

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting July 21, 2016, 12-00pm, COA/VMCC, 2 Mayflower Street, Provincetown, MA

Attending were Brec, Jutsum, Brooke, Murphy, MacDonald
Katy Ward, Provincetown Banner Reporter

Public: Sirota

No public comments

1. The minutes of 3/17/16 and 6/26/16 were approved.
2. The BOS opted not to include our recommendations for their goals that we had submitted. They offered for us to attend one of their upcoming meetings. The Committee picked 11/14 or 11/28. Elizabeth to contact BOS with those dates. Each Committee member was tasked to come up with two speaking points, to be discussed at our next meeting, that we will bring before the BOS.
3. Elizabeth raised the concern that the Committee continues to not have anyone from Town Hall attend our meetings. Jeffrey to contact the Health Agent to set up a short meeting with Sherry in attendance to see if that would be a possibility.
4. Sherry submitted three Bills that will be going before the Senate (Attachment 1). Asked that the Committee review and we can make formal recommendations.
5. Jeffrey reported back that the proper variances were granted for the tree cutting at Stable Path. It was discussed that perhaps the Committee could advise on appropriate time of the year (ie: not when animals are nesting in trees) clear cutting could be down. Carol to follow-up with Tree Warden.
6. Carol brought up the fact that there has been no Emergency Shelter trial run to date. She will contact Sandy at DPW to see if the trailer is stocked.
7. Sherry distributed the animal tip cards to each member.
8. Elizabeth told the Committee that there is a new one-dose drug (Bravecto) being tested for efficacy treating mange in foxes. This one dose lasts for 3 months.
9. Next meeting scheduled for 8/25/16

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Brec
Clerk pro tempore

Attachment 1

By Colin A. Young  STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JUNE 28, 2016.....Every dog has its day, but the dogs on Tuesday had to share the spotlight with cats as the Massachusetts Senate approved three bills aimed at protecting canines and felines as well as a measure intended to boost recycling and reduce solid waste headed to Bay State landfills.

The Senate approved a bill (S 2370) titled "An act relative to protecting puppies and kittens" that would prevent the sale of dogs or cats less than eight weeks of age, update the "Puppy Lemon Law" to give pet owners more options if they unknowingly purchase a sick pet, and regulate certain breeders and prevent pet shops from obtaining puppies and kittens from USDA breeders with multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

"It's a serious bill. Currently, Massachusetts is one of the very few states in the nation that leaves commercial breeders, including what's commonly referred to as puppy mills, unregulated, totally unregulated," the bill's sponsor Sen. Karen Spilka, who referred to herself as an "occasional small-scale breeder," said. "With more and more states recognizing the need for this legislation, by passing this bill we make sure the commonwealth does not become a haven for the worst breeders of cats and dogs."

Before passing the bill, the Senate added an amendment sponsored by Sen. Mark Montigny to establish a fine structure for anyone who runs a kennel without a license. The amendment would allow an unlicensed kennel keeper to forfeit custody of the animals if they cannot afford the fines.

The Senate also passed legislation (S 2369) that would provide civil penalties for abandoning an animal in a hot car and would make clear that police officers, firefighters and animal control officers may enter a hot car for the sole purpose of releasing an animal believed to be in danger.

Montigny, who sponsored the bill, said the title of the first bill was "warm and fuzzy," unlike his bill titled "An act to prevent animal suffering and death."

"It sounds pretty morbid because it is," Montigny said of the bill title. "If you don't know your pet should not be in a car when it's hot or extreme cold, you shouldn't own a pet. It's as fundamental as waking up in the morning and assuming you don't have to give your cat or dog food and water. It is akin to torture. That's not hyperbole."

Montigny suggested the best way to "disprove any contention that that's hyperbolic" would be

to put a pet owner in a hot car.

"They wouldn't last two minutes," the New Bedford Democrat said.

The Senate rounded out its pet-themed day by passing a bill (S 2174) which would require that landlords or foreclosing owners inspect any property vacated by foreclosure, termination of tenancy, or abandonment within three days for the presence of abandoned animals or animal remains and immediately notify animal control or police officers if any animals are found.

By STEVE LeBLANC AP, June 28, 2016

BOSTON (AP) — Passers-by who spot an animal locked in a hot car would be allowed to smash the car's window to rescue the pet under a bill approved unanimously by the Massachusetts Senate.

The passer-by would first have to see if the door is locked, make a quick effort to find a police officer and call 911 to let them know he or she is planning to rescue the animal.

But he or she would be able to smash a window to free the animal as a last resort. Passers-by would have to stay with the animal until police or another first responder arrived at the scene.

The bill would also give animal control officers, police and firefighters the same ability of entering a hot car to save an animal after making "reasonable efforts" to find the car's owner.

The Senate on Tuesday also unanimously passed another bill that would ban the sale of puppies and kittens under 8 weeks old.

The bill would allow veterinarians to declare any pet with a significant health condition as "unfit for purchase."

Buyers of such an animal would be able to exchange the pet or seek a refund and reimbursement for some veterinary fees.

The bill would also regulate commercial breeders and so-called "puppy mills" in part by banning pet shops from selling animals that come from unlicensed breeders.

As part of the bill, pet shops would also have to post information about each animal and breeder.

Backers of the bill say the ban will increase the likelihood that the small animals will grow to be healthy dogs and cats.