

## Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on September 17, 2014 in the Extension classroom at 617 Comstock Road in Berlin, VT. The following members were present:

Dr. Kristin Haas (KH); Dr. Ruth Blauwiel (RB); Diane Bothfeld (DB); Dr. Todd Pritchard (TP); Tracy Simon (TS); Les Pike (LP); Jane Clifford (JC); Dr. Kent Henderson (KEH); Marcy Wisnowski (MW); Greg Finch (GF); Melody Squier (MS)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by DB at 9:04 AM.

The following public observers (affiliations) were present:

Joanne Bourbeau (Humane Society of the United States); Erica Campbell (VT Sustainable Jobs Fund/Farm to Plate); Dr. Alison Cornwall (veterinarian).

The May 2014 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written, following a motion made by LP and seconded by JC.

Council members discussed the calf transport best management practices outreach initiative. KMH provided an update, with input from Erica Campbell, on the fact that Farm to Plate (F2P) is able to be the repository for any sponsorship funds that are sent in support of this initiative. As F2P is a non-profit, sponsors will be able to deduct their donations from their 2014 tax returns. Erica also agreed to send KMH and DB a weekly update of any funds received so that the Council may gauge success of this sponsorship outreach effort. The Council reached consensus on the following items:

- The project timeline was revised such that the sponsorship letter will be sent out by KMH by October 1<sup>st</sup>; sponsors will be given until November 1<sup>st</sup> to consider a donation; Council members will contact potential sponsors if no donation received by November 1<sup>st</sup>; Sponsorship outreach effort will conclude by December 31<sup>st</sup>; hire contractor and complete development of program materials by June 30, 2015.
- DB and KMH will work with VAAFAM administrative staff to make revisions to the sponsorship letter that identify the members of the Council via a left margin letterhead, add a tear-off section at the bottom that can be kept by donors for their records, and add logistical information including the address to where the checks may be mailed.
- KMH will send the sponsorship distribution list to Council members by October 1, and members will volunteer to contact sponsors only if they do not respond to the original request.
- Caring Dairy, individual VT bovine veterinarians, dairy processors, and red meat processors will be added to the outreach list.

The Council discussed Act 114 relating to the practice of veterinary dentistry. KMH is aware of questions that have been asked of the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association by lay persons who use power assisted equipment for care and management of alpaca dentition. Although the legislative intent was that this law should only apply to equine dental procedures, the wording of it allows for a broader interpretation to include camelid species. The Council discussed this topic so that it may provide feedback to the legislature should they request it once their 2015 session convenes. Dr. Alison Cornwall, a local large animal veterinarian who provides services to camelids, shared with the Council her perspective on whether the use of motorized dental equipment for altering the dentition of alpacas should be limited to veterinarians. The following were points made:

- In contrast to equine power assisted floating which involves a significant amount of work on the premolars and molars, out of easy sight of the owner, the vast majority of dremel work performed on alpacas is performed on the incisors, which are in plain view of the owner/consumer. As such, there is more transparency associated with the procedures and potentially less concern associated with lay persons performing the procedures from a consumer protection perspective.
- Due to their size and general demeanor, restraint of alpacas for power assisted dental procedures is easier and sedation is generally not required. Additionally, a smaller bite speculum can be used in lieu of the full mouth speculum that is generally required for equine power assisted dentistry procedures. These factors combine to make power assisted dental procedures performed on alpacas safer for the lay handler/operator and for the camelid patient, as compared to the equivalent scenario with equine animals.
- Dr. Cornwall's presentation resulted in a subsequent conversation regarding the impact that the language in Act 114 would have on the following procedures:
  - Detusking of boars – this is a practice usually performed by lay persons/owners of the animals
  - Dental alteration of the fighting teeth of the alpaca

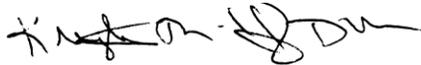
Based on the information presented by Dr. Cornwall and the subsequent Council discussion on this topic, the Council agreed by consensus that the language in Act 114 that limits the use of power assisted floating equipment should pertain to that use in equine animals only. The Council did not provide input as to whether that position would require a change in the current Act 114 language.

A public comment period was held, and Joanne Bourbeau spoke to the Council. She reminded the Council that the Level 4 animal cruelty response training is scheduled for September 30, 2014 at Shelburne Farm – space is still available. Also, the Vermont Humane Federation (VHF) is hosting a one day animal cruelty summit on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Berlin or Barre, specific location TBD. VHF would like to have participation from the Agency of Agriculture and/or the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council.

KMH updated the Council on recent member resignations, including Paul Saenger (representing the beef industry) and Carl Cushing, representing the slaughter industry. Both members were acknowledged for their contributions to the Council. Possible replacements for these positions were discussed; KMH will follow up with nominees to gauge their level of interest in serving a three year term.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KMH" followed by a stylized flourish.