



## Rabies Control Board Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** September 23, 2014

**Board Member Attendees:** Scott Marshall, DVM, C.H. Hannafin, DVM, Kevin Breene, , Utpala Bandy, MD , Scott Scofield

**Board Members Absent:** Charles Brown, Tom Gulluscio

**Non-Board Attendees:** Pattie Watson, Trish O'Day, Amy Emerson, Casey Johnson, Alex Antoninich, Amos Shepard, and Lawrence Soldani

**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 25, 2014 meeting - Dr. Christopher Hannafin, DVM motioned to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by Kevin Breene. Motion passed unanimously

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Variance Petition – Ms. Diane Andrade** - Ms. Andrade requested a variance for her dog Abbey who has been diagnosed with Immune mediated Thrombocytopenia and her rabies status is up to date as of this meeting. Information to support her case was emailed to Dr. Marshall. Her vet is Dr. Consiglio of West Shore AH and can be reached for any medical questions. Warwick animal control was notified.
- B. **Variance Petition – Ms. Lawrence Soldani** - Mr. Soldani appeared before this board to request a variance for his dog and was referred by his veterinarian Dr. Paradise of North Paws Vet Center in Greenville, RI. His dog has immune mediated polyarthropathy.
- C. **Variance Petition – Ms. Patrick Elwood O'Day** - Ms. O'Day appeared before this board to request a variance for her dog Edith who has been diagnosed with autoimmune hemolytic anemia. Her vet is Dr. Civic of Newport Animal Hospital.
- D. **Variance Petition – Ms. Amy Emerson** - Ms. Emerson appeared before this board to request a variance for her dog Burner who has a liver shunt which prohibits the use of all vaccines and had a letter from his Florida veterinarian . Coventry ACO has been notified. Dr. Heide Ward of North Smithfield AH sent a letter requesting waiver of vaccine which is required for licensing.
- E. **Variance Petition – Ms. Jo-ann Reall** - Ms. Reall requested a variance for her dog Cleopatria who is 6 yrs old and who has been diagnosed with severe reactions to vaccinations. A letter was received by Jane Linden DVM of Providence River AH stating her diagnoses. Pat Maxwell, Cranston ACO was contacted.
- F. **Variance Petition – Mr.. Alex Antoninich** - Mr. Antoninich appeared before this board to request a variance for his dog Sabrina who has been diagnosed with sterile panniculitis (immune disease) Dr. Balmforth provided medical records stating that the vaccine reactivates her condition. West Greenwich ACO was notified. Dr. Marshall stated the animal would have to be microchipped to approve this variance and asked how he would deal with an implanted microchip if the animal cannot have injections? Mr. Antoninich had reservations of implanting a microchip which could cause more issues. Dr. Hannafin asked if the animal had a permanent type of

identification such as a scar or marking? He also stated a decision might not be able to be made at this meeting and would have to look further into his case.

- G. **Variance Petition – Mr. Amos Shepard** - Mr. Shepard appeared before this board to request a variance for his 8 year old jack Russell terrier dog who has auto immune hemolytic anemia. The Barrington ACO, Pattie Watson was contacted and attended the meeting. Dr. Marshall asked ACO Pattie Watson if she had any reservations regarding this variance. ACO Watson that she had some reservations regarding the fact that the Shepards have their house on the market and the fact that there was a several month lapse in reporting an incident where the Shepards failed to report contact between their dog and a fox. Mr. Shepard agreed to the stipulations in the variance affidavit.
- H. **Variance Petition – Ms. Kathy Tipimeni** - Ms. Tipimeni requested a variance for her dog who has A auto immune hemolytic anemia. North Kingstown Animal Control Officer has been contacted in regards to this variance.
- I. **Variance Petition – Casey Johnson** Mr. Johnson appeared before this board to request a variance for his 11 year old bulldog Matilda who has reactions to vaccine. Mr. Johnson stated he does not know what causes these symptoms after injections but does not want her to have to go through these issues to have a microchip inserted. ACO Scott Scofield asked if vaccine injections gets her immune system to react maybe a microchip would not because there is no vaccine involved. Mr. Johnson has no other animals. Dr. Hannafin stated the only reaction he has seen with inserting a microchip is transient swelling of the skin at the time of injection. Mr. Johnson also stated that his dog has a ring shape mark behind his ear, no tail, and a scar on his side which would show permanent identification of his dog.

Dr. Marshall stated that all petitions have been read. Alex Antoninich has expressed reservations to implanting a microchip into his dog. Casey Johnson stated he has a mild reservation of the same. Dr. Hannafin speaking with Pat O'Day stated that titers are not recognized or accepted as equal to a rabies vaccine and therefore the animal is not considered protected. It was stated by Dr. Hannafin that animals that receive a variance will be managed as non-vaccinated animals in situations where they bite or have contact with a potentially rabid animal, including the potential for a six-month quarantine at a dog pound. Mr. Johnson stated that he was glad that variance process exists so that these types of situations are handled correctly.

Dr. Marshall asked petitioners if there were any further questions. There were none. He stated that all petitioners will be notified by mail regarding the decision whether to grant a variance. Dr. Hannifin agreed with granting all variances except Mr. Antoninich who did not want to microchip his animal. Dr. Hannifin thinks the microchip process is harmless. The Board resolved that Dr. Balmforth will be contacted by Dr. Marshall to request his professional opinion regarding the safety of microchipping Mr. Antoninich's dog before a decision is made whether to grant this variance.

Dr. Marshall suggested creating a subcommittee consisting of a veterinarian, the State Veterinarian and one ACO to determine questions and review comments on each case of variances to streamline the process before the meeting. The Board discussed adopting alternate forms of identification for variance issuance. The Board determined that digital photos could be used in lieu of microchips in instances where microchips are contraindicated. Dr. Hannafin stated that veterinarians are more aware of variance availability which he feels is the reason for the quantity of request for variance's received lately. Veterinarians also realize they must go through legal channels or risk the chance of being sued if they treat the animal.

**Motion to allow a subcommittee to review variance petitions and make recommendations to the entire Board** –Dr. Hannafin motion, seconded by Scott Scofield, motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING** is set for January 14, 2015 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A

**Motion to adjourn** – Dr. Marshall motion to adjourn - Dr. Hannafin second.