

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 4:13 PM
To: Smith, Walter
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Governor's Office

The Pavilion – Fifth Floor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Office: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339
jessica.gingras@vermont.gov

From: Smith, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 1:41 PM
To: Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

My cell, (802)522-7259, or my desk, (802)334-8881

Walt

From: Gingras, Jessica
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 1:35 PM
To: Smith, Walter <Walter.Smith@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

Hi Walter,

We are short-staffed here at the office and I will be man-ning the front desk from 2-3:15pm.
Can you provide a number I can call you at after I am done that? It would be around 3:20

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras

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Fax: (802) 828-3339
jessica.gingras@vermont.gov

From: Smith, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

Will do.

From: Gingras, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:41 AM
To: Smith, Walter <Walter.Smith@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

828-6469, 2pm

Thanks

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras

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Fax: (802) 828-3339
jessica.gingras@vermont.gov

From: Smith, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:30 AM
To: Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

If you tell me a good time to call you and a good number I will call.

Walt

From: Gingras, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:23 AM
To: Smith, Walter <Walter.Smith@vermont.gov>; Campbell, John <John.Campbell@vermont.gov>; vt13@aol.com; Ross, Chuck <Chuck.Ross@vermont.gov>; Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov>; Gjessing, Catherine <Catherine.Gjessing@vermont.gov>; Gauthier, Richard <Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

Hi Walt,

I have been out for two weeks and am trying to catch up on several hundred emails. If you have time for a phone call tomorrow – let's set that up.

Thanks.

-jg

Best,

Jessica Gingras
Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
Governor's Office

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Montpelier, VT 05609-0101
Office: (802) 828-3333
Fax: (802) 828-3339
jessica.gingras@vermont.gov

From: Smith, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:22 AM
To: Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>; Campbell, John <John.Campbell@vermont.gov>; vt13@aol.com; Ross, Chuck <Chuck.Ross@vermont.gov>; Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov>; Gjessing, Catherine <Catherine.Gjessing@vermont.gov>; Gauthier, Richard <Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

Just a reminder, so far I've heard back from Secretary Ross. I hope to schedule meetings by the end of this business day.

Walt Smith

From: Smith, Walter

Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 6:30 PM

To: Smith, Walter <Walter.Smith@vermont.gov>; Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>; Campbell, John <John.Campbell@vermont.gov>; vt13@aol.com; Ross, Chuck <Chuck.Ross@vermont.gov>; Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov>; Gjessing, Catherine <Catherine.Gjessing@vermont.gov>; Gauthier, Richard <Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov>

Subject: Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board

Good Afternoon,

I'm LT Walter Smith with the Vermont State Police and as you will see below I've been assigned as the designee by Commissioner Flynn to work on identifying member/designees to this Board which is required by Act 155 Sec. 4. V.S.A SS 1943. Below you will see an explanation as to what is required and you'll also see we have a deadline of January 15, 2017 to accomplish what is laid out below. I respectfully request your assistance in identifying the designee or appointees for each of your organizations, if it's not you. Would you please provide the name and contact information of the individual who'll represent your organization on this Board or have them contact me direct? I respectfully request the contact information by September 13, 2016 because we do have such a short window to accomplish some important tasks. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Respectfully,

Walter F. Smith

Lieutenant

Vermont State Police

Walter.smith@vermont.gov

Work: (802)334-8881

Cell: (802)522-7259

Members

- A. the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee – Lt. Walt Smith
- B. the Executive Director of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee – John Campbell
- C. the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee – Secretary Chuck Ross
- D. the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife or designee – Commissioner Louis Porter
- E. a member appointed by the Governor to represent the interests of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- F. two members appointed by the Governor to represent the interests of organizations dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals
- G. a member appointed by the Governor to represent the interests of the Vermont Police Association
- H. a member appointed by the Governor to represent the interests of dog breeders and associated groups
- I. a member appointed by the Governor to represent the interests of veterinarians
- J. a member to represent the interests of the Criminal Justice Training Council – Rick Gauthier

Meetings and reporting Requirements

- The Board shall meet no fewer than six times a year to undertake its duties as outlined in subsection (c) of this section. The Board shall report on its findings and specific recommendations in brief summary to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products, and Senate Committee on Agriculture annually on or before January 15.

Duties

- The Board shall exercise oversight over Vermont’s system for investigating and responding to animal cruelty complaints and develop a systematic, collaborative approach to providing the best services to Vermont’s animals statewide, given monies available. In carrying out its responsibilities under this subsection, the Board shall:
 1. identify and monitor the extent and scope of any deficiencies in Vermont’s system of investigating and responding to animal cruelty complaints;
 2. work with the Department of Public Safety to study the feasibility of designating one law enforcement agency to receive, dispatch, and document the outcome of animal cruelty complaints and, with the assistance of the Vermont Sheriffs’ Association, develop a uniform response protocol for assigning complaints to the appropriate local law enforcement agencies;
 3. ensure that investigations of serious animal cruelty complaints are systematic and documented, and develop written standard operating procedures and checklists to support the objective investigation of cruelty complaints that include objective measures of both environmental and clinical evidence of cruelty;
 4. ensure that requests for voluntary compliance are made in writing, with clear requests and timelines, and include a timeline for the investigator to perform a follow-up visit to confirm actions taken;
 5. develop a guide for animal cruelty prosecution, including a review of current sentencing recommendations for State’s Attorneys;
 6. research the feasibility of developing and implementing an animal cruelty prevention and education program for offenders to be used as a part of offenders’ sentencing;
 7. explore potential private and public sources of funding for animal cruelty investigations, including animal care expenses;
 8. develop trainings, protocols, procedures, and guidance documents for agencies engaging in animal welfare responsibilities;
 9. develop and identify funding sources for an animal cruelty investigation certification program for humane officers in accordance with 13 V.S.A. § 356, and develop a standard by which a person who has been actively engaged in this State as a humane officer conducting animal cruelty investigations for at least five years preceding July 1, 2017 may become certified without completion of the certification program requirements;
 10. identify funding sources for the training requirement under 20 V.S.A. § 2365b;
 11. develop recommendations for providing liability protection and reducing uncompensated costs to animal shelters and animal welfare groups that assist law enforcement authorities in animal cruelty investigations;
 12. explore changing the annual deadline for dog licensure under 20 V.S.A. § 3582 better to align with the time of year dogs require annual veterinary care; and
 13. determine what should appropriately constitute an enforcement action triggering the obligation of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to assist law enforcement pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 354(a).

- <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/ACTS/ACT155/ACT155%20As%20Enacted.pdf>
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