



Rhode Island Livestock Welfare & Care Standards Advisory Council

Rhode Island Livestock and Care Standards Advisory Council Minutes March 19, 2014

Members Present: Chairman Scott Marshall, State Vet, Secretary Al Bettencourt, RI Farm Bureau, Joe Warzycha, RISPCA, Christie Smith, Potter League, Debora Bresch, ASPCA, Louis Vinagro, RIRLA

Member Not Present: Rick Rhodes, URI

Non-member attendees: Chris Hannafin, DVM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Adoption of Livestock Welfare Standards

Amendment offered by Debra to include language in the standards that require colostrum for veal calves and proper nutrition for veal calves.

Motion: By Christie, Second by Joe to update the DRAFT Livestock Welfare Standards as proposed by Debora.

Results: Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Scott, Second by Joe: Pain management issues in the DRAFT Livestock Welfare Standards will be addressed in the "Guide for Care and Use of Ag Animals" when more specific info is needed.

Results: No opposition but the Council decided to withhold any vote on adoption of DRAFT Livestock Welfare Standards until a version with the suggested amendments can be reviewed.

Consideration of amendment of DRAFT Livestock Welfare Standards to address the issue of housing for laying hens, specifically minimum spatial requirements and whether "battery cages" will be allowed going forward.

There was discussion on this issue but no action was taken. (See New Business RIGL 4-1-7)

New Business:

Consideration of amendment of the Draft Livestock Welfare Standards to emphasize that acceptance of methods of euthanasia that the AVMA considers acceptable in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition does not necessarily mean that those same methods are acceptable for the slaughter of animals.

Motion by Joe, second by Debora, to amend the DRAFT Livestock Welfare Standards as follows:

All types and species of Livestock must be euthanized by methods as described for that particular type and species in the *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition* unless an alternate method is authorized by the Director under paragraph G above.

The Rhode Island Livestock Welfare and Care Standards Advisory Council unanimously adopts the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals Council on Livestock Welfare: 2013 Edition (“Guidelines”). The Council notes that its adoption of the Guidelines is not intended to equate euthanasia with slaughter.

Results: Unanimously passed

Consideration of referrals from the General Assembly

RIGL 4-1-8 Sale of chicks and ducklings: Current law does not allow the sale of less than 12 chicks or ducklings. Many municipalities allow for citizens to have up to 6 chickens on their land.

Motion: By Al Second by Christie Allow the sale of no less than 6 chicks or ducklings.

Results: 5-0-1 Debora wished to be recorded as abstaining.

Consideration of S-2139 which would amend RIGL 4-1-7 *Live Poultry Containers*. Discussion focused on opposing this bill because of its placement in law and lack of definitions. The proposal banned battery cages for chickens without defining “battery cage,” without defining a phase in period, and the current statute, RIGL 4-1-7 does not address poultry housing, but rather temporary containment of poultry in transit.

Motion by Joe Second by Al: Oppose the bill because of its placement in the law and lack of definitions.

Results: Motion passed 4-1 with Debora recorded as against because she supports the concept that the bill supported. Scott will write the majority opinion and Debora will write the minority opinion.

Adjournment: The next meeting was not scheduled at this meeting, but will be scheduled in April via email. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully Submitted:

Al Bettencourt
Secretary