

Companion Animal Meeting Minutes
November 6th, 2008

Present: Bri Bloxsom, Ginny Bloxsom, Liz Brockert, Anne Crotser, Julie Bergstrom, Connie Robine, Monique Robine, Brittany Bergstrom, Nancy Duemling, Dorothy Murmyluk, Kirk Dettloff, Dawn Rishel, Emily Rishel, Heather Kitchen, Robert Kitchen, Robert Lotan, Ken Goike, President of the Armada Fair Board, and Sherry Goike.

The meeting was called to order by Liz Brockert at 6:36 pm.

All attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes from the last meeting were unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's report was read by Julie Bergstrom: The starting balance was \$422.70 and the closing balance was \$421.31.

Kirk Dettloff moved to accept the treasurer's report and Nancy Duemling seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The committee discussed revision of the by-laws to accommodate the change in structure of the 4-H council. The change means that the Companion Animals Committee would no longer be electing representatives to the council. Heather Kitchen moved to accept the amendment to the by-laws, Brittany Bergstrom seconded the motion and the change was approved.

Nancy Duemling provided results from the CGC test held in October. We made a net profit of \$70 and 12 people took the test.

Anne Crotser reported that 4 clubs attended People, Pets and Vets: The Future Entrepreneur's Club, Fantastic Felines, Clever Clovers and Northern Macomb.

The Committee welcomed Dorothy Murmyluk, representing the new Dog Project beginning in School Section. She said that they will have approximately 17 members next year.

The next Pocket Pet meeting will be held November 24th at the Wilkinsons' house.

Considerable discussion of Armada Fair issues and concerns followed.

Fair book changes can be made this year and recommendations are currently being reviewed by the 4-H Fair Committee. Kathy will present their recommendations to the Fair Board in January.

Anne Crotser sent a list of possible 4-H dog judges, obtained from Jake DeDecker at the State 4-H Office, to the Fair Office for use by the Fair and 4-H Supts. This list will be

updated yearly. Discussion followed about the past practice of judge selection by the Fair Supt. the 4-H Supts. Anne Crotser said that it was important to the 4-H Office that a uniform procedure be followed by all departments. Nancy Duemling explained to Mr. Goike why it was important to change judges at least every other year so that kids could earn the state 4-H Dog Patch.

The process of selecting the Fair Board dog show superintendent for 2009 was discussed. Superintendents are named in early 2009 after the annual Fair Board election in December 2008. Anne Crotser said that the 4-H office felt there was not good communications among the three Superintendents last year and that a change of both Fair Board and 4-H Superintendents would be beneficial to all involved.

Possible improvements in scheduling and space for next year's fair were discussed. These included: a larger agility ring, shelter for dogs and handlers, and changes in the schedule to minimize conflicts with the State 4-H Dog Show and ensure a space free of distracting odors. Mr. Goike mentioned that the Fair Board was considering starting the Fair on Monday instead of Tuesday to give more flexibility in scheduling. Many committee members agreed that the fair being a day longer would be good.

Mr. Goike was concerned about youth showing a different dog than the one they originally registered. There were two instances of that in 2008 because of death. Bob Lotan explained that he allowed the substitution because he wanted the youth whose dogs had died to be able to show at the Fair. Mr. Goike said he was concerned about individuals showing animals that did not belong to them and/or weren't raised by them. Members of the Dog Project ensured him that the substitute dogs were owned by the families of the youth who showed them and that the youth trained with the dogs prior to the fair. The Committee felt that bringing in a "ringer" in such a situation might be a problem for livestock, but it was pretty impossible for the dog show. Mr. Goike was reassured that any dog with an AKC show history would have to show at the appropriate level of difficulty.

Mr. Goike also expressed concerns about the sale of catnip toys in the 4-H Barn. He was concerned that such activities violated the Fair Board's vendor contracts. Anne Crotser explained that 4-H had requested to sell the toys in 2006 and 2007 in letters to Ted Corey, who replied that as long as the products being sold weren't competing with those of other vendors, as far as he was concerned, it was ok with him as long as it was ok with the 4-H Office. Anne emphasized that there was no sale of "cat food" as Mr. Goike implied when he raised the issue.

The dumbbell workshop was discussed.

Robert Kitchen indicated he was negotiating for facilities (a heated pole barn with cement floor, no mats) at the Huron Point Sportsman's Club that on Friday evenings starting in January (until spring). The Club is located on 28 Mile Road, East of Gratiot. He needs 3 or 4 weeks notice if the committee would like to use the barn.

Julie Bergstrom presented a dog show promotion record she created so that kids know when they should be moved to the next class and when State patches should be awarded.

Kirk Dettloff moved to accept these promotion records. The Committee unanimously voted to accept the form as the official Macomb 4H promotion record.

Next month's meeting will focus on the K9 carnival. Anne Crotser reported that she had received a contact from Lori Wieber, a former 4-H'er who works on emergency preparedness for DTE, who would like to do a presentation on emergency preparedness for pets as part of the K9 carnival.

A calendar of MSU events was distributed

Heather Kitchen moved to adjourn. Dawn Rischel seconded the motion, which passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bri Bloxom