

October 29, 2011 – Emergency board meeting

Bulger Animal Hospital, Andover, MA

Meeting started at 9:10AM

Present: Justin Lyons, Melissa Lyons, Shannon Cail, Jillian, Harlow, Kathleen Bourdelais, Linda Massey, Bob Stark, Megan Kierstead

Update on Great NH Rescue

- Main issue is that we have too many rabbits, but not enough space.
- Shannon supplied board members with complete list of rabbits we've taken in and their current locations.
- Many rabbits are not in ideal locations—18 in barn in VT, 7 at Janet's, and a number of others are at temporary foster homes. They need to be moved soon.
- Save a Dog is willing to take 6 rabbits, but not sick ones. Lempster buns are currently being treated for pinworms and lice. They will not be ready to transfer for ~3-4 weeks. Is it possible to transfer healthy HRN fosters to make room?

Transfer of rabbits from Reading, VT to Cherryl's house

- 18 rabbits from barn in Reading, VT will be moved ASAP to Cherryl's house.
- Cherryl does not have enough supplies (litter boxes, food/water bowls). Supplies will be delivered when rabbits are transferred.
- Transfer likely to happen weekend of November 5th.

Lice/Pinworm issue

- Current treatment is cheap, but lengthy. Takes a month.
- Revolution treats both pinworms and lice—it is more expensive, but easier and quicker. It requires a single injection, then rabbits should be healthy in 2-3 days.
- Approximately \$10/rabbit vs. \$1/rabbit for the longer treatment
- The quick treatment would allow us to transfer rabbits to other shelters more quickly and start adopting them out.
- Personal/foster rabbits near the Lempster rabbits will also likely need treatment. These rabbits can receive the cheaper, longer treatment.
- Board unanimously agreed to start Revolution treatment for the Lempster rabbits.*
- Medical committee and foster committee will work together to determine the number of doses, source, distribution points. This should be completed by Oct 30th.
- Foster committee will contact shelters that received Lempster rabbits to inform them of possible lice/pinworm infections.

Shelter Space

- The current capacity of HRN foster homes is not sufficient. In addition to not having room for the Lempster rabbits, we have been turning away ACOs, returns, and everyone else, since we don't have room. The board agreed that is suboptimal.
- Everyone agreed that renting out a shelter space was necessary.
- HRN survey about shelter volunteers indicated that the Burlington area was the only acceptable medium-to long-term solution for a location.

-We'd look for a space that could house 50-100 rabbits (1000+ sq ft) and would cost ~\$1500 /month for rent. We'd be aiming to spend no more than \$2000/month for everything. Probably \$4000-\$6000 for initial investment.

-Shelter space would allow us to eliminate storage unit, which would save \$100-\$200/month

-The shelter would likely be costly in the short-term, but additional business opportunities would hopefully allow us to break even in a couple of years (store, bunsitting, sponsorshops, etc).

-Board members will look for spaces that meet our criteria and also use volunteers, Facebook, etc. to explore possible options. The goal is to have shelter options in 2 weeks, for the next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for November 12th, 2011 at 9am at Bulger Animal Hospital, Andover, MA to discuss the progress of the Lempster Rescue and acquiring a shelter space.