

NH Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021

Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals was called to order at 1:10 pm by Co-Chairs, Dr. Jeri Zezula and Jennifer Eber.

Roll Call:

Members Present

- George Cook – Dog Owners of the Granite State & NH Mushers
- Marga Coup – General Public
- Dr. Stephen Crawford – State Veterinarian
- Tom DeRosa – General Public
- Jennifer Eber – Co-Chair, General Public
- Kurt Ehrenberg – National Humane Organization
- Elaina Enzien – UNH Co-Op Extension
- Heather Faria – NH Federation of Humane Organizations
- Sheila Johannsen – Animal Control Officers Association of NH
- Wendy Munroe – NH Veterinary Technician Association
- Tom Seymour – General Public
- Dr. Jeri Zezula – Co-Chair, General Public

Members Absent

- Jozi Best – NH Farm Bureau
- Jeb Bradley – (R-Wolfeboro) NH State Senator
- Cynthia Collins – General Public
- Barbara Comtois – (R-Center Barnstead) NH State Representative
- Gary Lambert – NH Sportsmen (phone)
- Patricia Morris – Equine Associations
- Dean Rondeau – NH Police Chief's Association
- Jane Barlow Roy – NH Veterinary Medical Association
- Steven Sprowl – Humane Cruelty Investigator
- William Wright – NH Sheriff's Association (late)

Public Present

- None

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- May 17th meeting minutes approved by unanimous vote.
- June 21st meeting minutes approved by unanimous vote.
- Next Steps:** Dr. Jeri Zezula to upload minutes to the Commission website.

Report to Governor – Draft Review & Approval

- This draft report differs from the previous report in that it contains more than simple statistics and recommendations. This draft report is far more comprehensive with greater details of activities, data, recommendations. The latest revision contains suggestions made from Dr. Crawford and George Cook (introduction for Subcommittee 5). Some Subcommittee reports have been edited to improve flow and clarity. George Cook felt the additional detail would be helpful and beneficial to the reader as well as the Governor.
- Dr. Crawford suggested we should request the Governor select the topics of focus where there was not a significant majority of this Commission supportive of any one topic. Marga Coup and

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Tom Seymour agreed with idea. Dr. Crawford volunteered to assist in writing the language for such a proposal.

- Jennifer Eber questioned if we can identify web statistics to see how often and how many have viewed the manual and reports posted. Dr. Zezula cautioned that the data would include police academy “clicks” as this is part of the curricula. Dr. Crawford said we could also lean on Governor’s Office Liaison for additional feedback.
- Tom DeRosa reminded everyone of the LSR period and the timelines for moving forward. Dr. Crawford, again, suggested we should go thru the Governor’s office to determine when they would prefer to see the actions during this filing period (September) or next.
- Heather Faria was curious we didn’t have a majority in favor of any specific topic. She wondered if there was a lack of understanding of topic and its impact. Perhaps ideas have not been fully developed for better understanding. Heather suggested we might benefit from more opportunity to improve commission understanding without overwhelming the commission. Jennifer Eber said she expects the Commission will have deeper and more meaningful discussions now that we are meeting in-person.
- Dr. Zezula led a discussion on the following proposed revisions:
 - Edit page 2 –
 - remove number 1,
 - revise number 2 to reflect the intent of the Executive Order,
 - and leave number 3 as is.
 - Edit pages 2 & 3 –
 - Remove lines 70-77.
 - Edit page 10 –
 - Remove reference to “five” in line 214 , as other agencies may well be involved.
 - Lines 228-234 were relocated from another section for improved flow.
 - Edit page 13 –
 - Revise “and” to read “an” on line 308.
 - George Cook’s Subcommittee 5 introduction report was reviewed and, with the exception of minor grammatical corrections, was approved.
- The above edits will be incorporated and the final draft report will be emailed to Commission members. Questions regarding who can vote on or object to this revision were addressed. Today’s vote is to accept content alone. This revision will be subject to review and spelling / grammatical corrections. Those present at today’s meeting may also comment if content does not reflect today’s agreed upon content.
- Motion made by Shelia Johannessen to approve the report content with the above revisions. Dr. Crawford seconded the motion.
- The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Next Steps:** The draft report to be revised, as noted above. The revised draft will be emailed to each Commission member for review & comment.

New Cruelty Cases

- Dr. Zezula reported on a case in Wolfeboro, NH where an individual is accused of killing and dismembering cats and kittens. More details are available from a news article on the Commission website.

Fall Meetings

- Jennifer Eber will see if the second-floor conference room at the New Hampshire Department of Safety would be available going forward.

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Fall Subcommittees

- To be determined once we have feedback from the Governor's Office.

Member/guest comments/questions

- George Cook thought we should track the new cost of care program and the offender database creation over the next year's implementation. All agreed it would be worth viewing to determine their effectiveness. Dr. Crawford reminded everyone that the database will be a multi-year I.T. effort. The cost of care legislation has already been implemented with one town having applied and qualified for reimbursement. Another town applied, but missed the deadline. Dr. Crawford further clarified the program is open for submissions four-times each year. Submissions must be for reimbursements only.
- Kurt Ehrenberg informed the Commission that he was recently contacted by Strafford County prosecutor's office to see if he could provide training / instruction. Kurt said if anyone is interested in being part of the training, to let him know. Training has yet to be fleshed out. The training may take place mid to late September.
- George Cook asked if there are bills that will return in the fall that we should continue to track. Tom DeRosa said that any bills that had been retained may well be brought back, but it is not always the case. Any bills we originally tracked that are brought back will be placed back into our tracking process.
- Some Committee members expressed hope that the Legislative Body would permit the use of remote meeting access as was allowed during the pandemic. Dr. Crawford noted that remote attendance is currently permitted, but in a different context than during the pandemic. However, it is intended for those who are unable to make the in-person meeting while an in-person meeting is taking place. All of this is in consideration of having the necessary resources.

Adjournment

- George Cook moved to adjourn the meeting. Sheila Johannsen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- With no further business to conduct, Dr. Zezula adjourned the meeting at 2:43 pm.

Next Meeting

- Scheduled for Monday, 20 September 2021 at 1:00pm. Location is tentatively set for the second-floor conference room of the New Hampshire Department of Safety (33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH).

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Seymour

Secretary