



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

November 15, 2018

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Forsyth County Animal Control Department
5570 Sturmer Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Bill Cowan, Chair
Priscilla Ivester, Vice-Chair
Janice Freeman
Tara Stebbins
Mitch Cromer
Terry Jessup
Amy Pugh, DVM
Cristina Griffin
P.J. Lofland

Members Present

Tara Stebbins	P.J. Lofland
Priscilla Ivester	Janice Freeman
Bill Cowan	Terry Jessup
Mitch Cromer	

Staff Present

David Morris
Scott Bird
Tonya Ward

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Bill Cowan
- *Approval of meeting minutes September 20, 2018*
MOTION: Priscilla Ivester made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mitch Cromer and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment

OLD BUSINESS

- *Discussion of Pet Limits*
Lt. Morris asked if Board members had considered the discussion begun at the last meeting, if there were any thoughts on the matter of pet limits or any suggestions for a compromise. Bill Cowan stated he had strong opinions on this matter and felt there should not be limits but the current ordinance could be modified to address hoarding situations where the owner could have possible mental health issues and could put themselves in danger due to caring for too many pets. He stated there are already laws that could be enforced and does not feel another law would help. He would like to work towards a solution. Priscilla Ivester stated that limits will not cure hoarding, she added that many times the animals are not in good health which is already covered by current laws. Lt. Morris reminded the Board that other agencies cannot always help due to current restrictions/laws. He asked the Board to consider if there was a way to exclude some people while helping those who need assistance. Tara Stebbins asked if there was a way to set a number that would trigger a call for an investigation, that way the department could look into licensing, vaccinations, etc. Priscilla Ivester was concerned that could affect animal rescue groups that do not

currently have 501c3 status. There was a discussion of the recent Chriscoe case and whether limits would've helped in that situation. Board members discussed privacy concerns as well as any new ordinance being used in neighbor disputes/grudges. PJ Lofland pointed out that there are already laws which cover many of the issues. Priscilla Ivester stated that she thinks it is unfair to target people using numbers alone. Lt. Morris mentioned that there are state laws which address rabies vaccines as well as county ordinances which allow law enforcement to investigate and get information. He also stated that civil citations can be issued in cases of animals not being vaccinated. Lt. Morris advised the Board that nothing has to be decided immediately and this discussion can be continued. He asked all members to keep thinking about solutions and options.

- ***NC Debt Set Off***

Shelter Manager Scott Bird stated the Debt Set Off program is still going well. FCAS has collected over \$2,300 to date and we expect to receive more once tax refunds are processed at the beginning of next year. FCAS feels word is spreading the community that citations need to be taken seriously.

- ***Rabies Clinics***

Two more clinics were held to finish out the year. The clinic on Saturday, September 29th was very successful with 148 vaccinations given and 89 spay/neuter vouchers issued. The clinic on Monday, October 22 was not as busy but we were still able to vaccinate 48 animals to assist the community. This is the first time a Monday clinic has been held and staff will be evaluating this event to see if clinics should be limited to Saturday rather than a weekday.

- ***Outdoor dog runs***

Keith Murphy of Unchain Winston spoke briefly about the new dog runs outside the facility. This was collaboration involving FCAS/Forsyth County, FHS, and Unchain Winston. The runs meet all state specifications. An unveiling ceremony was attended by several County Commissioners.

- ***Cat help team***

Priscilla Ivester wanted to let the Board know that this issue remains unresolved. She would like to continue to hold the program at this facility but would be glad to move it to the FHS Country Club location if that is needed. She said she had not spoken to Sarah Williamson regarding the matter, Lt. Morris said he would bring it up again. Priscilla Ivester said she would like to have the issue resolved soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and panel participants for the Tribunal Hearings in November and December 2018 was discussed. Staff stated that, despite adding a November date, there are still a large amount of pending appeals and asked if an additional date could be added in January 2019. January 31st was suggested. Priscilla Ivester, PJ Lofland, and Bill Cowan said they were available on that date. Tara Stebbins said she would be available as alternate. It will be added to the appeal calendar.

- ***Monthly Report***

Lt. Morris presented the department monthly statistical report for October 2018. Response time on all calls continues to go well. The number of citations issued is down slightly due to the department currently being short officers. The Patrol division is conducting enhanced patrols regularly where they hold their weekly meeting in the field then patrol a targeted problem area of the county. Lt. Morris pointed out the new categories on the statistical report which will allow tracking of transfers to FHS and follow ups for officers to give a better picture of their workload. Priscilla Ivester asked about adoptions and Lt. Morris said those statistics are kept by FHS and FCAS does not have that information. Priscilla asked if Sarah Williamson could attend the January Board meeting to update the Board on how the partnership is going. She said she would like more information on where the animals are being transferred to as well as how many animals

are being adopted locally. Lt. Morris said he would speak with Sarah Williamson and ask if she could attend.

- ***Additional items***

Priscilla Ivester said before the meeting ended she wished to commend Lt. Morris for the great job he has been doing since becoming director of FCAS. The Board agreed and thanked Lt. Morris for his hard work. Lt. Morris said he wished to thank the Board as well. He also said he wished to thank staff members Scott Bird and Tonya Ward for their hard work over the last year during the transitional period.

Tara Stebbins then said she had another item as well, she wished to ask about the “task force” started by Commissioner Kaplan that has begun meeting to discuss animal welfare within the county. Lt. Morris stated this had begun some months back but it has grown to include more members. Janice Freeman stated that she has been asked to be involved. Janice said it was not a closed group and that she would keep the Board informed of the topics being discussed.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business, Bill Cowan asked for a motion to adjourn. PJ Lofland made the motion, which was seconded by Terry Jessup. Bill Cowan adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.