



## State of Connecticut

### The Connecticut General Assembly

#### Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal and Regional Shelters

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#### Michael J. Freda and Diane Collette, Co-Chairs

#### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

2:00 p.m. Room 2B

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Co-Chair Michael Freda.

The following task force members/designees were present: Mark Bailey, Diane Collette, Deborah J. Fuller, Paula Poplawski, Michael J. Freda and Ray Connor

Members introduced themselves.

Ray: brought up that technically, we have dog pounds in Connecticut and that is the first thing that should be changed. They should be called shelters and not pounds. He compared it to the former title of Dog Catcher which is now Animal Control Officer. Ray went on to say that we have regulations that allow for a standard of what each municipal shelter is allowed to have. He went on to say that many shelters were built in the 1950s and 1960s and they need to be looked at because they are not up to the current dog pound regulations. Ray said that by updating the dog pound regulations it will benefit the health and well-being of the animals.

Mark: commented that he is in full agreement with Ray. He offered that there is a public policy that also needs to be addressed and gave an example of a dog abandoned in a certain location received excellent care and quickly adopted to a loving home and that that same dog could be abandoned 500 yards to the right over the boarder to the next town, not receive as good care and wind up being euthanized. He continued that it's a public policy or practice that does not make sense and said that the standards need to be consistent from one municipality to the next. Mark went on to say another scenario is that someone comes across the abandoned dog and knowing the type of care in one town vs another town, takes the dog to the other town and say they found it abandoned in that town.

Diane: agrees with Mark and indicated she had the same thing happen at her facility.

Deborah: asked if there was a list of the current shelters.

Mike: asked Ray Connor if such a list exists at the state level.

Ray: said he recently put together such a list and that he will have it for the next task force meeting. Ray also said he has inspection reports from each facility. He went on to say that not every town has a dog pound, some use commercial kennels, some use veterinary hospitals. Ray shared that many municipalities share space with other municipalities.

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Mike: asked how the existing shelters be improved, but still work on a parallel path to form some type of regional shelter. Michael asked if there were any other comments under recommendations for humane treatment of animals.

Mark: added that looking out to the national level of humane welfare that there is a great deal of funding and resource availability to municipal shelters as long as they adhere to a basic standard that is considered now to be the conventional standard of humane welfare. That all healthy and treatable animals deserve loving homes, in other words any a banded healthy treatable deserves fair and equal treatment so that animal could be adopted publicly. This is something that polls in the above the 70th percentile to the public stats show when you adding the words healthy and treatable that number goes up. But for municipal shelters to increase their standard of care and improve their operations which pertains to item one, but everything we are looking for. The basic qualification is a commitment to saving healthy and treatable animals and making sure that they are adoptable to the public for the duration of their lives. So as a possible frame work for how we look at the varies items in front of us.

Mike: asks Diane

Diane: I also what to say that when you say treatable you and I understand what treatable means but to what extent, we need to kind of define that to what extent.

Mike: to tie in what Mark Bailey mentioned about the national organizations one the things I learned being here in March testifying to form this task force was the fact that these national organizations will work with state that actually have a formulized task force state task force in place. So what that means is if you look at the reality of the municipalities today the reality is in every municipal budget one of the last things that get attended to is infrastructure at the animal level and it is sad now I would like to make in North Haven for it to be always on our mind to upgrade that. The mayor of Hamden and I working together shows you that there is at least two official people across the state and I know feel very passionate about this issue. However to get potential funding from the national organizations to get down trough and trickle trough the municipalities across Connecticut that is another advantage of having this task force cause what I learned and Mark is more of an expert than I am but by not having a state task force really precludes our ability to get national organizations behind us right Mark.

Mark: I prepared for the sake of this meeting to be distributed a list of the quality and qualifications at the national humane advocacy groups are looking for when they prepare funding to the varies municipalities. As you glance down the list those list those items are similar to the items that we are giving the task to address but to be frank w/o the commitment of healthy and treatable animals and placing them in a up for adoption to general public unless the national funding is not there they will not work to support any. When that commitment is acknowledged what the national level is looking for is collaboration cooperation they also realize that the problem is shelters and pounds isolated base on limited resources that are drying up from there municipalities rather what they acknowledge is that there are many ... there is a vet involved community involved organization such as [Maddie's Fund](#) wants to see that kind of collaboration as well

wants to see the veterinary community working with the animal control community working with volunteers coming together and there you get your checks and balances which give confidence to the national groups that there money that is going to serve this cause working step by step healthy and treatable animals the word treatable... the task force by its very make up is already instilling the animal control community judicial community this is very a team effort.

Mike: as a side note to everyone in the audience this task will have three other members which Mark referenced Dr.Kimberly McDonald from the central animal hospital which happens to be in North Haven one of the top animal hospitals in the state and the high end eye problem hip replacement also another two mayors and a police officer as part or SB309 coming back to item number one that we all agree that we need to formalizes recommendations as we move forward here of humane treatment of animals in such shelters. Changing the terminology any suggestions on that

Mark: words a big difference what we use to describe something what we call an animal and what not to call an animal is half the battle is also. I would love to see the word pound disappear from our discussion or anywhere at the state level

Diane: I also agree with that municipal shelter.

Paula: I agree too

Mike: so we have consensus laugh laugh laugh. Within our first half hour folks we have consensus right away on our first recommendations.

Diane: Yea!!!!

Mike: and that should a symbolic representation. This is a very cohesive group moving forward. So I would like to also ask to consider our next meeting with other recommendations that we would like to see. Today is more of a free flow of expression opinion discussion for the next meeting are some other issue perhaps and come back with formal recommendation any opinion on that

Diane: no no

Mark: for the sake to have some actual information to understand one little thing about the national level these organizations realize that changes can't be made overnight this standard this principal saving healthy and treatable animals and finding them home the national standard is 90-91% live release rate there are shelters in Connecticut which are above that and others that are well below that the national funding wants to recognize a commitment by a step by step environment that would increase the awareness of the adoption of many animals. This is also found true with the bending donors who give to the cause of animal welfare by in large only give when they see the same commitment to saving animals rather than euthanizing them as animal control management, but it is considered to be a step by step process at the state level we can help the municipalities understand that they are all in different places it is a matter of being proactive and the world of opportunity opens up

Diane: do you know cause I know for myself I had check into a couple of national organization to help us your were a 501C3 which municipalities facilities are not so where does that help us

Mark: through the establishment which embraced the non profit organizations as well Maddie's Fund for instant and most other national organizations are falling in line with Maddie's Funds do not meet with the 501C3 there are different in other categories especially the municipal shelters and they indication and the similar accords of committing save to healthy and treatable animals hopefully that has changed and I think we as a task force would what to focus on Maddie's Fund and other organization that are there primary for the municipal shelter

Mike: okay I would like I'm sorry Ray go right ahead

Ray: not to throw a stick in the spokes I just your talking about treatable and healthy animal the whole animal control just a little background animal control of rabies and that's how it started we newspapers on the City of New Haven dogs w/o a collar were shot on site animal control officers what we have to keep in mind is that not every animal is adoptable so as was move forward in this we have to train people in animal behavior so that off the hip discussion oh that dog is no good. Not every animal is place able and we have to accept that. The whole idea is to protect the public. I think that behavioral test is a big big deal a big thing again it works with other groups and animal welfare groups that they work hand and hand with the municipal shelters to bring animals out of the shelter as soon as they can and get them in to a different environment and get them placed in to new homes

Mark: which what you said is a segway to everything else on our list that really relates important

Mike: good feedback Raymond thank you and refer everyone to item number one except A Ray's will send us a list of shelters and B the task force will come back with some formalized recommendation for our next meeting on item number one

Mark: Motion

Ray: Second

Mike: we have a motion and a second any other discussion hearing none all those in favor

All said "I"

Mike: any oppose and the motion passes thank you ok let's take a look of item number two on page number five of seven and that's existing education standards for animal control officers license laws Diane and Ray can give us some background Ray

Ray: actually laughs and more laughing Diane is laughing because she knows what I went through. In the past anyone could be an animal control officer now you must go through 80 class hours with the national animal control and care association and through their training academy which covers everything from constitutional law to behavior animal handling to feeding and caring to first aid they go through that academy and have to pass the academy it is not play time it's not easy to pass and additional five hours with me on Connecticut law and then any existing animal control officers must go through a 6 hour of mandated training every year. Every year there is an animal control officer training conference just had it last week. Connecticut humane society has done a few of the training course for the animal control officers. But what it is doing is seeing new life being brought into animal control I spoke at a conference last week and at this 30 years and all I see is new people which is good because of the training and a lot of retirements and people that have left that were the old dog catchers. They would pick up the dogs and seven days they would put them down and that was it and that's how they operated. We got a whole new group of people coming and I'm very excited about that, but when we get to this part of number two and if there is anything that we can add to that curriculum for the animal control officer mandate

Mike: Diane

Diane: I know I do agree with everything that Ray did say because there were people in the job of animal control that should not have been in the job of animal control and there still is now and the training is wedding those people out and give us an opportunity to review and come up with new ways and there are always new things to do if we are hiding out in our little shelter and we are not taught those things that are happening out in California since California is the one who bring out the new things and bring them out our way and it also gives us sprit. Animal control is a tough job to do and it can be very sad and depressing at times and it kind of gives us a new look on the look of things

Mark: from the prospective of the chief humane commissioner in New Haven one of the most exciting bits of news I received was the start of this training program and I consider this the first def in this new chapter and the heightened concern of animal welfare in the state it is just in regards a positive thing to incur I personal am grateful for it and so the City of New Haven is doing in my work and especially my work with shelters and organization working with those shelters seeing the difference as well as focusing those on field to be there and to keep up is the standard in practice of humane welfare across the board and my only hope going forward is to add more evaluations to the animals. I think this is a incredible positive step to the State of Connecticut.

Mike Diane any comments or anything. Deborah so as far as item number two I would like to formalize this in to a motion and I'd like to entertain in a motion so that we with Ray and Diane's help in particular entertain a motion so that we can come back at the next meeting with some suggested language to augment the existing legislation that we have based on some of Ray's and Diane's thought's and some of the other members and we look to formalize that for the future for the sake of today I'd like to ask for a motion to accept some language for the commission members to come back with some language Ray and Diane in particular to augment the exsiting legislation can I have a motion on that.

Mark: Motion

Ray: and ill second

Mike: and we have a second is there any other discussion hearing none. All those in favor

All say "I"

Mike: any oppose thank you motion passes. Thank you Ray and Diane for your help in that. Item number three rules and regulations regarding the penalties for abuse. Let's have a discussion on that ...Raymond

Ray: we actually just this past year and the year before last. We are now one of the states in the nation that made animal abuse a felony. We still have misdemeanor animal abuse in the state, but any person found guilty on the first act is now a felony in the state animal fighting or any person who maliciously hurt animals which are all felonies and always will be. I think that we are moving in the right direction. There is another task force that Im on about hording when we go an animal hording situation and it is a mental illness with these people sometimes the only way to get them in the system is to go ahead and arrest them and they get court mandated help that they need. So I think our animal cruelty laws are good their strong we use them a lot especially my department and I can hear from judicial and see what they think I know that they would not mind hearing a couple states attorneys to see what they got to say about it especially Bonnie Bentley is quite an advocate for children and animals cases but I think our statues are strong espcailly someone who is a constant violator is a felony I think is a huge step to stopping people from doing that

Diane: I agree pretty much with Ray the think I don't agree with is the statue on proper shelter should be defined a little better on and it is kind of hard you're out there in the and they have a picnic table for the dog to sit under and that is shelter enough. I just think that there are a few things that could be defined a little better.

Ray: to answer your question comment about the proper shelter is protection from the weather it's not about dogs in someone's yard or cat it concerns livestock and large animals in order to open that up and go ahead and make changes and define what proper shelter for each species of animals that we practice animal husbandry with I think it is a to large of a thing and to generalize it to three sides with a roof when someone has 300 cows or to get a tree line to get them out of the weather and believe it or not a lot of the animals would prefer to be outdoors in the weather sometimes its healthier for them then to be in a barn that's something you have to remember we are not just talking about dogs and animal cruelty statue

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Mike: Feedback on the more troubling things that I see in municipalities today and we go through it a lot in Southern Connecticut is different forms of animal cruelty we see the more worst forms of cruelty. When someone goes into the woods with coyotes and drops off a cat and her kittens that really troubles me or like Mayor Jackson in Hamden and I had a group of pit-bull puppies were drop off in an open parking lot I think that's is a disgrace. I'll be curious to know what the statue what are the penalties for the more publicized abuse compared to the more of what I just described Ray.

Ray: what you just described is classified as abandonment and is a misdemeanor. You know maybe parts of that statue can be put in to the statue for first count felony you know maybe that's something we can look at in that direction is something that you know where a person can find a animal and allow it to do harm to its self or other animals. I think that maybe that's want and neglect and should be shifted into a felony category.

Diane: trying to prove who a banned the mother cats and the kittens who a banned the pit bull puppies in the parking lot how can you prosecute that person if you do not know who did it. These kind of people who do these things do them when people are not around

Mike: Mark

Mark: Just to add that this is such a difficult topic and my experience is that the feeling is that we have the strictest and best laws in the state and they are not enforced well that's where we find the biggest disconnect with the general public and animal control speaking form the point of view from New Haven. The interruption from the public is much different from the officer's interruption and that's where the conflict comes in. this shows how complex this issue truly is. Any way to guide the public and the animal control officers on common ground is important. The public can also make demands that are reasonable and legal so there are both sides so I think just to acknowledge up front that the way these felonies and misdemeanor are enforced is also part of the issue

Mike: Diane

Diane: Enforcement sometimes is hard I'm sure Ray can attest to that a lot of time the animal control officers would bring something to the courts and the court go it's just an animal thing and nolly it and be done with it so it frustrates the animal control officer because the thing I try to do and follow the law they don't have time for it and got this that and the other thing to deal with instead animal again which are on the bottom of the towns and cities budget it's the same in the courts too.

Mark: and to include all representation and should add to my comment that I the judicial side of it and there is a disappointment on behalf of the general public on how it is handled an animal abuse case which end with the animal being strangled and tortured there was a very active group promoting and basically pleading about it for more penalties. That is completely discouraging for all of us who care about animals from all different positions.

Mike: Deborah

Deborah: trying to put it without getting myself in trouble I think this area certainly is one that is pretty controversial and work can be done on all sides. In the broader sense of the criminal statues according to animals strengthen penalties does not always be the affect that you want. If the officer feels the penalties are too strict they may not want to arrest the person so sometimes that backfires. I think increasing understanding is always good. The case that you referred to did not have that bad of an outcome. There are many aspects and it is very complicated.

Mike: Deb to you think then, would tighter laws and education on those laws so it can prevent it from happening again. If there was a clear picture on the laws moving from misdemeanor to felony.

Deborah: I'm not really sure if tougher laws will defer behavior. My personal opinion is that it is only one part of the only part is public education.

Mike: any other comments on that Raymond

Ray: what I'm seeing when I started my career in 1984 and what I'm seeing now in 2014 the judicial system is taking animal cases very seriously. One man from Hamden was charged with a horse abuse case and the courts put \$600,000.00 bond on him, that more than what they would have done if he killed someone. Many courts across the state from Bridgeport to Danielson they take every case that comes in very seriously. A lot of the animal control officers were not trained properly on submitting summons or any paper work for that matter. The progression is there and that is the most important thing.

Mike: Well I think we made the motion and acted on the motion to augment the statue and the language on certain things. That being said let's take a look a system track such animal abusers. Let's kick off this discussion Raymond.

Ray: I believe that it was brought up this past session to create an animal abuse registry. Who is going to keep the registry and who will maintain it an keep it up to date. There is one web site [Pet abuse](#). So a lot of that info is not current the biggest problem is which agency will be in charge of it, it might end up in public safety.

Diane: the issue is for the people how get the diversion. I have an issue with convictions to prevent people from accruing animals from shelters

Mike: Ray go ahead and mark well go to you

Ray: if someone is given ar and their record is expunged any history of any criminal record. I have a problem with that.

Mark: In New Haven where the ACO(animal control officer) which is a member of the NHPD( New Haven Police Department) what he will does with any adopter is check police record and do a background check on the person

Diane: Most of the animal control officers are not police officers and do not have access to police info.

Mark: the same shelter should a member of the police department also be a animal control officers.

Mike: its an important topic we all know whether it is domestic abuse, child abuse, or animal abuse there is a direct link between all of those.

Ray: if any animal control officer suspects animal abuse they must report it to Commissioner of Agriculture and have also developed forms for the animal control officer to fill out. Anything from the owner of the animal and everything would be forwarded to DCF (Department of Children and Families) and cross reference with any case that they have going so we can stop any problem going and visversa with DCF would report anything that they find to us the DOA (Department of Agriculture) and would investigate any animal abuse going on in the house. Hopefully we can put a stop to this and Connecticut would be a leading state and show other states how to stop this violence against animals.

Mike: As I see it there are two issues here formalization of a registry and then who and what agency would run it Deborah

Deborah: and how would be on it

Mike and ray it is your idea that after the AR is completed

Ray: they would not even be on the registry and never and even during their AR

Diane: but should they be

Ray: they are not convicted at that point they are doing probation. Most of them are animal hording. I really don't know what the answer will be to this and also who will be on it it half to be with judicial and public safety. Do you know of any other states that have this kind of registry.

Mark: that's what I was going to ask one of the things we can investigate

Deborah: if you are looking for convictions it is up there for a long amount of time

Mike: I would like suggest that the motion and analysis of what states do have it. Any other thoughts on that Ray.

Ray: Number 5 potential adopters and what their past history is with animals and can help with number 4

Mike : Mark go ahead

Mark: this is a potential a regional partnership across New England. This wuld be good to share resources and share with our neighboring states.

Mike: Ray another point

Ray: we are talking about animal close to 14,000 animals are being imported into Connecticut everyday.

Mark: the state has tried to tighen up the regulations on bring animals into the state.

Ray: that does not stop people

Mark: I know

Ray : that's the reason why I have cause that was the number that was reported to us im sure its higher then that.

Mike: allright so can we entertain a motion to have us do reason as parto fthat of that research what part of the state agency is controlling it. Is there a motion

Palua : motion

Mike: motion by paula is there a second

Ray: ok ill second

Mike: any other discussion on this Deborah

Deborah: is that info available to us or is that an OLR can we utilize

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Mike: OLR will also act as an extension for us in research. They primarily work in state issues and also talk to them about doing the out of state issues so are we comfortable

Deborah: I think OLR could do it

Mike: can we have Planning and Development help us with that for the next meeting excellent ok. That's the motion.

All said "I"

Mike: any oppose. Great. Item number 5 ill kick off the discussion. There are so many different agencies and foster homes one of the dilemmas is there is no team work on these topics . Raymond

Ray: I was formerly director of Windham county humane society in Vermont I have experience with private shelters. In New England we are the only state that does not have a humane federation there is Vermont Humane Federation, New Hampshire humane federation, and even New England humane federation. Which I was president of for two years. Connecticut for some reason can't get their act together. We are the only state in New England that does not require a registry of private organization outside of humane societies. They all have quarterly meetings together they all work together and when I was in Vermont they work really well together it was amazing how well they work together. What we are looking at is to come up with a standardized form for everyone to submit certain info and get checked with the vet and also to check the person have a good home for the animal and that it would not end up on the streets or on the shelter.

Mark: I agree completely with ray on this and it's not a big task for us to accomplish. There are resources at the national level and guidelines and many models to follow. I think there is general agreement on the basic things. I'm optimistic that we can come up with this state wide adoption form

Mike: any other comments or thoughts. Let me ask this is the next step on this is to do research on models that are out there

Mark: I wil also include some of the rescues as well as the policy and procedures as well

Palua: correct me if im wrong ther are no stanrds for rescues or fosters as it is now

Ray: No only if they cross state lines

Palua: how many of them are just facebook pages behind them

Ray: we are finding that facebook page that are not even in Connecticut but say they are. Even on [Pet finder](#) they say their from Shelton but they are form Missouri

Mike: so that's an excellent observation

Mark: there are not that many fostering agencies that I know about and fostering is done through the rescue. In New Haven where are you at least a 5013C you can be a nonprofit and slip under the radar in many.

Mike: any comments so let try to put this in a form of a motion help me with this if incorrect I would like to entertain a motion for us to do research on other models that are out there across the United States regarding rescues and adoptions application

Mark: ill second that

Mike : we have a motion and a second any other discussion all those in favor

All said "I"

Mike: motion passes

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Mike: that's part of the motion

Mike: item number seven Im sorry item six

Ray: this should not be up to the state to decide who can and cannot be allowed in their facilities I think it is up to the town and cities to decide who can work at their shelters they are the ones who hold liabailty if someone gets hurt and they will not come to the state. The municipalities have lost control of the shelters and they are working to correct that. If there is a coordinator there is someone in charge separate from the animal control officer which has enough to do

Mark: who would qualify as volunteer coordinator

Ray: that would be a municipal employee

Mark: thanks for clarifying

Diane: would it be an employee or a volunteer

Ray: it would be an employee. Someone who has the interest of the municipality in mind

Mark: in my experience the major problem the municipality and volunteer group which is private we run a 5013C non- profit which is not a accountable to the municipality directly. I'm the commissioner in New Haven and it is an issue. It will go a long way in making sure that the municipality is not out of the loop

Mike: Diane how do you see this

Diane: I totally agree as ray said the volunteers sometimes take over the municipality and the animal control officer has no control

Mike: this is a hot topic of discussion even in North Haven and Hamden the group became to powerfully and tried to dictate policy and procedures and that does not play to well at the local level so as a though in all the municipality could the parks and rec. department be in charge of coordinating. Within the municipalities what department can aid the animal control officer?

Mark: I agree it should not be someone from the ACO you need someone who represents the mayor or first selectmen of the town. It may need to ask some mayors what they think.

Ray: in private shelters they have coordinators and that's a profession and they need to hire someone who is qualified and in their resume. I'm all for volunteers in shelters without them it would not operate their resources and knowledge are invaluable and they take a lot of burden off the animal control officer. We just passed a law that allows volunteers to post animal for animal control officers online and to help get on pet finder and most animal control officers don't even know what pet finder was an help a lot. We can reach out to the national office to see what the guidelines are for coordinators

Mark: just using New Haven to suggest the mayor that we do that the answer will be no this the thing the national organization look at and look for funding to hire someone till the municipalities and the funding to commit and being very optimistic even donors. It is also a very needed position

Ray: there is a lot of retirees that are looking what to do with their free time and come in a couple hours a day but end up doing forty hour weeks. But you need someone to coordinate that

Mark: for this being our first meeting from my point of view we ask ACO to do two jobs in one. One is take control of the animal in town/ city limits and also to be a shelter manager as well and that is a lot of responsibility. In New haven our dogs will not be walked at all and are adoptable dogs but with out volunteers it will not be possible.

Palua: Our shelters does not allow voulenteers due to the fact we had a bad experience and what hppen and is hard to getthem back in the system.

Diane: I donot think this is requiring that you have to have voulenteers that if you do correct

Mark: in fact one of the things on backing up the step can we recommend one for the town.

Ray: that's where we can point out to the national organizations that and there is no reason to recreate the wheel if the info is already out there

Mike : I think we have a motion unfolding but before we present a possible motion hearing ray mention about the retirees I could not help but think it being a therapy dog for them to come tho the shelter so they come for the therapy and could be affective any other question for anything on this. A motion to reach out to the national organization to see what policies and procedures are out there, so can I entertain that motion.

Ray: so moved

Mike: and is there a second

Mark; yes

Mike: we have a so moved and a second all those in favor

Mark: just one question is there anytime to add the suggested coordinator in to our thoughts I think it is a compelling idea

Mike: so we are in discussion now regarding the motions second should one be bundled in to the other or should we star with just the research or buddle it in as part of the motion.

Ray: Just make an amendment

Deborah: I'm fine with that

Mike: are you also ok with the amendment on research

Deborah: yes im ok with that

Mike: so we will withdraw the first motion and mark if you can make the motion

Mark: ray if you can help with this motion since it is fresh in your mind

Ray: we move that and reach out to the national organizations and procedures on voulenteer groups and also look in to if they have any job description on coordinators

Mike: Awet we have that formulated ok very good. The motion has been made and a second all those in favor

All said "I"

Mike: motion passes ok number seven

Diane: I think it will be difficult to do as ray said and we should try and try again I think that's all I got to say about it

Ray: the door is open on this 22-332e regional contract. Shelter are not required to keep a list of when animals need medical care. We really don't know what organization are out there and don't require any registration of them from the state. If we did we would know who is playing

Diane: what statue was that

Ray: 22332e

Ray and Diane

About making it a requirement for these organization to register with the state

Mark: in New Haven the shelter often will work with rescues and take dogs and cats off our hands and all are 501c3 and is a minimal requirement also we have a pilot program with the shoreline towns and inviting them to meetings on humane topics. It is a place where everyone can share ideas, and resources and we do this so we can raise awareness and get attention for national funding.

Mike: I know one that is not 501c3 but can help us in the form of trap and release

Paula: there are some very successful groups and cant afford to go through with the 501c3 process and would hate to eliminate them because of that but there needs to be a standard of some sort

Mike: that is a very good point

Mark: some groups take time to get to 501c3 because of the money

Mike: so under this category do we just worry about the registration aspect

Ray: I think it is a start it is a building block for the frame work

Mike: like Paula said there are some really good organization that are not 501c3

Mark: so it is implied that has qualifications and also be responsible for the qualified organization

Mike: so is it fair to say the motion so that we do some research on what other states are doing about this. Is that something that OLR can help us with? Ok.

Mark & Mike  
We can be the first

Ray: see what Vermont requires and the DOA and guidelines are requires as well as New Hampshire.

Mike : Deborah did you have a comment there

Deborah; no that's a good idea

Mike: a motion to have the OLR do the research for us for what other states are doing and models in place that are register these organizations out of that research if they are 5013c ok

Ray: second

All said I

Mike: thank you again to OLR and is a good asset. As far as time and date meetings of upcoming meeting. I picked Wednesdays every month moving forward and Sb309 is written I January. I spoke to the house and senate about continuing this task force. The same time 2pm-4pm at the LOB

Deborah: starting in January the session will start and Wednesdays are very busy days to committee meetings and other meetings. You might want to change it once session starts

Jeanie speaks .....

Mike from January to june those are the days that we are in question alright

Jeanie speaks .....

Mike: if we except it as the frame work

Jeanie speaks .....

Mike: so I will talk to Peter about that ok

Jeanie speaks.....

Mike: so we will know this in January right

Jeanie speaks .....

Deborah: so we can meet during session

Jeanie speaks.....

Deborah: thanks

Mike: we are good till December any comments

Ray: 11/5/2014 is not good will be in Stamford

Mike: we will get in touch with everyone on dates

All said I

Mike: I will like to thank everyone for being here and our work today was productive

Mark: I will like to thank our co-chairs for getting us started in this direction

Mike: a motion to adjournment all those in favor

All said I