



## Rabies Control Board Meeting

**Meeting Date:** October 16, 2013

**Board Member Attendees:** Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman), C.H. Hannafin, DVM, Charles Brown, (DEM Designee), Kevin Breene, (Livestock Farmer), Utpala Bandy, MD (DOH Designee)

**Board Member Absent:** Scott Scofield (Providence ACO)

**Non-Board Attendees:** none

**Meeting called to order** at 10:30 AM by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance. A quorum was met.

**Acceptance of meeting minutes** of the RCB for February 12, 2013 meeting and presentation of the notes from the August 20, 2013 meeting for which there was not a quorum. Dr. Christopher Hannafin motioned to accept the minutes and notes. Motion seconded by Dr. Marshall. All voted in favor.

### **New Business:**

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

### **B. Variance Petition - Anne Matarese**

Dr. Marshall motioned for consideration of Anne Matarese's request for her dog Gizmo who is a 7 yr old miniature schnauzer that lives with her, another dog and two children ages 13 & 15. Dr. Marshall stated he has reviewed the medical records and approves issuance of a variance. Dr. Hannafin asked if the ACO was notified and it was confirmed that the ACO was notified that this variance was being sought.

Dr. Marshall motioned to approve issuance of a variance, Kevin Breene second the motion. Motion was unanimously approved and a variance will be granted.

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

Dan Ferrara appeared before this board on August 20, 2013 asking for a variance for their dog Giselle, a 7 year old female Chihuahua who experiences allergic reactions following vaccines. Mr. Ferrara stated he understood the stipulations and testified to agree to them. He was also told that Coventry ACO will be notified of the outcome of this variance.

Kevin Breene motion to approve issuance of a variance, seconded by Dr. Marshall. Motion was unanimously approved and a variance will be granted.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Rabies Protocol: Discussion regarding differences in protocol between vaccinated and unvaccinated animals. The board considered that there is a slight protocol difference between the disposition of a domestic animal that is currently vaccinated and has contact with a rabid animal versus a domestic animal that is currently vaccinated and has contact with a wild animal, but the wild animal is tested and found negative. In the former, the requirement is to have the domestic animal receive a booster shot (unless within 30 days of the most recent vaccination against rabies) and in the latter no action is necessary. Summary is that testing of all wildlife will result in some domestic animals not needing a booster shot. The board reasoned that the resources necessary to devote to testing these wild animals is significant and that there is no public outcry to change the current policy of not submitting wild animals that have contact with currently vaccinated animals, therefore the board decided to not make any amendment to the current rabies management protocol.

B. Rabies Certificates: The Board took up the matter of a request from the RI Veterinary Medical Association to amend regulations such that signature stamps for rabies certificates could be used in lieu of a hand written signature. RIVMA stated that the requirement of hand written signatures are a bottleneck at rabies clinics and the use of a signature stamp would help to mitigate that issue. Dr. Hannafin stated that many practices are using stamps and software programs as common practice and that the regulations should be amended to consider that. Dr. Hannafin requested that all information on the certificates be in compliance with the CDC and include full veterinarian information before using a stamp.

Dr Marshall motioned to amend the current rabies regulations to allow the use of a signature stamp or electronic signature and to make the requirements of a rabies vaccination certificate consistent with the CDC model certificate. Dr Hannafin seconded the motion and the motion was passed with unanimous approval.

C. Unfilled Seat. The Board took up the matter of the unfilled seat. After discussion of several potential candidates, the Board decided to explore whether Tom Gulluscio from Ocean State Animal Coalition is interested.

**NEXT MEETING** is set for Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Marshall, DVM  
RI State Veterinarian  
Chair, RI Rabies Control Board