



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2009

Lori Sears,, Chair
Julie Magness Vice-Chair
Joe Redman
Mitch Cromer
Dr. Tim Strickland
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Jerry Canady
Sandy Mayberry
D. Ritchie Brooks
Charles Cahill

Members Present:

Julie Magness
Lori Sears
Thurman Dillon
Joe Redman
Charles Cahill
Jerry Canady
Dr Tim Strickland
Sandy Mayberry

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Liz Jacobson
Kelly Nash
Matt Smith
John Day

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Sears at 18:01 P.M.

- *Minutes.*

A motion was made by Lori Sears to approve the December 11, 2008 minutes and seconded by Julie Magness. Minutes were approved. Lori Sears made a motion to approve the February 19, 2009 minutes with minor changes. Dr Strickland seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

- *2009 Work Plan - Code proposals – NC Legislative Bills*

Tim Jennings reviewed code changes requested by the advisory board and the input of animal control staff concerning anti-tethering and numbers of animals (i.e.: breeder permits, hobby permits. Much of this is being discussed at the state level and will be on the work plan once the state has made a decision on these issues. Tim Jennings mentioned other issues at a state level that have changed recently such as certification of euthanasia technicians and trainers as well as the long debated issue of gas-chamber versus injection euthanasia. Tim Jennings explained to board members that this would have no monetary affect to the department budget however it will require time for each staff member currently certified to be re-certified. The state's goal for certification of technicians is August of 2009.

Tim Jennings reported on the continued local tracking of dog bites by dogs where tethering is the method of confinement. He explained that of the bite cases from January-February 2009 there were nine (9) in which tethering was the primary means of confinement. He stated this number constitutes only 15% of all bite cases and is consistent with previous findings.

Tim Jennings summarized the suggestions to add to the code that were presented in the February 2009 meeting. These included: mandatory found animal reporting, a scoop requirement and the ability to have licensing agents i.e.: veterinarian's office with an up to \$1.50 fee.

Tim Jennings also discussed the possibility for a spay/neuter program using up front funding from the county that may qualify for reimbursement from the state for services provided. The advisory board could be responsible to decide how this funding would be spent and Tim offered up several options. Tim suggested this type of program could be viewed also be a great way to get more community organizations focused on spay/neuter programs.

Tim Jennings made brief mention of a suggestion to delete the FCC 6-9 public nuisance ordinance as it is an old code predating the 6-18 Preventive Measures and 6-59 Dangerous Dogs adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2008. Staff also suggested allowing for written appeals in cases where the facts are not being contested, but there is a request for leniency, may be a good way to expedite the appeal process. A motion was made by Lori Sears to have Tim Jennings present this change, in writing, for the board and county attorney to review. Julie Magness seconded this motion.

The last item discussed on the draft work plan was a suggestion to create a mandatory found animal reporting ordinance. It was suggested that the reporting be within twenty four hours of acquiring the animal. Lori Sears made a motion to adopt the work plan with changes discussed. Julie Magness seconded the motion.

- *Draft Annual Report*

Tim Jennings briefly went over the draft of the annual report. With no pending issues at this time and addressing the changes recommended by the board we will move forward with presenting the report to the county commissioners.

In an overview of the statistics presented in the annual report, Tim Jennings agreed to bring the list of priorities in regards to the order in which calls are responded to. With being short staffed there are fluctuations in performance measures and time response. Julie Magness made a motion to add to the report the recommendation the county commissioners consider future creation of a spay/neuter program and support the Human Euthanasia in Shelters Act. Lori Sears seconded the motion and the motion passed with no opposed.

- *Hearing Tribunal: May21,2009 Schedule
Hearing Recommendations*

The next hearing tribunal has a full schedule of 8 appellants. Some of the cases have been pending appeal since November of 2008. Tim noted that this hearing tribunal will have the first appeal of a dangerous dog determination, as well as the first presentation by staff on those determinations. Tim summarized the county attorney recommendation for the hearing process that advisory board members read the staff reports ahead of time, and to have questions or issues noted before the date of the hearing tribunal. The purpose of hearing tribunal is not to debate someone's opinion, but to evaluate the facts leading to the citation.

Mitch Cromer, Lori Sears, Charles Cahill and Jerry Canady have volunteered to be at the next hearing tribunal, to be held at 6:00 PM on May 21, 2009.

There was some discussion in regards to length of term for advisory board members. Tim advised that new appointments will be placed on the agenda for the commissioners on June 22, 2009. There will be one hearing tribunal and one advisory board meeting before that date. A question was raised regarding continued membership if no new member is appointed to a position. Tim advised that it is his recollection that a person can serve on the advisory board until someone is appointed to replace them. It was mentioned that sometimes it can be difficult to fill the voluntary boards in the event of no applicants and previous members no longer wishing to serve.

Statistical Report

- *YTD March 2009*

Matt Smith reviewed the statistics with advisory board members. He reported on how the seventy-two hour stray wait hold has had an impact on the shelter. While intake has been up, the euthanasia rate is down and more adoptable animals are made available which reduces the time and space variable. Matt then gave an overview of the abbreviations used to describe various reasons for euthanasia. Tim then added that the adoption rate is holding steady at 19%, with dogs up 6% and cats down by 12%. Redemption rates are also up approximately 8% with the general euthanasia rate showing a decrease of 10%. Tim discussed other possible statistics that could have reports generated at the request of advisory board members.

Old Business

- *Rabies Clinic*

Charles Cahill told the advisory board that at this time it seems like there will plenty of volunteers for the rabies clinic to be held on April 25, 2009. Members of the board were advised to leave at 2:30-2:45 if they were volunteering and wished to have their own animals vaccinated at the event.

Adjourn

Lori Sears motioned to adjourn the meeting, Doctor Strickland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM. The next meeting will be held June 19, 2009.