



## County Horse Conference

September 24, 2009

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions – Jan Shabro

Pierce County Auditor Jan Shabro brought the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Jan welcomed attendees, introduced staff, and explained that this meeting is being held at the request of the Equine Advisory Committee. Jan had met with the Committee earlier this year. While the Committee was disbanded, as it has served its purpose, members requested that Jan hold this meeting for the purpose of providing an update on equine activities since the last meeting and to ask if an annual meeting is desired. "This meeting is to update you".

#### 2. Our Progress Report – Tim Anderson

Officer Tim Anderson, the Animal Control Supervisor for Pierce County, gave a progress report.

- Pierce County now has entities in place for emergency equine shelter/care.
- We now have our own horse trailer which was purchased new through equipment savings.
- Tim briefly reviewed horse cruelty cases charged in 2009.
  - Two people were charged with first degree animal cruelty involving a deceased horse and two living horses.
  - A person charged with second degree cruelty involving two horses.

- A recent case referred for second degree charges to the prosecutor involving one horse.

### 3. Large animals/other livestock – Tim Anderson (includes video)

Tim narrated a slide presentation compiled of pictures from various equine calls the County has been involved in.

### 4. Equine Investigation Academy – Jody Page

Jody Page, an Animal Control Officer for Pierce County, having just returned from Equine Cruelty Investigation training, gave a report on her experience. She said the class was incredible, very intense and demanding. It was on a Dude Ranch so you were with the horses 24/7. Daily tests were given requiring at least 80% passage. There was a lot of discussion on nutrition. There was even a necropsy. Nutrition was Jody passed around a book from the class entitled “Hands on Horses” for review. Jody said it’s the best equine resource she has ever seen.

Tim explained that the Auditor’s Office has established the following as required training for all Animal Control Officers.

- 80 hours Animal Control Academy
- 225 hours Reserve Police Academy
- 120 hours Animal Cruelty Investigation
- 96 hours Equine Cruelty Investigation

The materials from the Animal Cruelty Investigation training, recently attended by another Animal Control Officer was passed around for review.

### 5. Transition to the future – Jan Shabro and Tim Anderson

Jan summarized that we have the contracts in place for emergency shelter and services. We are very glad we have a trailer. As always, Pierce County welcomes partners and volunteers. However, we are very glad that we have more of our own resources.

Tim shared that most jurisdictions have staff coverage Monday through Friday; we have staff 7 days/week. However, we only have 5 officers for all of unincorporated Pierce County. Jan clarified that this is less than is needed but with budget cuts this is all we are able to fund at this time.

Tim briefly discussed Seraphina's Law which was passed this year by the Washington State Legislature. Jan said the effective date would have been July 26, 2009. Seraphina's law prohibits people convicted of a felony for animal cruelty or who has repeated second degree convictions from owning animals.

## 6. Ripley's Horse Aid Foundation – Rose Corey

Rose Corey, the Foundation's contact for Pierce County, gave a presentation on Ripley's Horse Aid Foundation.

Ripley's Horse Aid Foundation is a 501(C) (3) charity that focuses on neglect prevention for equines, by promoting owner responsibility and is used in conjunction with Animal Control Officers to address neglect in its early stages. Ripley's is not a rescue. By implementing innovation programs it provides short term assistance to horses in need, and education to owners.

### **Goals:**

- 1) To find and implement programs that assist Animal Control Agencies and help owners understand the care and responsibility needed for the well being of their equines.
- 2) To develop and distribute educational information on the necessary health care needed for equines through the booklet "Cause and Effect".
- 3) To have neglect prevention programs that do not cause financial drains on the tax-payer or rescue/rehabilitation facilities.
- 4) To be able to assist equine rescuers through public awareness and as an emergency resource for feed.
- 5) To find and implement programs that reduces pain and suffering effecting equines in our communities.

It is our hope that through public education, public awareness, and fund raising efforts an equine once rescued from harm will not be in harm's way again.

**Services available:** euthanasia, carcass removal, dental float, castration, hoof trim, hay and grain.

Rose also shared other comments including that the Foundation is looking for people to network with to find foster homes for these horses. Animal Control Officers are the only ones that can issue feed vouchers. The main fund raiser for the Foundation is the sale of a book entitled "Cause and Effect" which was authored by the Ripley's founder. 100% of the book sales proceeds go to the Foundation. Rose passed the book around for review. An example of a site visit from a Ripley's Foundation on-site services provider was given. Typically instruction on properly using a weight tape is given, which is then left with the owner as a gift, nutrition and care is discussed and related information is provided.

## 7. Will another meeting be needed in the future?

Jan requested feedback as to whether the attendees wanted to have future meetings, asking them to respond on the survey that was provided with the agenda.

## 8. Questions & Answers

The following summarizes the discussion from the Question & Answers portion of agenda.

- How was the Horse Conference publicized? Approximately 250 notifications were sent out to all, one to all the attendees from last years' Horse Summits, as well as information put on our website ([www.piercecountywa.org/auditor](http://www.piercecountywa.org/auditor)) and by word of mouth. It was suggested that next time the county consider using the Parks Department reader board.
- Who do we contact if we want to volunteer? Contact Tim for the Auditor's Office. Contact Rose for Ripley's Foundation.
- If we volunteer, how long would we have the animals in foster care? The County takes possession of seized animals after 15 days from the date of seizure unless a petition to the court is filed, then it could be a while. There is a difference between fostering and holding for evidence. The County is not in the adoption business. Ripley's has a foster program partner.
- Have horse clubs in Pierce County been contacted? No, please send us contact information.

- A request was made about how to obtain the costs to prosecute cases. That is a public request can be made to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for whatever costs they may capture at a case level.
- Suggestion for Rose and Ripley's Foundation was to have a big garage sale of equipment as a fund raiser.
- Pierce County responds to about 5,000 calls per year (all types).
- There was a question raised about the emergency shelter/care contracts if they will be done annually. The current contracts are multi-year with an annual review component. It was suggested that the County develop a special foster contract process, as the emergency shelter/care contract process was intimidating and difficult to participate in. Jan said this is a topic for another meeting.
- How are we set up for a real emergency? Pierce County has a disaster level response developed and plans are in place. This effort is the responsibility of the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and includes a Pierce County Animal Response Team, of which the Auditor's Office Animal Control Officers are a part.
- Where do we get shelter requirements? Just call Tim.

The meeting was adjourned 8:30 p.m.

## 2009 County Horse Conference

	Rate 1-5 (with 5 best)	Comments:
Location/Facility:	1   2   3   4   5	Results from survey 1-#3 4-#4's 9-#5's
Day/Time:	1   2   3   4   5	Results from survey 1-#2 1-#3 3-#4's 10-#5's
Value to you:	1   2   3   4   5	Results from survey 1-#2 1-#3 4-#4's 9-#5's
Are you likely to participate in a future conference or event?	1   2   3   4   5	Results from survey 2-#4's 13-#5's
Other comments:	1   2   3   4   5	See attached list for additional comments



Presented by Jan Shabro Pierce County Auditor

## 2009 County Horse Conference Survey Comments

- How can we keep informed of what's happening and what is needed?
- More email communication please. Possibly a monthly news letter or a wish list?
- Very good and helpful to hear about progress.
- Need more flyers and possibly a facebook page. Need more publicity.
- Information was positive but you need a larger network. Try presentations to 4H, Back Country Horsemen, WA State Horsemen, and Meridian Riding Club etc.
- Thank you for helping those in need.
- Need a presentation in public schools for prevention.
- Several comments stating poor scheduling due to The Fair.
- Should notify Equine Vets, Tack Stores and Breed Associations in the county etc.
- "Oh, that's a Fort Lewis Issue" comment was not helpful; it didn't convey empathy and did not give a resource.
- Not interested in seeing photos of neglected animals, just what to do if we see them in the county.
- Possibly hold next meeting in a more central location.
- Great Attitude!
- Great time to hold meeting, gives enough time to care for animals and still attend.
- Very valuable to know what's going on in the County.
- An Equine Fair with useful resources would be a great service in the future. A horse summit annually would be great at Frontier Park.
- 2 meetings a year?
- Animal Control is much better! Nice Job!
- Several comments on the great location.
- Another meeting in the spring possibly April?
- "I was impressed with Officer Jody and her work with getting a charge of 1<sup>st</sup> degree animal cruelty. Let's pray that there is a conviction of 1<sup>st</sup> degree. A message needs to be sent to others who neglect & abuse equines or any other animal for that matter."

# Animal Control Officer

## Equine Cruelty Investigation Training

