

# The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

## Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021

### Call to Order: Roll Call

- Regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals was called to order at 1:05 pm via Zoom by Co-Chairs, Jeri Zezula and Jennifer Eber.
- Welcome Sheriff William Wright, the newest member of the Commission who will be representing the NH Sheriff's Association!
- Jonathan Melanson also joined us from the Office of the Governor.

### Members Present

- Jozi Best – NH Farm Bureau
- Dr. Jane Barlow Roy- NH Veterinary Medical Association (phone)
- George Cook – Dog Owners of the Granite State/NH Musers
- Dr. Stephen Crawford – State Veterinarian (phone)
- Tom DeRosa – General Public
- Jennifer Eber – Co-Chair, General Public
- Heather Faria – NH Federation of Humane Organizations
- Sheila Johannsen – Animal Control Officers Association of NH (phone)
- Gary Lambert – NH Sportsmen
- Sheriff Mike Moyer – NH Sheriff's Association
- Patricia Morris – Equine Associations
- Wendy Munroe – NH Veterinary Technician Association
- Julia Seeley – Secretary, National Humane Organization
- Tom Seymour – General Public
- Dr. Jeri Zezula – Co-Chair, General Public

### Members Absent

- Senator Regina Birdsell (R-Hampstead) – NH Senator
- Cynthia Collins – General Public
- Marga Culp – General Public
- Chief Dean Rondeau – NH Police Chief's Association
- Steven Sprowl – Humane Cruelty Investigator (Unable to log into meeting.)

### Public Present

- None

### Review and Approval of December Minutes

- Dr. Crawford moved to approve the minutes. Heather seconded. All approved.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri to upload minutes to the Commission website.

### Commission Legislative Responsibilities

- Dr. Crawford recapped the concerns he expressed to the Commission in his email sent on January 8.
- Members discussed the need to update the Executive Order and clarify our role in the legislative process. For example, is the Commission expected to take positions on legislation? If so, are those positions supposed to be sent to the legislature or directly to the Governor? Is the Commission expected to propose new legislation, and if so, to whom are these proposals going to be sent? We agreed that clarification is needed so we can streamline our work and focus our efforts where the Governor wants us to be focused.

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- **Next Steps:** Jeri and Jen to send recommended edits to the Executive Order and a list of questions about the Commission's specific roles and responsibilities to Jonathan Melanson. Jonathan will review the request with the Governor and let us know how the Governor received it.

### 2021 LSR's Review

- Members voted on the two bills for which we have text:
  - HB 92: Establishing a committee to study best practices for companion animal groomers.
    - Commission voted to monitor and agreed that the language needs to be amended.
  - HB 174: Relative to reporting a collision between a cat and a motor vehicle.
    - Commission voted to support this bill. Dr. Crawford abstained.
- **Next Steps:** George to update the 2021 voting grid with these votes. Julia to send updated LSR chart with additional bill text/numbers. Commission to vote on remaining bills at the next meeting.

### Commission Vacancies

- Jonathan is continuing to look into filling the UNH Co-Op seat and House of Representative seat.

### DOJ Reporting of Animal Cruelty Cases

- No update from Jonathan has been provided.

### Input on 14-day period for status hearing under RSA 644:8

- Waiting on an update from Steven Sprowl.

### Commission Manual Update

- No update on the AG's review of the manual.
- Jeri is working to get the Commission resources onto a government server.
- The Commission has permission post the manual on the police training website in addition to the DOJ website.

### NHPSTC Communication

- Commission has been invited to submit news posts (not related to legislation) to the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council. We agreed that the first message would be an introduction of who we are and to let them know we are available as a resource.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri to provide news post language to the NHPSTC.

### New Cruelty Cases

- The website has been updated with articles on two cases.
- **Next Steps:** Jen to request more information as to why the Manchester case in which a man killed a cat by slamming it against a car involved misdemeanor, not felony, animal cruelty charges.

### Member/Guest Comments/Questions

- Jeri shared information she received regarding a grant program from the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. The funding is available to help with investigations and address costs that are not covered in the cost of care fund. She also mentioned that the ALDF, HSUS, and ASPCA can also help cover costs.

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**Subcommittee Updates**

- #1: Heather is the chair, agreed they need to be able to meet outside the Commission meeting due to biennial report requirements.
- #2: Members not present, have not met.
- #3: Wendy is the chair, met and put together goals.
- #4: Jozi has been trying to organize a meeting, has not received feedback, no chair assigned, put notes together for a future discussion.
- #5: Members did not meet, Julia to continue updating the LSR chart, Tom to handle bill tracking during session, and George to track Commission votes, goals are up in the air until we get clarification on the Commission's role in the legislative process from Jonathan, no chair assigned.

Jozi moved to adjourn the meeting. Sheila seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

**The next meeting is on Monday, January 25 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.**

Jennifer will send a test Zoom meeting invite to help address the log in issues some members experienced.

Respectfully submitted by Julia Seeley, Secretary