

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council was held on January 10, 2013 in the second floor conference room of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets at 116 State Street. The following members were present:

Dr. Kristin M. Haas (KMH), Jane Clifford (JC), Dr. Kent E. Henderson (KEH), Melody Squier (MS), Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel (RB), Diane Bothfeld (DB), Tracy Simon (TS), Greg Finch (GF), Jessica Danyow (JD), Paul Saenger (PS), Carl Cushing (CC).

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by DB at 1:08 PM.

The following public observers (affiliations) were present:

Joanne Bourbeau (Humane Society of the United States), Chloe Viner (Humane Society of the United States intern), Dottie Nelson (consumer and animal advocate), Carrie Abels (Humaneitarian website and *Local Banquet*)

JC informed Council members of two legislative bills that have been introduced: S8, introduced by Senator Sears, proposes a ban on bovine tail docking; and S9, introduced by Senator Ashe, proposes the development of an animal abuse registry. KMH informed Council members that the owners of Hooved Animal Sanctuary, humane agents for Orange County, are working with Representative Buxton and legislative counsel to draft a bill that would further define natural shelter as referenced in statute. Council members wishing to view a copy of the language developed thus far should contact KMH.

The September 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written, following a motion made by JC and seconded by PS. The December 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved, with the addition of links for speaker presentations, following a motion made by KEH and seconded by JD.

DB informed Council members that a conference call line had been established for the meeting in order to allow participation by a Council member who was unable to attend in person due to illness. Agency of Agriculture legal counsel was consulted prior to this decision and informed KMH that, in order to establish a quorum in extenuating circumstances, Council members may participate in voting via conference call as long as they are able to be involved in the entire discussion that precedes the vote. The Council member unable to attend the meeting in person subsequently decided not to participate via conference call as a quorum had been established.

Meeting dates and times for 2013 were established and are the following:

March 20 – 9AM – 12PM

May 16 – 9AM – 12PM

September 4 – 9AM – 12PM

November 7 – 9AM – 12PM

KMH informed Council members that Londa Nwadike was appointed to the Council for a three year term by the Governor and that PS would be renewing his term to serve an additional three years.

The Council finalized a position statement on the use of swine gestation crates in Vermont. Following discussion of the matter, RB moved to accept the position statement pending minor nonsubstantive edits submitted by Council members to KMH no later than January 14, 2013 at 4PM. GF seconded the motion. Further discussion clarified that adding appropriate footnotes or references to the statement in support of content already included in it would be considered nonsubstantive change. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

A public comment period was allowed, and Carrie Abeles informed the Council that there are four national animal welfare audit programs that are available to Vermont producers.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08PM.