

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**REMOTE ONLY**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday September 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Richard Arnold, Chairperson, Kim Netter, Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health, Maureen Foley, Clerk and Deanna Earle, Health Officer

In attendance Richard William, Miriam Hoffman

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order 7:03 pm

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**Minutes**

Minutes were approved for August 21, 2024, August 28, 2024

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

**Public Comment**

No Public Comments

**Approval of permit applications for:**

Jana Care – 313 Pleasant Street 3W

Richard William, Chief Scientific Officer gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Jana is requesting a permit because they use human blood for testing. Mr. Arnold inquired where the human blood is acquired from. Dr. Amirtharaj asked what diseases are Jana testing for? Ms. Netter questioned the storage and transportation of the blood samples.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to recommend approval permit to approve Jana.

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (3,0)

Roll Call

**Vote on determination or restrictions of the dog.**

Name of dog is Kafka, Dark Brindle Pitbull Mix, 101 Morse Street #306

Ms. Myers stated the hearing is closed. Ms. Myers read the veterinarian report from Lily's care.

Ms. Netter asked if there is additional information from the ACO?

Additional discussion:

Mr. Arnold stated Kafka has a history of being reactive and the incident in the elevator is concerning. Any chance encounter with another dog is dangerous. Kafka's owner relies on dog walkers due to her work hours. Kafka needs restrictions once he is out of the apartment. Mr. Arnold stated the dog needs to be leashed and muzzled. Ms. Netter agrees with Mr. Arnold.

Ms. Netter asked the dog owner, Miriam Hoffman how the muzzle training is progressing. Ms. Hoffman stated it has been 7-8 weeks and we are getting used to the muzzle.

Ms. Myers stated she and the ACO think the short leash (6') and muzzle is appropriate when outside of the owner's exclusive space. Ms. Netter states she requests the minimum threshold to keep other dogs safe.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to designate Kafka as a dangerous dog with the following restrictions: The use of a short leash (6') and muzzle when outside of the owner's exclusive space.

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (3,0)

Roll Call

### **Department Update**

1. Introduced our new Health Officer, Deanna Earle. Ms. Earle gave a brief statement about her work history.
2. The mosquitos tested by the state have detected West Nile Virus. This is considered a high-risk level.
3. Health has received the last shipment of flu vaccines.
4. State supplied a small amount of COVID test kits and we are ordering 500 additional tests
5. Health offers CPR classes.
6. Health is working with community engagement to offer translation in different languages.
7. We have a table at Faire on the Square for Saturday. We will be interacting with the residents.
8. I am getting quotes to put sunscreen at the parks with a dispenser, protective infant blankets and bracelets that let you know to reapply sunscreen.
9. EEE is high this year but not in Watertown.

### **Next Meeting**

October 16, 2024

### **Adjourn:**

Adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (3,0)

Roll Call