



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2501
www.CTGrown.gov

Domestic Animal Control Work Group
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2019
9:00 AM
450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Theresa Geary, Brenda Bettcher, Susan Linker and Gail Petras, Bruce Sherman, Barbara Godejohn, Annie Hornish and Jo-Anne Basile
Members Absent: Gary MacNamara, Lynne Denning and Michael Berard, Ryan Burrell
DoAg Staff: Carole Briggs and Nathan Wilson
Public Members: Robin Bumpin

1. **Welcome** – Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM
2. **Intro of Members** – Members and guests introduced themselves
3. **Review and approval of Regular Meeting Minutes** – The January 15, 2019 minutes were reviewed and approved by the working group members.
4. **Public Comment** – Jo-Anne Basile thanked the Commissioner and working group for their work and interest.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Legislative Update/Advocacy
 - i. Nathan provided members and guests with a legislative update including the quarantine bill and other legislative proposals.
 - ii. Members discussed ideas surrounding education materials and academies to prevent situations which could lead to a dog attacks.
 - iii. Members discuss ideas around collecting data from dog attacks.
6. **New Business**
 - a. 2019 legislative wrap-up
 - i. Commissioner Hurlburt and Nathan gave an overview of certain agency legislative matters.
 - b. Open discussion RE: domestic animal control issues
 - i. Members discussed the shelter regulations and the status of those regulations. Discussion ensued about the regulation process.



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- ii. Members discussed issues regarding service animals and the enforcement of such animals. Members discussed recommendations for legislative language to make it illegal to misrepresent service. Members discussed federal language regarding emotional service animals.
- iii. Members discussed appointing new members to certain vacancies and adding new members to the DACWG table such as CT Voices for Animals, National Humane Society and a town attorney.
- c. Proposed Policy Changes/Updates for 2020 Legislative Session
 - i. Members agreed that some of the legislative concepts to be looked at for next legislative session should include; Policy changes to C.G.S 22-358, the process for dog and cat restraints, DoAg hearing process and officers, commercial kennels, language regarding animal fighting paraphernalia, humane conditions of private shelters.

7. Adjournment - Members motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Wilson, Executive Assistant, July 12, 2019