) Dan Ferrara, Anne Matarese

**Meeting called to order** at 10:30 AM by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance. A quorum was not met. Dr Marshall consulted with DEM Legal staff for advice on how to proceed. DEM Legal advised that accurate notes be taken and that these notes can be submitted at the next meeting, but that no official business can be conducted. Variance petitioners were advised that their testimony would be recorded and presented at the next meeting of the Board, but that petitions could not be granted until the Board could execute a vote as a quorum.

**Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes from the previous meeting could not be voted on for acceptance due to failure to assemble a quorum.

A. **Variance Petition - Amy and Joe Denhoff** decided to cancel their appointment with the Rabies Control Board and opted to have their dog rabies vaccinated on August 15, 2013.

B. **Variance Partition - Anne Matarese**

Anne Matarese's dog Gizmo is a 7 yr old miniature schnauzer that lives with her, another dog, and two children ages 13 & 15. There are also grandchildren and friends who visit. Her other dog is vaccinated and up to date at this time. A letter from Mark W. Paradise, VMD of North Paws Veterinary Center was received stating that gizmo has a rare autoimmune condition known as autoimmune mediated neutropenia and advised that gizmo avoid anything that would stimulate his immune system, including vaccinations. Dr. Marshall stated that we also received medical records with Dr. Paradise's letter to be reviewed. Dr. Marshall asked Ms Matarese how the dog was doing and if she understood all the stipulations associated with issuance of a variance. Ms Matarese stated the dog is doing well and that she read and understood all the stipulations, and agreed to abide by them. Dr. Marshall asked how and where the dog was kept. Ms. Matarese stated that the dog is kept in a stockade fenced yard, and is walked on a leash. Ms Matareses stated that her family lives in a home that was built in 1978 and she stated there have not been bats in the house that she knows of. She also stated that the dog has no bite history. Charlie Brown asked her if she had any other animals and she stated she had another dog. Mr. Breene asked Ms. Matarese if she understands the consequences if the dog was to bite someone. She stated yes. Dr. Marshall explained to Ms. Matarese that if her dog was to come in contact with an animal that was suspected of being rabid that a 6-month quarantine at the pound would go into effect at the owner's expense and how this stipulation protects the public from unvaccinated dogs. Dr. Marshall asked Ms Matarese if she fully understands this regulation and will comply. Ms. Matarese stated yes. Charlie Brown questioned when the last rabies vaccine was administered. The last shot was

10/23/2012. Ms Matarese asked some technical questions regarding rabies vaccination dose and efficacy that were answered by Dr Marshall. Ms. Matarese also asked if the rabies is still a big issue in the state. Dr. Marshall's response was "most definitely" and the problem is that most people stop paying attention to it.

#### C. Variance Petition Amanda Duncan & Dan Ferrara

Dan Ferrara appeared before this board today asking for a variance for their dog Giselle, a 7 year old female Chihuahua who has experienced allergic signs following vaccines. A letter has been received by Laura Crawley, DVM from Banfield Pet Hospital explaining her diagnosis. Her last rabies vaccination was around July 20, 2012. Dr. Marshall asked Mr. Ferrara whether he understood and accepted the same stipulations, to which he answered in the affirmative.

Mr Ferrara was also asked whether his dog received multiple vaccines when the adverse event occurred or whether only rabies was administered and he replied that he thought only rabies vaccine was administered. It was determined by review of records that the dog was not currently vaccinated at this time. The living facility for this dog is that she is leashed when out or kept in doors. Mr Ferrara also stated that he has a cat that is fully vaccinated and stays in doors also and that there are no children in the household. The history is that the dog has been getting progressively more severe reactions with each rabies vaccine that she gets.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Review of procedures for vaccinated and unvaccinated animals.**

Charlie Brown started the discussion of a slight difference in protocol between vaccinated and unvaccinated animals, the cost involved and how each situation is dealt on a case by case basis regarding testing. The protocol in question is whether it is necessary to test wildlife that have had contact with currently vaccinated animals. The difference in protocol is that if the animal is tested and proven negative, then a booster vaccine for the domestic animal is not required, however, if the animal is not tested, then a booster vaccine is required and the animal is held for a period of observation at home. It was determined that the risk of a booster vaccine is low, the expense is lower than the cost of testing animals, and that in general, the public has not objected to the current protocol. As for protocol Dr. Marshall does not see a need for change at this time.

##### **Discussion of whether to amend regulations to allow veterinarians to use signature stamp.**

The discussion continued on the rabies certificate and if a signature stamp instead of a real signature would be acceptable. Dr. Marshall noted that for this to change an amendment in regulations would have to happen and that people are going to be fraudulent with or without a stamp.

#### **New Business:**

Dave Holden has resigned from his position as a member of the Rabies Control Board.

Scott Scofield from Providence Animal Control has applied to be a member on the board and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Tom Gulluccio from Ocean State Animal Coalition would accept a position also but they are waiting for legislature to reconvene.

**Motion to adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at approximately noon

**NEXT MEETING** is set for Wednesday, October 16th, 2013 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A