



State of Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission

Office of the Governor

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(504) 219-4593

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2011

I. Call to order

Gary Balsamo called to order the regular meeting of the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission at 9:00 AM on January 22, 2011, at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters Building, Baton Rouge, LA.

II. Roll call

The following persons members were present: Amy Burriss (at-large), Ms. Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood (commercial breeder representative), Ms. Joelle Rupert (humane organization representative), Lt. Paul Edmondson, Louisiana State Police Representative, Dr. Gary Balsamo (Governor's Office of Community Programs representative), Dr. Brian Melius (small animal practice), Mr. Pinckney Wood (humane organization representative), Mr. Hilton Cole (Animal control representative).

Absent were Dr. A. Phillip Dupont (LVMA representative), Ms. Margaret George (humane organization representative), Dr. Amy Grayson (LVMA representative), Mr. J.T. Lane (DHH representative), and Ms. Susan Schneider (Louisiana Quarter Horse Association representative).

The Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders' Association slot remains vacant.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were read and discussed. The minutes were then approved by vote of the Commission as read. Motion for approval was made by Dr. Melius, seconded by Ms. Rupert.

IV. Open issues

(a) Pinckney Wood delivered the report of the Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws. Pinckney reminded the commission that "poisoning" had been added to the animal cruelty laws; however the definition of "poisoning" was not clear. Mr. Wood also explained that the definition of "animal" was not explicit and had been interpreted in many different ways by courts throughout the country. Mr. Edmondson added that in Louisiana, the "intent" of the perpetrator of an act was an important consideration. Mr. Wood also reported that the committee was investigating proposals for a draft "breeder regulation" bill that could be suggested to legislators in future sessions.

