

ISB ANIMAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2015 12:00 Noon MST

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

I. Call to Order.

II. May minutes – voted on and approved minutes for May.

III. CLE PRESENTATION: Gillian Deegan, Contract Attorney with Animal Legal Defense Fund. Ms. Deegan presented a CLE on the use of Veterinary forensics in both civil and criminal cases.

Presentation Notes/Highlights:

- a) Forensics is defined as the application of scientific knowledge of legal problems. Many veterinarians just have knowledge of the science and need the legal system to work with them.
- b) Forensic Expert: Can consider the facts and make an expert analysis. For example, can discuss exam procedure used and state that animal's leg was broken. Must also be able to apply meaning to the findings – how was it broken.
- c) In forensics, animal behaviors are often very telling.
- d) Use of animal forensics in civil matters: Can be used to determine genetic lineage, can tell whether dog was attacked prior to bite, can collect DNA at rental properties, can determine what killed an animal (example: in one case were able to identify a horse's death as being caused by the ingestion of fertilizer – the horse's owner thought he had been shot).
- e) Use of animal forensics in criminal matters: Biggest case was when a dog was shot by an officer who claimed self-defense. Forensics showed that the animal had been running away from the officer when it was shot.
- f) UC Davis is the only place that currently does animal DNA testing.
- g) To locate a forensic veterinarian contact the International Veterinary Forensic Association.

IV. Membership Update – Would still like to add 6 – 8 new members.

V. Budget Update – Currently is \$35.00 – need to raise \$200.00 to stay on track.

VI. Volunteer Project – We have been encouraged to do a volunteer project. Possible project: Drafting something because members from across the state could participate. Other possibilities

include volunteering at an event. We will discuss at the next meeting. Please send thoughts to Sunrise.

VII. Animal Law Summit – This will take place on July 24, 2015 in Seattle. Sunrise will be the Idaho delegate. Kathy Meyer will be the keynote speaker and will discuss federal animal law. Fred Craig will discuss pit-bull issues.

VIII. Adjourn

THE NEXT SCHEDULED SECTION MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2015.