

## September Minutes

- I. Call to Order
- II. July Minutes
- III. Membership Update – Currently we have 42 members, have to get to 50 by January, so need to get 8 more people over the next 4 months.
- IV. Budget update – As of today, the section is still running a \$300 deficit and we cannot have a deficit for over 6 months. Need to develop a plan for getting in the black. Linda suggested donations from Board members.
- V. Section Survey – towards the end of 2014, everyone in the section will get a survey, asking ideas on: speakers, section fees, CLE's, dues, suggestions for improving the section, etc. If you have a question you would like included, please email it to Heather no later than 10/31/14.
- VI. Boise City Code Update – Dr. Rosenthal from Idaho Humane Society is working on re-writing Chapter 6-07; anyone willing to help re-write it or willing to review his re-writes should email Dr. Rosenthal.
- VII. Officer Elections – Need to elect a new chair and officers in January. If you want to run or nominate someone, please make sure to attend the January meeting. Someone suggested doing a request for nominations via email as well.
- VIII. September CLE presentation, Lisa Kauffman, Idaho State Director for HSUS.
  - A. HSUS has over 38,000 donors in Idaho, which shows that Idahoans care about animal issues. HSUS is an animal welfare organization, not an animal rights organization. They also have international offices and provide direct care to over 100,000 animals per year. They work on projects such as: inhumane slaughter, factory farming, seal killings, puppy mills, Humane Certification program, and animal fighting. HSUS also works on reforming laws, policies, and corporate policies re: animal welfare.
  - B. Idaho is a rural and agricultural state. We don't have factory farms the way they do in the Midwest. Our cattle industry is great, the cows get to lead pretty natural lives. We don't have hog industry here. The dairy industry is mostly great people, but with some bad apples.
  - C. HSUS is holding a free seminar in Rupert Nov 5-6<sup>th</sup> for law enforcement officers.
  - D. HSUS works with Idaho animal organizations, such as Idaho Humane Society. HSUS can provide support during large rescue operations, such as a large animal fighting operation.
  - E. Idaho laws protecting animals are few and far between. In 2008, felony dog fighting finally passed. Idaho has a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense felony animal cruelty law, which is embarrassingly ineffective. Idaho needs to add a definition of torture to our current statute. However, the current Senate Ag chair won't hear animal legislation. There is still cock-fighting and dog fighting in Idaho. Lisa gets 4-5 calls per month, but law enforcement has to catch them in the act, which is hard to do.
  - F. She also working, at the state level on changing trapping restrictions. Right now a trap only has to be 5 feet from the center of a trail, which is dangerous for pets and children. Trying to get traps set 500 feet from a trail and post signs on how to release a trap. Also working on TNR (trap, neuter, release). Idaho has a lot of feral cats. Right now, returning the animals after a spay/neuter is considered abandonment. Need to change a few

words in the statute so we can do TNR and receive grants for doing that work. Lisa is also working on getting a Spay/Neuter or pet friendly license plate and the money generated could go into a fund and interest could be paid out to vets who do low cost spay/neuter surgeries. Right now, about 7 million dogs and cats are euthanized per year. Most shelters have 80-90% adoption rates for dogs, but only 30-60% adoption rates for cats.

- G. Another issue is that people are being denied housing due to landlords trying to require de-barking or de-clawing, which are painful and inhumane surgeries. Also an important issue right now is dog tethering. Ninety-percent of dog bites are due to tethered, non-socialized dogs. Oregon passed tethering law last year, but in Idaho she will probably be working on county ordinances, such as tethering for no more than 10 hours and have to provide shelter, food and water. Lastly, Idaho needs jury instructions for animal cruelty cases.
- H. If interested in volunteering to help on one of these projects or if interested in joining Idaho's State Council to help work on legislation and get the word out about HSUS projects, email Lisa.

**Next Meeting November 10, 2014**