

League of Large Animal Medical Advocates

www.CommonHealth.org/llama

A Community Effort to Resolve the Lack of Large Animal Veterinary Care in Hancock County

Tue., Sept. 25, 2007

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Ellsworth Public Library

Minutes

I. Welcome

19 attendees signed in, including 9 new faces & Rep. Jim Schatz. Dr. Don Hoenig, Maine State Veterinarian joined meeting after start. We extended a hearty welcome to him & thanks for his time.

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Minutes

September minutes went out via e-mail & are posted on our new website, www.CommonHealth.org/llama. New members requesting e-mail copies shall receive them. No corrections noted.

IV. Update

- A. Survey. HMZ reviewed preliminary results of informal survey. Results are anticipated on web page in rolling stats. In general, a little less than half of the respondents had no vet whatsoever and among those who do have a vet, about half have no emergency coverage. Most people truck to the vet. Vets used stem from Ellsworth, Winterport & Canada with new vet in Northport/Camden.
- B. Yahoo Group. Three Cheers out to Wendy Eaton who has organized a chat group on Yahoo. Anyone interested in joining should e-mail Wendy at wendy@simplicityfarm.com. Some are having difficulty getting e-mail, we will look into this.
- C. WERU interview. Aired to positive feedback. New website from Common Health: www.CommonHEalth.org/llama. Many thanks to Jim Fisher for doing this!!!
- D. Seminar Series. There continues to be a great deal of interest around this concept. Topics of interest are numerous. The most immediate need seems to be First Aid. Laura Lelanski mentioned a training hosted by Dr. Jefferson of the Maine Equine Association in Portland. Several there had heard of this. The program is all day training and includes the opportunity to purchase a comprehensive First Aid kit for \$150. The kit is available without the training. Stay tuned!

Dr, Hoenig noted that the state of NH has offered similar seminars & asked if there was interest, the group replied there was! Interest was also expressed in acupuncture & chiropractic care as well as homeopathy & dentistry.

E. Two barns have offered living space & surgical space in the group elects to found a Co-op Vet practice.

V. Brainstorming Next Steps

- A. Dr. Hoenig spoke about some of the challenges facing the state in terms of large animal care. A base block to solutions is a lack of data about how widespread the problem.
 - 1. Noted that the USDA is about to release a survey aimed at measuring the problem, but questions as to how extensive the data collection.
 - 2. Farm Bureau is also about to release a survey.
- B. Noted that Congress has passed the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (MVMSA) to provide loan forgiveness for vets in underserved areas (all of ME is designated) but to date, the funding has yet to appear. Gave a sample letter for people to send to our elected officials in Congress.
- C. Handed out information on the Veterinary Public Workforce Expansion Act.
- D. Noted that livestock is on a new increase, following a long-term decrease
- E. Noted that currently there is only 1 slot/year for ME students at Tufts & none at other schools which used to have slots. Need more slots!

VI. Action Plan

- A. Laura Lelanski will look into First Aid Seminar
- B. Small groups will explore Co-op opportunities
- C. HMZ will try & link the above documents & sites off the website

VII. Next Meeting

Set for Tue., Oct 23rd, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Ellsworth Public Library

VIII. Adjourn - 7:00 pm