



## **Forsyth County**

### **Animal Control Advisory Board**

#### **Meeting Minutes March 15, 2007**

Jack Sprinkle  
Mitch Cromer  
Dr. Tim Strickland  
Whitney Lamb  
Jennifer Tierney  
Thurman Dillon  
Julie Magness  
Jerry Canady  
Sandy Mayberry  
Larry Bunn  
D. Ritchie Brooks

#### **Members Present:**

Jack Sprinkle  
Mitch Cromer  
Jennifer Tierney  
Thurman Dillon  
Julie Magness

#### **Staff Present:**

Tim Jennings  
Judy Blevins  
Kelly Nash  
Matt Smith

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Larry Bunn at 6:02 P.M.

Members not in attendance were Jerry Canady, Whitney Lamb and Ritchie Brooks.

#### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Jennifer Tierney, seconded by Mitch Cromer to accept minutes of February 15, 2007. The minutes were approved as written.

#### **Public Comment/Presentation**

Susan Kern advised board members of the problem she is having with a neighbor in regard to them properly caring for their dog.

#### **Guest Presentation**

Forgotten Felines of Forsyth made presentation to board about the feral cat population in Forsyth County. Currently they have over 400 colonies, average of five calls a week reporting new colonies and approximately thirteen cats at each location. This group believes that the answer to this problem is to trap, neuter and release.

Staff provided handouts for the board addressing community perceptions of cat issues, feral cat TNR programs. Tim Jennings and Matt Smith discussed the impact of cats upon the department and its resources. It is difficult to track complaints about cats as the calls are generally phrased as inquiry (what can be done about stray cats?) and not complaints assigned to an officer. People are directed to the humane trap program for assistance with these problems. In 2006 there were approximately 1563 traps loan activities. In 2006, cats made up 3432 or 41% percent of the shelter population and expense, with a minimal rate of redemption by owners. Only 25, or less than 1%, were redeemed last year.

#### **Old Business**

- *Mock Hearing*

The appeal subcommittee held a mock hearing on March 1, 2007, first official Appeal Hearing will be held on March 22, 2007 at 1:30 PM.

- *FCAC Code Revision Recommendations:*

There was further discussion regarding the stray hold period, which the county ordinance requires that the animal be held for 120 hours, whereas the state statute requires 72 hours. Staff has

proposed amending the minimum hold of the unidentifiable strays for 72 hours and hold legally obtained pets for 120 hours. It was emphasized that this is not a deadline for euthanasia. Matt Smith reported that as with past months, today over 30% of the shelter population is over the 120 day hold period. The proposal is intended to enhance the benefits of licensing and provide additional discretion for shelter management with adoptable animals. Jennifer Tierney motioned to move forward with the 72 hour hold period versus 120 hour hold, second by Julie Magness. Tim Jennings recommended utilizing the June meeting for outreach with the community to get public feedback concerning this issue, then report back to the commissioners with the outcome. It was agreed this would be the primary agenda item.

- *Statistics*

There was discussion of the 2006 year end statistics. Tim Jennings reported the department stats reflect the different program emphasis each year by management. In 2004 the emphasis was upon the Custody & Care division and adoptions increased 90% and have remained at that level over 3 years. The 2005 focus was upon the Patrol division and the 200% increase of citation and investigation activity reflects the changes. Licensing was a focus for 2006 and transactions are up 24% over 2005. There has been an increase in overall licensing of 32% and the spay/neuter rate of has increased since inception three years ago. The altered dog rate has changed 75% to 82% and altered cats 94% to 97%.

## **New Business**

- *Draft Performance Measures*

Tim Jennings requested feedback from the board regarding the proposed additional performance measures. These are separate from those currently tracked and identified within the budget process. These would be utilized in the annual and five-year plans as additional support for recommendations.

- *Budget Development*

Tim Jennings reported Animal Control is requesting three shelter attendants and one Animal Control Officer in compliance NACA and HSUS standards. A proposal also has been submitted as an alternative budget request outsourcing animal licensing. This was submitted as an alternative to some of the additional staff positions. Outsourcing would allow for some current FTE positions devoted to license processing to be reassigned to the Custody & Care division.

- *Annual Report*

A draft annual report was presented. Staff requested the board review and send suggested amendments to staff.

There was discussion regarding the work plan schedule. The by-laws call for 6 advisory board meetings each year. The board has been meeting monthly during the initial year. There was discussion of the increasing workload upon department staff and the time requirements researching and supporting monthly meeting issues. The appeal hearing subcommittee members are now conducting hearings and they will face a commitment of 2 meetings per month. Mitch Cromer made a motion to have public meeting every other month, second by Julie Magness. Vote was passed by the board members present. Appeal hearings are to be held in the off month. Larry Bunn acknowledge the time, effort and resources given by Animal Control to this Advisory Board, Julie Magness added that she appreciated all information provided.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be April 19, 2007, 6pm.