

Animal Welfare Committee Meeting October 15, 2015, 12-00pm, COA at VMCC

Attending were MacDonald, Brec, Jutsum. Excused Brooke, Murphy, Dwyer  
Public: Candace Nagle, Marsha Sirota

There were no public comments

1. Public Comments: Candace presented the Animal Welfare bills that are currently in the legislative Senate. The Committee will vote on our recommendations later in the meeting. She also noted that it was mentioned to her that it would be nice if the AWC had some formal way to thank people that had gone above and beyond to help reunite pets that had been lost in town with their owners. Sherry to draft letter.
2. The minutes of 9/17/15 were approved.
3. Animal Welfare bills were voted on (see Attachment I). The votes will be sent to State Rep Peake and Senator Wolf.
4. We reviewed Jeffrey's PSA "Dog Safety in Cars". It was good, but we asked him to add a little blurb about insurance companies perhaps not paying a claim if driver had been distracted, i.e. by their dog. Jeffrey to do.
5. A budget for the AWC is due 11/13/15. We reviewed our budget request and voted (see Attachment 2). Sherry to submit to Finance Director.
6. Next meeting 11/19/15.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Brec  
Clerk pro tempore

**Bills we support:**

**□S. 1072, H. 1865: An Act Protecting Abandoned Animals in Vacant Properties**□This bill would require owners of rented or foreclosed properties to check them for abandoned animals within 3 days after tenants move out; if abandoned animals are found, it must be reported to the local animal control officer or other authorities. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**H. 1220: An Act Updating the Law Relating to Posting a Security for Seized Animals in Cruelty Cases**□This bill would make changes to the statute that passed in 2002 regarding the seizure of animals in connection with cruelty investigations. The law now allows an authority that seizes an animal pursuant to applicable Massachusetts law for alleged cruelty or neglect to request the court to order a refundable security/bond to cover the costs of caring for the animal during the period of time the animal is held until the case is adjudicated. Animals are different than other seized property; animals must receive food, water, board, and often-extensive medical care from the authority that took possession of them as part of the arrest or seizure. The changes in this bill are designed to address those issues that have arisen in practice and have limited the effectiveness of this law. Additionally, since animal cruelty became a felony in 2004, some of the language is now outdated and would be fixed with this bill. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 1103, H. 1826: An Act to Protect Puppies and Kittens** □This bill would prevent the sale of dog or cat less than 8 weeks of age, provide a remedy for the sale of sick dogs and cats, regulate certain breeders, and ensure the sources pet shops receive puppies and kittens adhere to certain standards and don't have significant or repeat violations of the Animal Welfare Act. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□H. 1848: An Act to Ensure Adequate Care of Animals In Cities and Towns**□This bill would clarify the existing animal cruelty laws and give specific express notice to animal owners and possessors that they have an obligation to provide their animals with veterinary care that is necessary to prevent or relieve their animals' suffering. Over 20 states have some provision in their statutes creating such a duty. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 439, H. 1555: An Act to Ensure Continued Humane Animal Care and Support Family Farms in Massachusetts**□This bill would prohibit the confinement of farm animals in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs; that means that standard veal crates and gestation crates for pregnant pigs would not be allowed in the Commonwealth. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 440, H. 1275: An Act Preventing the Trafficking in Ivory and Rhino Horns**□This bill will clamp down on illegal ivory and rhino horn sales by

prohibiting the sale, trade and distribution of these products within our state. It will ensure the Commonwealth doesn't play a role in the unprecedented global poaching crisis by prohibiting the trade in ivory and rhino horn. Elephants are being killed at an unsustainable rate; 35,000 African elephants were slaughtered in 2012 alone to satisfy the ivory market – an average of 96 per day. Of the 5 remaining species of rhinos, 3 are classified as critically endangered. Rhino horns are more valuable than gold, procuring up to \$65,000 a kilo. For this reason South Africa, home to over 90 percent of the world's rhino population, saw a record number of poaching in 2014. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 878, H. 1273: An Act Protecting the Health and Safety of Animals in Cars** □This bill would give animal control officers, law enforcement officers and fire fighters specific authority to remove an animal, and cite the owner, when the conditions in a car are expected to threaten the health of the animal due to extreme heat or cold. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**S. 1085, H. 1866: An Act Strengthening the Enforcement of Certain Dog Laws** □This bill would allow MSPCA and Animal Rescue League of Boston officers to enforce the provisions in the new Ch. 140 sec 174E to be able to better protect dogs. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**S. 501: An Act Concerning the use of Certain Insurance Underwriting Guidelines Pertaining to Dogs Harbored upon the Insured Property** □Would prohibit Massachusetts homeowners insurance companies from discriminating or charging higher premiums for coverage based on breeds of dog. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 1801, H. 1274, H. 1477: An Act Relating to the Treatment of Elephants** □This bill would prohibit any person who houses, possesses or travels with elephants utilized in traveling shows from using any implement that would result in physical harm or from keeping the elephants constantly restrained by chain or similar device. For example, the bullhook (or ankus) which is a club made of wood, metal, or other substantial material, with a sharp steel hook and metal poker at one end is commonly used to train an elephant. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 446, H. 1479: An Act Enhancing the Enforcement of Illegal Hunting Practices** □Would deter poaching, which is the illegal harming or killing of wildlife, by increasing penalties to bring them in line with other states around the county. They would also create an elevated penalty for chronic poachers who repeatedly violate the law. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**□S. 413: An Act to Enhance the Management of Problem Wildlife** □Past sessions have seen a lot of activity around the beaver trapping issue. There is one point that everyone seems to agree on: more data on animals trapped is needed. This bill would require that people who are granted permits to remedy wildlife conflicts report the outcome to MassWildlife so they can track the numbers of animals taken by trappers, statewide populations, complaints about species, locations of complaints,

and the methods chosen to remedy them. **Motion to Approve 3-0-0.**

**Bills we oppose:**

**H. 713: An Act to promote the care and well-being of livestock** □ This bill would create a board to "promote the care and well-being of livestock"; however, we have concerns that such a board could use factors set forth in the authorizing language to consistently vote against improved humane standards. Therefore, we oppose the bill as currently written. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**TRAPPING:**

□ **H. 673: An Act Relative to Beavers** □ This bill would strike the entire Wildlife Protection Act (Ch. 131 sec. 80A) and would repeal all the restrictions on body-gripping traps. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

□ **S. 421: An Act Valuing Our Natural Resources** □ This bill would amend portions of the Wildlife Protection Act (Ch. 131 sec. 80A) to allow the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, or its agents, to use restricted body-gripping traps for management of furbearing wildlife during their established seasons (currently, only box/cage traps are allowed for furbearers during the trapping season). **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

□ **S. 409: An Act to Protect Children and Adults from Wildlife** □ This bill weakens trapping restrictions; it authorizes the Department of Public Health and municipal boards of health to issue emergency permits for trapping coyote, fox or fisher cats. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**H. 722: An Act Relative to Beaver Dam Emergencies** □ Would transfer authority for emergency permit decisions from local agencies to the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**H. 709: An Act Conserving Our Natural Resources** □ This bill would strike a portion of the Wildlife Protection Act (Ch. 131 sec. 80A) to allow various local, state, and federal agencies to use restricted conibear traps, and prohibited snares and other traps, for a variety of reasons throughout the year, as well as allow the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, or its agents, to use these traps during the recreational trapping season. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**SUNDAY HUNTING:**

**S. 415: An Act expanding the powers of the director of Fisheries and Wildlife** □ This bill would give the power to the director of Fisheries and Wildlife to allow bow hunting for deer on Sundays. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**H. 672: An Act expanding the powers of the director of Fisheries and Wildlife** □This bill would give the power to the director of Fisheries and Wildlife to allow Sunday Hunting. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**H. 762: An Act Authorizing the Use of Bow and Arrows for Sunday Hunting** □This bill would allow bow hunting on Sundays. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**S. 424: An Act Relative to hunting with bow and arrow**□This bill would allow bow hunting on Sundays. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**S. 429: An Act relative to Sunday Hunting**□This bill would allow hunting on Sundays. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**H. 3236: An Act relative to the repeal of Sunday Hunting restrictions**□This bill would allow hunting on Sundays. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

**OTHER:**

**S. 430: An Act Relative to the Hunting of Bear**□This bill would effectively repeal the ban on unfair hunting practices against bears, including bear baiting and bear hounding. Hounding and baiting were banned in statute in 1996. Baiting had been prohibited by regulation prior to 1996. **Motion to Approve Opposition 3-0-0.**

## 550 Animal Welfare Committee

### Statement of Functions and Goals FY 2017

The Animal Welfare Committee was established by Town Meeting with the mission to advise the Board of Selectmen on matters pertaining to the welfare of animals in the Town of Provincetown, and to develop, coordinate and implement a plan addressing concerns of both wild and domestic animals in our community.

### Budget Request Detail

	Line Item No. & Title	Description (specify basis for calculations used)
B-1	Professional Services 530100	\$0
B-2	Publishing/Printing 532200	\$0
B-3	Supplies 542000	<b>\$468.00</b> – four (4) dog waste stations with roll bag system and one (1) budget dog waste station-roll bag system from BowWow Pet Waste Products in order to replace the dog waste stations that have become rusted, making them unable to be opened and refilled, and one that was washed away during a storm at the Town Landing by the Boatslip.
B-4	Dues & Memberships 573000	\$0 –

A motion was made at the AWC meeting of 10/15/15 to submit the above Budget Request for FY 2017. Motion passed 3-0-0.