Commercial Dog Breeding Advisory Board
June 16, 2021 Minutes

Chairman Summers called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A quorum was present with the
following members: Dr. Dennis Summers, Dr. Michael Frederick, Dr. Patricia Haines, Lisa Zimmerman, Linda Stickney, Lori Carlson, and Matt Granito.

Chairman Summers asked for members to review minutes from March 17, 2021. Minutes were approved.

Under new business Chairman Summers asked the Board if they would like to file a motion to move forward with more aggressive penalties for repeat offenders that are failing inspections due to the health and wellness of the canines. Lori Carlson motioned that the Board “Support the Department in their decision making regarding moving forward with additional civil penalties for egregious and repeated offenders of the rules. Second motion is that the number of cases being referred out for civil penalties should be included on the quarterly inspection report”. Linda Stickney seconded both motions. Denise Martin asked Lori Carlson to define what she meant by “egregious” and also if she was referring to the health and wellness aspect of the failed inspections. Lori retracted the word “egregious” and inserted “repeated violations regarding the health and well-being of the animals”. Linda Stickney did second the motion. All Board members agreed to the motions.

Public comment period began at 2:09 pm:

Corey Roscoe, HSUS: HSUS Horrible 100 report comes from state and federal inspection reports. Thanked the Board for the motion regarding repeat offenders. Corey spoke about a letter sent regarding the Ohio breeders listed in the Horrible 100 report.

Vicki Deisner, The Ohio Animal Advocates: There is no formal process or policy currently in place for ODA inspectors to make legal referrals. ASPCA filed a lawsuit against the USDA regarding their “hands off” approach to regulatory prosecutions. Vicki also referred to the repeat offenders listed in the Horrible 100 report. Vicki urges ODA/AH to create a protocol and template form for making legal referrals.

Kellie DiFrischia, Columbus Dog Connection: Was horrified by Horrible 100 report. Report is embarrassing, Ohio is getting worse as far as number on Horrible 100 list. Attempted inspections result in a 7 day allowance for a return call, can that be reduced to 24 hours? Kellie believes that ODA can charge licensees for “attempted” inspections. ODA should also charge for non-compliance inspection issues. Has gentleman that was reported doing surgery been reported?

Denisa Iacob, Bailing out Benji: Upset and appalled by Horrible 100 report. Attempted inspections are a concern, gives licensees time to get things cleaned up/corrected before knowing they will receive an inspection. Kansas Dept of Ag imposes fines for missed inspections, Ohio should follow.

Maria, public consumer: Thanked the Board for the motion for repeated violators. Disturbed that Ohio is ranked one of the worst for puppy mills. Humiliating for Ohio to have so many breeders on the Horrible 100 report.

Lisa Keim, Golden Retrievers in Need: It would be helpful for perhaps the next meeting for the ODA to share how many cases the ODA have referred for civil penalties or criminal activities in the past 2 years, how many licenses has the ODA denied or revoked in the past 2 years and what actions if any have been taken to address egregious actions taken by those examples outlined in the Horrible 100 report?

Carol Barker, Bailing out Benji: Horrified to learn about the numerous violations and repeat offenders in the Horrible 100 report. Why can’t ODA put a stop to these offenders? ODA needs to be more aggressive and increase fines. Ohio needs to move forward with Legislation to end puppy mills.

Public comment period ended at 2:30 pm.

Members Minutes:

Linda Stickney: Maybe the Board and/or ODA can get the Attorney General involved. Linda would be happy to reach out to him. Linda also congratulated Dr. Summers for his new appointment and thanked everyone for a great meeting. Linda also is concerned with the Horrible 100 report and wants to know why Ohio numbers keep going up each year.

Dr. Patricia Haines: Congratulated Dr. Summers on his appointment and also sent well wishes to Dr. Forshey.

Matt Granito: agrees with Linda regarding the increasing number of Ohio Breeders on the Horrible 100 and asked if HSUS is contacting ODA regarding breeder issues. Matt also asked why cases are being reported without prosecution.

Lori Carlson: understand the inspectors are complying with what they are allowed to do but it still reflects poorly when reports like the Horrible 100 comes out. Frustrating sitting on a Board where inspectors are doing their job but it’s still not enough. Lori’s facility has received dogs from all of the breeders listed in the Horrible 100 and they are in terrible condition.

Dr. Frederick: ODA needs to clarify enforcement ability to the Board. Nothing is stopping folks from breeding dogs. ODA can deny or revoke a license but these folks can/will still breed until referred outside of ODA to shut them down. Program has limited enforcement action.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2021 @ 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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Dr. Dennis Summers, Acting State Veterinarian, Chairperson