



NH Governor's Commission on The Humane Treatment of Animals  
Monthly Meeting Minutes

**January 11, 2023**

**Call To Order**

Having achieved a quorum, Dr. Jeri Zezula called the meeting to order at 10:01 am at Pope Memorial SPCA Conference Building.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners Present (14)

Dr. Jane Barlow-Roy – NH Vet Med Association  
Jozi Best – NH Farm Bureau (L)  
Barbara Comtois – NH State Representative  
George Cook – Dog Owners of The Granite State / NH Mushers (L)  
Jennifer Eber – General Public  
Kurt Ehrenburg – Humane Society of The United States  
Heather Faria – NH Federation of Humane Organizations  
Chief David Goldstein – NH Police Chief's Association  
Tona McCarthy – Humane Cruelty Investigator  
Tyson Morrill – NH Sportsmen  
Wendy Munroe – NH Vet Tech Association  
Tom Seymour – General Public  
David Watters – NH State Senator  
Dr. Jeri Zezula – General Public

Commissioners Absent (7)

Cynthia Collins – General Public  
Marga Coulp – General Public  
Dr. Stephen Crawford – NH State Veterinarian  
Thomas DeRosa – General Public  
Sheila Johannesen – Animal Control Officers Association of NH  
Patricia Morris – NH Equine Association  
Sheriff William Wright – NH Sheriff's Association

Public Present

None

Membership

Mary Davis, of the UNH Cooperative Extension, has retired. A replacement is currently in the process of being appointed to fill the empty seat on the Commission.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Jeri Zezula asked for amendments to the December 2023 meeting minutes. Not hearing any, Jeri motioned to accept the meeting minutes. Jennifer Eber seconded the motion. The motion passed with 18 Aye, 0 Nay, and 3 Abstentions (due to absence).

**Old Business**

Cost of Care Update

Dr. Jeri Zezula reported that she is still waiting for a reply from the Department of Agriculture.

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### Public Survey on Animal Cruelty Website Report

Dr. Jeri Zezula asked for feedback on the draft report previously distributed. Thoughts were all positive. Tom Seymour motioned to accept the draft report as final. Tyson Morrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Consumer's Guide to Choosing an Animal Groomer

Dr. Jeri Zezula, in her communications with Agriculture and Environment Committee, recited the Commission's concern about posting on the Commission's website as it was not our document. Judy Aron, Chair was curious about what revisions we would suggest. Jeri replied that the topic was not discussed in detail and if the Agriculture and Environment Committee would like suggestions or edits, let us know how would they like them conveyed. Representative Comtois noted the Department of Agriculture declined to post on their website. Kurt Ehrenburg asked if our website is the proper place for such a document as it does not really relate to animal cruelty. George Cook indicated we should not place on our website without our input and revisions to the document.

### Meeting Requirements & Governor's Office

Jennifer Eber advised the Governor has approved the request to reduce the number of mandatory meetings from eight (8) to four (4). Meeting more than four times each session is permitted, but no less. The Executive Order is being revised.

### Focus Point: Animal Welfare & Animal Cruelty Education

Commission members discussed the different training tools they were aware of that may benefit the Commission's efforts. Jennifer Eber wrote the items on an easel pad and Dr. Jeri Zezula said she would compile the list after the meeting and email to everyone. The core categories of the educational training focus were Law Enforcement, Animal Control Officers, Prosecutors, Veterinarians, and the General Public.

## **New Business**

### Legislative Updates

#### *House Bills:*

LSR 2092/HB1117 (Stringham): Relative to protections from fraudulent untrained service animals.

LSR 2098/HB1173 (Rocheffort): Relative to disposition of vicious dogs.

LSR 2126/HB1182 (Read): Relative to equine practices & animal cruelty.

LSR 2362/HB1316 (Mackenzie): Relative to dog co-ownership.

LSR 2244/HB1255 (Horrigan): Relative to historic horse racing moratorium.

LSR 2362/HB1316 (Mackenzie): Relative to co-ownership of dogs.

LSR 2431/HB1556 (Ammon): Relative to exemptions from rabies vaccine.

LSR 2432/HB1325 (Mannion): Relative to allowing private ownership of small-tailed monkeys, raccoons, foxes, skunks, otters, & kangaroos.

LSR 2552/HB1526 (Aron): Relative to conditional licensing of vets educated in other countries.

LSR 2708/HB1680 (Kelley): Relative to prohibiting retail sale of dogs, cats, & rabbits

LSR 2719/HB1102 (Read): Relative to definition of animal cruelty.

LSR 2731/HB1501 (Hoell): Relative to repealing annual dog registrations.

LSR 2756/HB1505 (Prudhomme-O'Brien): Relative to establishing an animal abuse registry.

LSR 3136/HB1626 (McGuire): Relative to repeal of certain designated funds & relative to the apportionment of dog license fees.

*Senate Bills:*

LSR 2921/SB587 (Pearl): Relative to animals brought into this state.

LSR 2941/SB385 (Pearl): Relative to the cost of care fund.

SB363 (Innis): Relative to wagering on simulcast dog racing.

SB346 (Watters): Relative to the prohibition of dogs for hunting coyotes.

SB541 (Innis): Relative to the prohibition of cat and dog sales by retail pet stores.

SB548 (Lang): Relative to removing gray squirrels from the definition of game animals.

SB97 (Watters): Relative to product testing on animals.

Request from Golden Dog Adventures

Golden Dog Adventures, found on Facebook, has asked the Commission to participate in a Lunch & Learn event. The event would run 20-30 minutes on a live broadcast each month and provide updates on legislative activities. Dr. Jeri Zezula thought there was not enough activity to fill the need. Jennifer Eber suggested using this group to advance any educational events at a later date. Jeri will invite them to our meetings and to view our website to see what the Commission is all about.

New Cruelty Cases

None reported.

**Comments from Members/Guests**

Jennifer Eber, in light of the Governor's approval for reduced mandatory meetings, made a motion to hold the next meeting in February as originally planned. Representative Barbara Comtois seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to conduct, Jennifer Eber motioned to adjourn. Representative Barbara Comtois seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Jeri Zezula adjourned the meeting at 11:57 pm.

**Next Meeting**

February 8, 2024, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Location to Be Determined

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Seymour, Secretary  
Dr. Jeri Zezula, Co-Chair  
Jennifer Eber, Co-Chair