

Board Meetings Summary

By Sally Davis

The WRNC Board met April 16th to discuss this year's symposium and to plan for next year's. The symposium held Feb. 25-27 at the N.C. Zoo attracted 125 people who attended workshops, taught or helped. The 2006 symposium will be held from Jan. 27-29. Among the training sessions under consideration for next year are: radiographs, in-depth rabbit care, idea sharing, imprinting and a question-and-answer period. Hummingbirds, necropsy and grant writing are also among the ideas for new sessions. Workshops in 2006 may include bandaging for avian and mammals, calculating drug dosages and a session on splinting, bandaging, wound management and tube feeding. We also will be accepting pre-paid orders for books to be picked up during the symposium. Order forms will appear in the newsletter.

The Board awarded three cage-building grants totaling \$750 this year. We're considering conducting a cage-building session during next year's symposium where a cage would be built on site and raffled. We also agreed that in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, board members would not be eligible to receive cage-building grants in the future.

Next year's symposium will be advertised through the newsletter and fliers. Advertising through newsletters and newspapers that reach potential participants and contributors is also under investigation. Board members agreed not to spend money for advertising, but to use the existing channels of publicity.

After preliminary discussions by email, the board met a second time on May 25th to vote on financial foci for WRNC funds. All board members participated. The following motions received a majority vote:

- The WRNC will sponsor a continuing education program for vets and vet techs.
- The WRNC will create a plan where we can help people get their federal permit to rehabilitate birds. Hold classes specifically for bird rehabilitators, and/or organize some type of internship program to facilitate getting the 100 hours of experience.
- The WRNC will identify areas of the state that do not have a local organization where we can teach the expanded beginner class and help build the local network. Also the preference was to offer these courses regionally.
- More money will be invested in the symposium itself. Ideas that were favored included: more refreshments than vegetable trays and chips, more advanced classes and spending to have speakers come.
- The WRNC will form a committee to set up an emergency fund of \$2,000.00 to draw from to assist fellow rehabilitators when a hurricane or other natural disaster strikes.
- The WRNC will maintain adherence to the awarding of a cage grant at \$500.00 only to those who meet eligibility requirements.
- Change the WRNC fiscal year by authorizing the treasurer to set the new fiscal year date to a date that better matches annual WRNC activity. This date would remain constant then until this issue is raised again and put to another vote.

The following motions did not receive majority vote:

- The WRNC will authorize a committee to investigate and return findings to the board regarding the hiring of a lobbyist to push for rehabilitation of Rabies Vector Species.
- The WRNC will financially assist the fawn rehabilitation program. (The common reason given was that WRNC should not favor one rehabilitation species over another.)

Those decisions that did not map to an existing committee called for formation of new committees. These committees with initial members appear below. The board welcomes additional committee members from among the membership. Please contact Linda Bergman if you would like to serve in an open position.

Committee for Continuing Education of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians

- Jean Chamberlain
- Mathias Engelmann
- Sally Davis
- Joan McMurray

Federal Permits for Birds Assistance Committee

- Toni O'Neill
- Joan McMurray
- Elizabeth Hanrahan
- Seeking 1 member

Emergency Fund Set-up and Administration Committee

- Beth Knapp-Tyner
- Linda Bergman
- Mary Weiss
- Jennifer Burgin