

## Meeting Minutes: Breeder Excellence Advisory Task Force

Date: September 24, 2018

Location: Davanni's, Coon Rapids, MN

### Attendance

#### Task Force Members

Perry Burros-Lemke

Chad Carlson

Belinda Donley

Dan Moscho

Kayla Pierson

Tasha Podratz

Flo VanSlyke

Mike VanSlyke

Courtney Wheeler

#### Guests

Elaine Hanson, Minnesota Pet Breeders Association

Ardeth Livermore, Licensed Minnesota Commercial Dog Breeder

Daryn McBeth, Minnesota Pet Breeders Association

### Program Goal and Intent

In accordance with Minnesota statute, the Board of Animal Health (BAH), in consultation with representatives of the licensed commercial dog and cat breeder industry, must develop a program to recognize persons who demonstrate commercial breeder excellence and exceed the standards and practices currently required of commercial breeders.

### Presentation of Program Draft: BAH Commercial Dog or Cat Breeder program staff

#### Requirements for Breeder Excellence Program

Task Force members were presented with two drafts for the Breeder Excellence Program, which compiled suggestions from previous task force meetings. The first draft outlined a non-tiered approach with only one level of participation, the second outlined a tiered approach with multiple levels of participation.

## Suggestions and Discussion:

**Suggestion:** Applicants are required to be active program participants in the BAH Commercial Dog or Cat Breeder program with no inspection violations during the most recent licensing period.

**Discussion:**

- To participate in the Breeder Excellence program, the applicant must be a licensed commercial dog or cat breeder with no documented inspection violations during the current licensing period or the licensing period prior to the licensing period for which the breeder is applying.

**Suggestion:** The facility must be inspected by a licensed veterinarian at a minimum annually.

**Discussion:**

- Task force members were in agreement that inspection by a veterinary professional should be a component of the program.
- Task force members commented that there appears to be a shortage of veterinarians that are available to visit a breeding facility, and so questioned whether a veterinary technician would be able to fulfill this role with appropriate training.
- It was suggested that the Board develop a program that would certify people to fulfill this requirement.

**Suggestion:** The applicant must submit proof of Board approved continuing education.

**Discussion:**

- Task force members agreed that this should be a component of the program.
- Only continuing education completed by the owners of the breeding facility would count towards this requirement.
- The total number of required hours could be split between multiple owners of the breeding facility.
- Task force members agreed that the number of required continuing education hours presented in the tiered and non-tiered program approaches were obtainable.

**Suggestion:** The applicant must submit a written biosecurity and facility emergency plan.

**Discussion:**

- Facilities already have biosecurity and facility emergency plans in place, but may need to work on detailed written records of these plans for review by inspectors.
- The American Kennel Club (AKC) requires a disaster and biosecurity plan for those facilities that have more than seven litters in a calendar year.
- The Board will draft a biosecurity and facility emergency plan template to present to task force members at the next meeting.

**Suggestion:** The applicant must submit proof of participation in an association or club dedicated to improving breed quality, animal welfare and/or well-being.

**Discussion:**

- Associations or clubs would be approved by the Board to fulfill this requirement. The breeder would need to document evidence of participation in approved associations/clubs.

**Suggestion:** The applicant must submit proof of breed specific genetic and/or disease testing or proof of breed quality for all adults in the breeding program.

**Discussion:**

- Due to different test availability options for each breed, it was suggested that this section be revised to allow for an either/or option.
- Further discussion on mixed breed animals is needed to determine how this requirement would be applied.
- Task force members suggested segregating requirements for health of animals versus breed quality. The Board will look into this for the next meeting.

**Suggestion:** Brucellosis testing program (dogs only); negative test for all dogs in breeding program, negative test for new additions.

**Discussion:**

- Task force members were in agreement that this should be a component of the Breeder of Excellence program.
- Annual testing of a facility is going to be too cost prohibitive, but it is not unreasonable to test all dogs once and then anytime a new addition is brought into the facility.
- Further discussion about testing requirements for animals that go to shows/events and then return to the facility is needed.
- Task force members would like to see a Canine Brucellosis Certification Program established under the Breeder Excellence program.

## Action Items

- The Board will send out a poll to task force members to vote on a tiered or non-tiered Breeder Excellence Program.
- The Board will reach out to licensed commercial cat breeders to gather input on requirements for cats.
- The Board will meet with the Minnesota Department of Health to begin drafting a Canine Brucellosis Certification Program.
- The Board will draft a biosecurity and facility emergency plan template and present it to task force members at the next meeting.

## Next Meeting

Davanni's

3430 129<sup>th</sup> Ave NW

Coon Rapids, MN 5548

Monday, February 25, 2019

11:00 a.m.