

**House Rabbit Network (HRN)**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**May 9, 2015**

Present: Megan-Marie Henrici, Betsy Hartman, Sarah Titus, Suzanne Trayhan, Diane Mayer; Jean Player

The meeting commenced 11:05am.

**Review of Minutes of February 7, 2015 Board Meeting**

Clarification of adoption procedures in the minutes for foster homes and the shelter.

Approved

**Board Elections and Schedule Next Board Meetings**

Megan-Marie Henrici and Betsy Hartman were presented as candidates for Board membership. Approved.

The schedule of board meetings was discussed. The proposed dates are August 15, November 14, and February 6.

The schedule of 2015-2016 Volunteer Meetings was discussed. The proposed dates are for the weekend after Columbus Day and February 6.

**PetCo and MAC Grants**

HRN received a \$1000 Petco grant. Past grants were higher. It was observed that procedures have become stricter in recent periods and that the format favors larger non-profit organizations.

The Massachusetts Animal Coalition grant was submitted recently. Proceeds for the grant is funded by MAC/MA license plate sales.

**Foster Rabbit, Snowball**

Snowball came from Daikin. During the spay procedure, the uterus looked really bad; the medical team sent out a biopsy; the result shows cancer. The average remaining lifespan after a cancer diagnosis is 6-12 months.

Sarah is trying to bond Snowball with one of her single male fosters.

There was discussion about whether Snowball ought to be available for adoption; it was agreed that she would be if she is still alive and in stable health 14 months after the diagnosis.

### **Charms**

HRN charms are available for sale. \$5 in person, or \$6 plus shipping. When shipping, must use a sturdy envelope like Tyvek. Jenny Mullen is coordinating.

### **When/if to update adopters about medical issues**

The Board discussed the medical issues of a sibling group of Flemish Giants: Chloe, who recently died of heart attack; Bumble, who was discovered to have had heart disease; Zoe, the remaining sibling. Flemish Giants are prone to heart conditions. While a 1 out of 7 chance does not hold the basis to disclose a possible health risk, the Board decided that in this case (2 out of 3), the adopters ought to know of the risk.

Megan-Marie will inform Zoe's owner. When the official necropsy results are completed, HRN can ask Zoe's owner if she wants a copy. In addition, HRN will ask Chloe's owner if she would release Chloe's necropsy results; the paperwork can go directly to Z's vet.

Overall, the Board agreed that disclosing medical risks will be done on a case by case basis. In that event, HRN will make adopter aware of early symptoms.

### **Shelter Theft**

\$180 discovered missing on April 26. Circumstantial evidence points to the cash being stolen. An email notice to the shelter volunteers asking if someone moved the money from its known location yielded no further information, but a number of volunteers offered to donate money to make up for what was stolen.

A slotted lockbox is needed and has to be secured to desk. Another suggestion was to change the door code.

### **Giggles Fundraiser**

This year, MassPaws partnered with HRN. 129 tickets sold; 84 were from HRN; 27 were from MassPaws; 16 unknown/unverified origin. The Board decided not to partner with MassPaws again because they did little publicity.

### **Update on Foster Homes**

Janet is no longer fostering.

Upper Valley communications have been problematic. There needs to be clarification about communications regarding surrenders. They need to understand HRN is not an open shelter so we cannot take surrenders directly from public.

There are no more foster homes in Vermont, but Cheryl Z is willing to foster for sanctuary rabbits or moms with babies.

The Board decided not to have New Hampshire foster homes further north than Plymouth.

### **Discussion of Vet Hospitals and Animal Shelters**

There is a low cost spay/neuter option in New Hampshire: ABRS.org. It's on HRN website There is also a low cost option in southern MA.

The HRN veterinarian list needs updating: The Vescone vet listed on the HRN website has retired, and Vescone changed its name.

Daikin is disorganized and are reactive; they are not knowledgeable about rabbits. They threatened to euthanize if HRN couldn't take their intakes right away. They don't know how to handle and sex rabbits. The House Rabbit Connection won't work with them. Sweet Binks stopped working with them. Sarah never says no to Daikin because she knows their pattern but Daikin stopped calling her.

Wachusset is good.

Littleton vets are good but their billing is very disorganized.

### **Miscellaneous Topics**

2016 calendar: Need to find a volunteer to coordinate and need to start collecting photos.

Suzanne is away, May 16-May 26.

Financially we are doing well, but we are a long way from buying property for a shelter.

Newsletters are done.

Meeting adjourned 12:11pm