

MVMA Small Animal Welfare Committee  
October 24, 2019, 6:30 pm  
MVMA Conference room

Attendees: Dr. Margaret Gordon (chair), Dr. Raye Taylor, Dr. Paul Anderson, Dr. Jenna Bjork, Dr. Anna Davies, Dr. Ingrid Bey, Megan Nadeau (MVMA Staff)

**Minutes**

- 1) Introductions, review mission statement – Dr. Margaret Gordon (chair)  
Dr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:33. Members of the committees introduced themselves.
  
- 2) Rescue Certification program  
Dr. Gordon presented document.
  - a. Discuss out-of-state rescues
    - Dr. Bey has been speaking with MI and has permission to use their materials. Have taken their best care practices and made it work for MN. Michigan has wanted to become a no-kill state and does not accept animals from out of state. Becoming a no-kill state is not a goal of MN and MN accepts a lot of rescue animals from out of state. Overarchingly – modeling after MI rescue certification program is a step in the right direction.
  - c. Discuss letter to send to rescues
    - Goal – draft letter of certification program for MN rescue groups. How many groups will be responsive? Groups like secondhand hounds have shown interest in education, certification and building standards.
  - d. Where should info for this be- social media? Own website? MVMA site?  
Within the links in website updates below – we link to a rescue certification page that the committee runs separately.

**Goal of Certification Program:** Put together a **voluntary** rescue certification program. Many rescues show interest in becoming more informed and educating their fosters, adopters, and staff. SAWC will put together standards and provide materials, check lists, etc. for the program to move forward. Eventually gain momentum for site visits. Is this something that the committee can apply for grant money from the MVMF for? Yes.

*Dr. Davies suggested - Potential option in future or beginning of program: A CE summit or educational program – infectious disease, dog bite prevention, transportation standards / certification program to get rescue groups to voluntarily get educated and certified.*

- 3) Access to Veterinary Care
  - a. Changing list on MVMA site  
Dr. Bjork created website updates for Megan to work on.  
Megan to update website, making the list more visible for low cost veterinary care. *Promoting Mission animal hospital, SIRVES, Access Veterinary in New Hope and other options for animal owners – needs approval of Dan to decide which nonprofits get listed.*

- 4) Dangerous Dogs, B. Canis, Dog Bites
  - a. Refresh information on MVMA site
    - Update infections disease information
    - Update dangerous dog and dog bite prevention program materials
  - b. Discuss Dangerous dog bill

Dr. Gordon led discussion on the Dangerous Dog Bill. Information on dog bite prevention and brucellosis are not current requirements for rescue organizations. (Despite that many dog bites happen in the home, and in foster care- another reason for rescue and foster certification). Committee wants rescue groups to test for B. Canis to be a certified rescue group. How to make this a feasible option for organizations that 1) don't want to pay for it and 2) don't want to know the answer. Discussion on how many individuals think their animals are tested, and they are not.
  - c. Dr. Bjork to updated website articles and links further – to be done by mid January. Megan will publish on MVMA website. Goal to be finished by Annual meeting to have online tools to share with veterinarians.
  - d. Discussion on AAHA certification and their process and value in hospitals. Committee want rescues to understand the value of the certification process and the checklist that needs to be completed to have a positive adoption experience.
    - The benefit of knowing you can be reported for not being up to standard.
- 5) Humane Investigations

- a. How to promote the existence of the groups we have  
Humane officers, MN Federated Humane

#### Other bills lacking MVMA support open discussion

Do we create a new board of small animals? Doesn't have support from MVMA.

Instead – adding a couple of small animal veterinarians to current board – most feasible. Because two of the five representatives can be small animal veterinarians.

Discussion on gas euthanasia (considered humane) ending – what are the unforeseen repercussions. Discussion on mink industry.

Next Meeting: Mid-January – Dr. Gordon to pick official date.