



**RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-831-5508

Rabies Control Board Minutes Filing

Meeting Date: April 29th, 2009

Location: Room 370

235 Promenade St.

Providence, RI 02908

Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman), Utpala Bandy, MD (HEALTH Designee), C.H. Hannafin, DVM (Veterinarian), Charles Brown (DEM Designee), David Holden (RISPCA), Betsy Hanson (ACO), Marisa Davis (Non-member DEM rep).

Meeting Agenda: Filed electronically on April 22nd, 2009 and posted at DEM Headquarters, HEALTH Headquarters, and at the State House Bulletin Board on that date.

Meeting called to order: Meeting called to order at 9:15am by Dr. Marshall, this was followed by introduction of all members.

Old Business:

- 1. Acceptance of the Agenda for today's meeting:** Dr. Marshall called for a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting. Motion by Dr. Bandy, second by officer Hanson, Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- 2. Acceptance of the meeting minutes of the RCB for the 2/09/06 meeting:** Dr. Marshall called for a vote to accept the minutes. Motion by Dr. Hannafin, second by Dr. Bandy. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- 3. Status of Revision of Protocol Manual:** Protocol Manual has not yet been revised as outlined at the 2/09/06 meeting. Since one of the topics under **New Business** will address a change in regulations and therefore that change will necessitate that the Protocol Manual be changed, Dr. Marshall motioned to table this discussion until the regulations were decided upon. Second by Dr. Bandy. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- 4. Unfilled Seat:** One position on the RCB is unfilled, that of a Livestock Farmer who is a member of the RI Farm Bureau. A farmer has been nominated but has not submitted proper documentation for Senate confirmation. Motion to allow the farmer another 30 days before we consider someone else. Second by Dave Holden. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

New Business:

- 1. Petition to change accepted duration of immunity after vaccination from 2 year maximum to vaccine manufacturer's label:** Officer Hanson argued that she would like to see it stay at 2 years. She feels that the Animal Control Association is neutral on this matter. Dr. Bandy said that we have moved beyond the phase of ramping up protection in the face of an approaching epidemic, and now we are in the phase where the disease is endemic, therefore we should follow vaccine manufacturer's recommendations. Dr. Hannafin noted that there will likely be an increase in number of animals placed into quarantine due to vaccine lapses. Dr. Hannafin also stated that he

does not know the consensus among the RIVMA. Dr. Hannafin also suggested that any changes will need to be clearly explained to clients so that they understand the ramifications of the change. Charles Brown noted that newly infected species have been discovered and that the incidence in wildlife in general has leveled off. Dave Holden stated that 50-60% of animals coming through the shelter are vaccinated currently. Dr. Marshall noted that any change in regulations will automatically trigger an update and revision of the Protocol Manual. Dr. Marshall motioned to vote to keep regulations as they are, second by Betsy Hanson. Motion not approved by majority vote, Officer Hanson only vote in favor of keeping regulations as they are. Dr. Marshall then motioned for a vote to change the regulations to reflect that the duration of immunity will be the duration of immunity as stated on the product label. Motion second by Dave Holden. Motion approved by majority vote, Officer Hanson opposed, Dr. Hannafin abstained.

- 2. Proposal to change Protocol Manual back to a 14 day quarantine instead of 10 days after an animal bites:** Discussion among Board that though some researchers had noted that rabies can be shed in saliva for longer than 10 days, however in practicality 10 days seems to be an effective quarantine period and is the period that is suggested in the Compendium. Consensus among the Board was to go along with the Compendium. Motion by Dr. Marshall to keep the quarantine at 10 days. Second by Dr. Bandy. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- 3. Proposal to change Protocol Manual to allow for animals entering quarantine after an exposure to be vaccinated upon entry into quarantine rather than 1 month before release:** Dr. Hannafin supports the idea of vaccination upon entry. Compendium gives the option of vaccination on the way into quarantine or one month prior to release. Dr. Marshall moved to change Protocol Manual to allow vaccination upon entry into quarantine rather than before release. Charles Brown second. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- 4. Proposal to consider a process for exemption of pets from vaccination requirement.** Dr. Marshall noted that there is a variance provision in the Rabies Control regulations, however, there is a question as to whether these regulations are in force. Also, though there is a variance provision noted, the actual process has not been defined. Dr. Marshall suggests that a subset of the Board (committee) meet to decide these cases. Dr. Hannafin suggests language to limit liability of the Board members if a variance is granted. Dr. Hannafin also would like to list certain restrictions and stipulations associated with any variance. Motion by Dr. Marshall to establish a procedure for issuing a variance as outlined with regard to stipulations. Second by Dr. Bandy. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Other Business: Dr. Bandy suggested to simplify the Protocol Manual and to promote education to avoid exposure. Board suggested meeting more frequently.

Next Meeting: August 12th, 2009 at the same location.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00am

Prepared by: Scott N. Marshall, DVM
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