

MINUTES
Pet Care & Humane Treatment Study Committee
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016, 10:00 AM
Room 110, Blatt Building

Members Present: Senator Vincent Sheheen, Chairman
Representative Steve Moss
Patricia Hill, DVM, SC Assn. of Veterinarians, Past President
Marli Drum, City of Columbia
Kim Kelly, Humane Society US, SC Director
Barbara Nelson, SPCA Albrecht Center, President
Josh Rhodes, SC Assoc. of Counties, Staff Attorney
Patty Van Sicklen, Am. Kennel Club, Legislative Analyst
Clint Leach, SC Dept. Of Agriculture, Asst. Commissioner
Rebecca Leach, SC Dept. of LLR, Dir. Of Bus. And Govt. Affairs

Staff Present: Senate -- Gene Hogan, Emma Hall; House -- Joannie Nickel, Rebecca Thompson

Chairman Sheheen called the meeting to order and then recognized staff to explain new materials before the committee. Following this, he called for the first speaker on the agenda. This was Douglas Pernel, Dillon County Animal Shelter and he was unable to attend the meeting.

Next on the agenda was Lisa MacElderry, DVM, and Ellen Magid, DVM, Veterinary Medical Officers, USDA-APHIS, to give a brief overview of the Federal Transport Law. Dr. Magid first gave a brief presentation detailing the history and services provided by Animal Care, and offered an explanation of animal transport regulation and definitions. Following this, Dr. MacElderry described inspections under the Federal Animal Welfare Act, which exempts shelters and some non-profits depending on their function.

Pat Dukes, an independent volunteer animal transporter, then spoke on her experience with animal transport in South Carolina. She stated that all transporters are vetted volunteers, with an estimated 20% being paid entities and 80% being systems like Dukes'. Volunteers and transports are coordinated via social media pages and rescue groups. Dukes outlined recent call sheets for her transports, the in-transport check lists for the animals, and answered questions from committee members. She also stated that it is her opinion the state does not need to regulate transporters at her level but should regulate larger transports, such as those described by Dr. MacElderry. Upon completing questions, Dukes agreed to provide copies of her presentation and other materials to the committee.

Next on the agenda was Jon Griffin, Program Principal, National Conference of State Legislatures, to present an overview of pet laws in other states. In the majority of legislation addressing animals, cruelty laws are the biggest component; abandoning and shelter laws make up a smaller percentage. Twenty-eight states and Washington DC have shelter laws and no state has a total spay and neuter law (only that shelters spay or neuter for adoption animals). Any discounted spay/neuter is done through municipalities or private funding and not at the state level. Griffin's presentation has been shared online.

Following completion of agenda speakers, staff reminded members to check the committee webpage where all documents shared with the committee are posted and updated frequently. Chairman Sheheen indicated any specific proposals for legislation language should be emailed to staff and discussed at the next meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016. The committee will also hear public testimony at the December 1 meeting.