

## Meeting Minutes: Breeder Excellence Advisory Task Force

Date: March 12, 2018  
Location: Mansetti's, Anoka, MN

### Attendance

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#### Task Force Members

Perry Burros-Lemke  
Chad Carlson  
Belinda Donley  
Dan Moscho  
Kayla Pierson  
Tasha Podratz  
Courtney Wheeler  
Ray Williams  
Peri Williams  
Pamela Withage  
Flo VanSlyke  
Mike VanSlyke  
John Pesek

#### Public

Animal Folks

### Program goals and intent

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In accordance with Minnesota statute, the Board of Animal Health, in consultation with representatives of the licensed commercial 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.

### Review of program standards

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Dr. Burros-Lemke reviewed current program standards and identified places where law is subjective indicating these areas may provide an opportunity to create the parameters of the excellence program. Some standards may be combined since they are closely correlated. The main goal is to identify objective requirements that exceed current standards, setting a higher standard of care.

Discussion included parameters for items that might be breed specific, namely heated and/or air conditioned facilities. Concern was expressed that alterations to facilities to obtain recognition under the new program may be expensive or financially unobtainable for some breeders. It was pointed out that the minimum temperature for USDA is 45 degrees but different breeds may have different variables that would affect this standard. It was suggested that breed and life stage specific guidelines be developed for determining appropriate facility temperatures.

Standards can be found at: <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/cdcb-inspection-guidelines.pdf>

## Review of programs currently evaluating breeder excellence

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Participants were asked to identify similar programs enforced by other organizations and/or states.

- The Minnesota Pet Breeders Association (MNPBA) had submitted a proposal to the board which outlined multiple options (criteria) in each category (standard) allowing for more variability and equal opportunities to participate.
- The Blue Ribbon Kennel program appears to be the longest running program of this type. The program is voluntary and administered by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Few Missouri breeders qualify for the program. Requirements include not having any violations on inspections, belonging to a breeder group and 20 hours of documented continuing education annually.
- The Pet Leadership Council identified that 22 states have legislation regulating breeders, but only 7 of have excellence programs or equivalent. Includes, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Pennsylvania.
- Purdue University is currently conducting a study to establish science-based standards for the care and welfare of breeding dogs.
- BAH staff will continue to compile and attempt to present in a way that is useful.

## Suggestions from MN breeders

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- Enrichment/positive physical contact
- Brucellosis testing program
- Genetic testing requirements, MNPBA offers annual OFA testing
- Biosecurity plan
- Nutrition assessments
- Veterinary care
- Detailed written health guarantee for each animal sold
- Announced vs. un-announced inspections, multiple inspections throughout the year
- Continuing education requirements: Member requested that additional opportunities be made available to breeders and that BAH compile a list of opportunities. Member pointed out that MNPBA has multiple resources.

## Assignments

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- Discussed the difficulty in making standards tangible and equally applicable
  - Assess using a point scale
  - Assess using multiple criteria for each standard

- All members will review each standard of care and be prepared to present ideas for exceeding each standard
  - Members will spend more time on the areas in which they exceed
- Suggestions will be e-mailed to program staff approximately 2 weeks prior to next meeting for compilation
  - Deadline: May 25, 2018

## **Next meeting and adjourn**

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Date: June 11, 2018

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Davanni's, Coon Rapids