



LOUISIANA ANIMAL
WELFARE COMMISSION

Governor's Office of Community Programs

P.O. Box 60630, New Orleans, LA 70160

(504) 568-8315

LAWC Minutes

September 17, 2014

Louisiana State Police Fusion Center

376-A E. Airport Rd.

Baton Rouge, LA

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

1:00 PM

Attendees: Dr. Gary Balsamo, Amy Burris, Hilton Cole, Juanita Murphy, Mary Oliphant, Heather Parker, Joelle Rupert

Absent: Dr. Arthur Dupont, Dr. Amy Grayson, Dr. Brian Melius, Anita Milling

Guests: Julie Lewis, Genie Goldring, Lindsey Goldring, Ashley Delrie

- I. **Minutes** - The minutes of the June 18, 2014 meeting were accepted. A motion was made by Ms. Rupert to approve the March minutes and Dr. Balsamo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Juanita Murphy gave a brief Treasurer's report. Ms. Murphy reported that at the last LAWC meeting, the balance in the LAWC fund was \$68,000. \$5,784 was transferred into the LAWC account by the state minus a \$15 charge. The new balance is \$74,264.80. A motion was made by Dr. Balsamo to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Ms. Oliphant. Motion passed unanimously.

- II. **LAWC Animal Inspection Team** – Dr. Balsamo introduced Ms. Ashley Delrie to the LAWC. Ms. Delrie gave a presentation on her plans for the LAWC Inspection Team. The long-term goal will be more inspections and for the inspections to be performed by the LAWC Animal Inspection Team which will consist of Dr. Balsamo and Ms. Delrie. LAWC members suggested developing new criteria of which to inspect shelters and giving shelters and parish leaders adequate time to review the new criteria and give shelters time to adapt before inspections began. The LAWC set the goal of January 1 to have the LAWC Animal Inspection Team officially in place and have all necessary liability questions answered by the Attorney Generals office before that time. A motion was made by Dr. Balsamo to accept the new proposal and the creation of the LAWC Animal Inspection Team. It was seconded by Ms. Rupert. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Report on Continuing Education Meeting for Police** – Ms. Lewis reported that November 18, 19 or 20 were the target dates for the next training seminar.

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- IV. **Discussion of Priefert Cages** – Mr. Cole presented information on Priefert cages to the LAWC. He said that shelters need cages in situations with dog fighting and disasters. Mr. Cole said that the cages are easily transported that the East Baton Rouge Animal Control Center can support by storing the cages when not in use. Mr. Cole reported that 10 4x8 premier cages would cost \$6,300 and 10 cages would cost \$7,950. Mr. Cole already has permission from the LAWC to expend \$10,000 on Priefert cages so he will proceed with purchasing cages but not to exceed that amount.
- V. **Legislative Report** – Dr. Balsamo gave a report on ideas for LAWC legislation for the 2015 Louisiana Legislative Session. Dr. Balsamo spoke with Ms. Julie Melancon on some ideas for legislation. One idea includes inspections to be made on puppy mills. Currently, puppy mills are not inspected to verify that they do not have more than 75 animals and they are not inspected to verify that they have the appropriate licenses and vaccinations. Another idea for legislation is to reintroduce the collection of fees off the sale of pet food in Louisiana. This money could generate funding for spay/neuter grants through the LAWC. The LAWC Legislative Committee (Dr. Balsamo, Ms. Burris, and Ms. Parker) will look into the issue but the 2015 session will be a fiscal session so each legislator will only have five non-fiscal bills which may make 2015 more difficult to achieve these goals.
- VI. A motion was made by Ms. Murphy to adjourn and seconded by Dr. Balsamo. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:49PM.

Minutes completed by Amy Burris, January 13, 2015.

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