

**BOARD ELECTION
FERRET FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION
MARCH 28, 2010**

Open Meeting- Mark and Jody's House

Meeting called to order 1:30PM

Attendee list on file.

Board of Directors Election

Thanks for a great job

Phyllis Spy - President

Jody Renouf - Clerk

Introduce Nominee for President – Rose Pierce

Introduce Nominee for Clerk – Jody Renouf

19 Ballots collected

President: 3 votes for Rose Pierce, Phyllis Spy written in on 14 ballots, 2 other write-ins

Clerk: 18 votes for Jody Renouf, 1 write-in

Congratulations to MaFF's President, Phyllis Spy, and Clerk, Jody Renouf!

Volunteer Survey

A survey was handed out to allow people to indicate which areas of MaFF they'd like to help with. The survey will also be emailed to the MaFF-Annouce email list. Below are the items from the survey:

Fundraising

Membership drive

T-shirts/ mugs/ bracelets

Corporate

MaFF Shelter

Shelter–helper nights

Shelter networking

Regulatory Efforts

Seminar for Animal Control Officers

Pet store regulations

Rabies / distemper titers

Ferret re-classification

Literature

Pamphlets

Vet list

Newsletter

Web content

Education Days

Additional stores / companies

Additional areas

Student education

Other

And da Really Important Stuf

Education: hOw 2 git moR sNackz

Outreach: doNt puT snAckz OutTa rEEch

Shelter: biga snAck diSHes ... kissiS n huGS

fuR sheLTa Momz n sheLTa daDz

haV moR fuN ... nO moR meDsiNz ...

jus moR Plae Tlem

(Continued...)

Survey Discussion

The surveys will be collected, and names will be grouped based on where people want to help. The Board will identify a volunteer coordinator to help the groups get started. Groups will report out at each general meeting.

The volunteer survey sparked good conversation about fundraising ideas – bracelets, urns for ashes, TV promotion on Sunrise Channel 10, web page for ferret memorials, and many others. A committee for the urns already formed: Kristin Baker, Donna Spirito and Cheryl Stankauskas.

Similarly, the ACO Seminar effort is off and running with Diddy and Phyllis to contact Emanuel (Manny) Maciel of Animal Control Officers Association of Mass.

The ferret vaccination titer results are coming soon, to determine the vaccine minimums for ferrets based on immunity data rather than the previous assumptions.

Meeting Minutes

(The President's Report follows these minutes.)

As of 4/8/10, the MaFF Shelter will close for six to eight weeks during Diddy Wheeler's hospital and recovery time. Jo Ouellette is taking over the MaFF hotline duties.

John and Anna Marie Casaubon-Rocheville will now handling hospitality, sympathy card services.

Jo and Phyllis are contacting Delta Society, a pet therapy group, to include ferrets as therapy animals.

Board needs to decide on whether to approach other advertisers for the MaFF web site. Right now, only have one sponsored link, LFFR Bedding.

Ferret Freedom Day History

Bill Williamson, one of MaFF's founding members with a big part in the ferret legalization story, gave a presentation on the history of ferret legalization in Massachusetts. You can read the final regulation at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/131-77.htm> The story behind it represents years of true effort. Bill explains to anyone who is going to volunteer in regulatory matters that it's important to know who the decision makers are. Understand that it doesn't take many people to derail something. Maintain a consistent message, and keep cool even though there may be strong opinions on the opposing side. You'd be surprised at how much you can influence things and make a difference!

President's Report

I would like to open by thanking Mark and Jody for once again hosting our 1st General Meeting, Ferret Freedom Day Celebration and election of two new board members – President and Clerk.

The year 2009 had its challenges for everyone – financially, emotionally and physically. In spite of what some may have seemed as setbacks, you (the MaFF members) have risen to the challenge and accomplished some great things this past year.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for all they contributed this past year. Each of you have always been there when the need arose and brought some great suggestions to the meeting.

(Continued...)

Our Shelter Director did an outstanding job of taking in, caring for and placing many ferrets this year. She also had some very tough losses and was asked to help several shelter kids to the Bridge. I would like to remind everyone that Diddy will be taking some time off from her shelter duties while she recovers from surgery next month. I would ask that we all keep Diddy in our thoughts for a speedy recovery. I know that she will be anxious to get back to cleaning those litter pans. During the time that Diddy will be home taking it easy, Joanne will be handling the shelter calls, etc.

And this brings me to my next announcement. Joanne will now be handling the HotLine calls on a permanent basis. We had the HotLine transferred to Joanne a couple of months ago and she has done a great job of taking calls and channeling them to the proper people.

We also have a new addition to our team of volunteers. John and Anna Marie will be our new Hospitality Directors. They will be sending out cards of condolences when we hear of someone losing a ferret as well as cards of congratulations to new adopting ferrets. I would like to thank them both for accepting this position and know they will do an extraordinary job.

I would like to thank Cheryl and Casey for the great job they are doing in coordinating our Adoption/Education Days at various PETCO stores. They made sure we always had a poster, literature and donation jar at each event.

Finally I would like to thank each member for supporting us with your membership contribution and volunteer hours. Without your support and time, we would not have accomplished as much as we did in 2009.

At this time, I would like to remind everyone that we have a busy year coming up and we will continue to need volunteers for many of the events we will be participating in, as well as any other projects we decide to work on this year. There is still much to do to ensure our ferrets well being and we need to make certain that we work towards these goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis M. Spy
President

2010 Ferret Appreciation Award

Recipient: Mark Rosenstein (MaFF webmaster) and Jody Renouf (MaFF Clerk)