

Domestic Animal Control Work Group  
Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2018  
10:00 AM  
450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT

Members Present: Susan Bransfield, Theresa Geary, Susan Linker, Brenda Bettcher, Ryan Burrell,  
Michael Berard, Gail Petras, Bruce Sherman  
Members Absent: Matthew Hoey, Gary McNamara  
DoAg Staff: Jason Bowsza, Carole Briggs  
Public: Jeanie Mucci, Farmington

- 1) Call to Order:
  - a. Jason Bowsza called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM
- 2) Approval of Minutes:
  - a. A motion was made by Ms. Bransfield, seconded by Ms. Geary, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried **unanimously**.
- 3) Public Comment:
  - a. Ms. Jeanie Mucci, a guest from the Town of Farmington, shared her story of her own dog, who recently bit someone while walking on the street. Her dog has a mandatory 14-day quarantine off property. Her dog walker, who was the keeper of the animal at the time of the incident, was responsible for the dog. The bite happened ten feet off of her property line. The biting dog is older, and is in need of medical care. Because of this, the dog was quarantined at a veterinarian's office in isolation. Ms. Mucci cited CDC protocols establishing the quarantine period as 10 days, contrary to Connecticut state law. Because of existing law, Ms. Mucci's dog was denied in-home quarantine.
- 4) Old Business
  - a. Mr. Bowsza went over the changes that had been incorporated into the tentative legislative submission based on last meeting's suggestions. Discussion then focused on the proposed changes to C.G.S. 22-359.
  - b. Ms. Linker asked if greater consideration could be given to sections of the bill that allows for home quarantine. Lt. Burrell raised concerns about increased subjectivity if "shall" were changed to "may" and who would be responsible for making any determinations. Attorney Briggs suggested that "medical necessity" could be incorporated into the bill when determining the option of in-home quarantine. Some discussion ensued concerning who the ultimate decision-maker in that case would be. Other suggestions to permit in-home quarantines emerged, notably verification of current vaccination status. Attorney Briggs offered additional changes to the proposed language.
  - c. Mr. Bowsza discussed changes that had been incorporated to date pertaining to C.G.S. 22-358. Ms. Bransfield suggested a need to eliminate grandfather provisions exempting certain municipal ACO's from training. The approach used to grandfather Registrars of Voters for a period of time was suggested as a model. There was support for this suggestion, although it falls outside of the statute under consideration.
  - d. Conversations shifted to the scale of attacks that trigger restraint and disposal orders. The Dunbar Scale was cited. Lt. Burrell noted that there is a need to include language in the proposal that affirms that restraint orders issued in a municipality would be in force statewide. This was widely supported, also.

5) New Business

- a. All present agreed that they were satisfied with the changes proposed to C.G.S. 22-359. At the next meeting, to be held on November 29, the working group will focus specifically on proposed changes to C.G.S. 22-358 (c) and 22-358(g), as well as incorporation of the Dunbar Scale.

6) Adjournment

- a. A motion was made by Ms. Linker, seconded by Ms. Petras, to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 PM. Motion carried **unanimously**