

**ISB ANIMAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 1, 2015 12:00 Noon MST**

---

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. CLE PRESENTATION:** Sherry Ramsey, Esq. Director of Animal Cruelty Prosecutions, Humane Society of the United States. Ms. Ramsey will discuss effective enforcement and prosecution of animal cruelty cases. Topics will include: Idaho's state animal cruelty laws, making your case, and the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

**a. Presentation Notes/Highlights:**

- b.** Research indicates that there are broader implications relating to animal cruelty within the home and for the community.
- c.** For example, when abusers commit acts of cruelty towards animals within a home, the acts of violence are not limited to animals. Many cases include incidents of domestic violence and other forms of family violence. To control their victims, abusers attack what the victim cares about most – which is often beloved animals
- d.** Court systems and law enforcement need to enact policies and procedures to effectively combat these crimes. Since animal abuse is a strong indicator of future violence, it is imperative for law enforcement agencies to appropriately address and accurately document all acts of animal cruelty committed by adults and juveniles as a way to track violent behavior. In addition, some states, like Idaho, have very low consequences for being charged/ convicted of animal cruelty. In Idaho, a person will receive 3 misdemeanor citations following an animal cruelty conviction. They will not be charged with a felony until the 4<sup>th</sup> conviction.
- e. For more information please go to:**
  - i.** [http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse\\_neglect/prosecutors\\_resources.html?credit=web\\_id92274750#Guides\\_and\\_Manuals](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse_neglect/prosecutors_resources.html?credit=web_id92274750#Guides_and_Manuals)

**III. March minutes** – voted on and approved minutes for March.

**IV. Membership Update** – Current membership update – currently at 41 members. Need to add 14 members before year's end to meet our goal.

**V. Budget Update** – Current section financials and goals. Need to increase are membership to meet budget goals. So far we are on track, but will turn into a loss if we don't add additional revenue through membership dues.

**VI. Scholarship Request** – We will offer 2 scholarships for law students to join or section to Idaho to both Concordia and Idaho law schools (4 scholarships total).

**VII.** Animal law summit: National Program to discuss Animal Law and litigation throughout United States. Program is one day long on July 24, 2015. There are 14 scheduled speakers, including Kathy Meyer, the keynote speaker. Sunrise will likely attend as Idaho's delegate. Adam will send Sunrise a link to the summit as soon as there is one, which she will share with the section.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED SECTION MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY JULY 10, 2015**