



**Forsyth County**  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 21, 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:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Tim Jennings  
Kelly Nash  
Judy Blevins

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sandy Mayberry at 6:12 P.M.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Sandy Mayberry and seconded by Jerry Canady to accept minutes of April 19, 2007. The minutes were approved as written.

**Outreach Summary**

Tim Jennings provided a background summary on the code amendments recommended in the Advisory Board's Annual Report. This meeting is part of the process of soliciting public opinion before formally presenting the proposals to the Commissioners. The Advisory Board is seeking public input on these proposals to assist with managing population within the shelter. The actions Animal Control has utilized to garner public comment include PSA's, a dedicated telephone number and voice mail box, newspaper advertising, email comment via the department webpage, and TV and radio interviews. Tim discussed statistics relevant to redemption time lines, healthy euthanasia and explained how the time line of the 120 hold period is used as a period before evaluation for the adoption program, not as often characterized, a deadline for euthanasia. The department is looking for help for the pets that qualify for adoption. There are situations when a bite occurs that is non aggressive in nature. One proposal is for language allowing discretion in these instances so these situations may be better managed. The department intent is not to euthanize pets, rather it is seeking the ability to manage serious behavior and health issues of pets that come to our facility. Feral animal determination are handled through a process often ranging over a 24 hour period.

**Public Comment**

Sandy Mayberry stated to the audience each public comment will have 1 to 5 minutes and if there are any questions please give them to staff member Kelly Nash. Tim talked of the responses Animal Control has received thus far- 3 emails and several phone messages.

There were 2 guests to present comments- Teresa Driver (Director 4 Paws Pet Foundation) and Barbara Hutcherson.

Teresa Driver has concerns for changes number 1 and 3. She feels the shortened time of holding a illegally maintained pet penalizes the pet more than the owner. Further stated she believes many people still are not aware of licensing and suggested a flyer insert to be put in local utility bills. Teresa asked if there were records kept on euthanized pets and could she fine out that information. Referring to the issue of feral cats she had several questions. What is the definition of feral? What is the test and criteria used by shelter staff? What is Animal Control's position of the feral cat issue? What happens to notched ear cats? Would we consider contacting a colony owner? Can a rescue group redeem a feral cat if it belongs to a colony? Teresa also stated if the public has more affordable options more would be spayed and neutered. She would like to see a proactive approach to reduce cat population. Asked would we consider grants to supply the surgical suite? Teresa has stated she will provide us with a copy of her statement and questions at a later date.

Barbara Hutercherson asked for clarification of department guidelines. Tim Jennings explained the department does not have specific time periods, or deadlines, an animal stays in the adoption program. Guidelines are base upon time and space demands for those adoption area, outside resources such as the Community Care Program, and interest shown in an animal over time. The goal is not to look for reasons to euthanize but to make every effort give them a chance. Jennifer Tierney spoke up referring to herself as a animal welfare person and working with the coalition. She referenced the study done by Tom Brown a few years ago showing holding for 5 days did not increase the redemptions and that changing to 3 days would save more animals. Over 40% stay longer than the current 120 hour hold time right now. Jennifer also believes we need to do more to address feral cat issues.

There was general discussion and questions concerning the 72 hour hold period amendment change request between board members, members of the public and staff. Tim referred again that we do not look to euthanize pets if an animal appears to be someone's pet we as a general rule hold them over the 120 hours. He referred to the analysis presented at prior meetings that on average 30 to 40% of the stray animals are still at the shelter longer that 5 days, waiting for evaluation for the adoption program. Also by policy we extend this to pets that are identifiable by rabies tags, microchips or county licenses.

Larry Bunn cited there are currently 8 confirmed cases of rabies in Forsyth County and we need to reduce staff exposure. Feral cats cannot be redeemed and referred to Animal Control having to send pets to the vet to be held due to limited space at the facility.

## **Old Business**

- *Budget Development*

Tim Jennings summarized the results of the County budget process. The department was not awarded any of its alternative proposals. There are no new employees, contract for outsourcing licensing, or livestock barn approved. Julie Magness feels the proposed ACO position was very important with the interaction of Animal Control with City and County Impact Programs. Referring to Operation Impact that FCAC assisted with Julie stated with out Animal Control it would not have happened. 17 animals were seized and the impact on that community she feels was huge.

Tim Jennings stated Operation Impact is a program of the City Of Winston Salem's Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services that advisory board member Richie Brooks is the department head. At some point Richie may be asked to brief the board on this coordinated code enforcement day with assistance from many depts. to include Public Health, Fire Dept and Police Dept. Its valuable to Animal Control to incorporate our outreach efforts into his departments plans to access lower income areas.

- *Performance Measures- strategic planning*

Tim Jennings reported on the performance measures reviewed earlier by the advisory board and the positive response received from the County Manager and Budget Office.

## **New Business**

- *Member Appointments*

Tim advised the board the new appointments for the Advisory Board 2008 will be this coming Monday at the Commissioner's Meeting. Jack Sprinkle and Whitney Lamb have not reapplied for their positions. There are 8 applications for the two vacancies. Sandy Mayberry asked about the election of Chair and Vice Chair for the up coming year.

- *Election of Chair-Vice Chair*

It is time for the annual election of officers called for in the by-laws. Staff provided a selection of procedural formats along with a sample ballot. There was general discussion amongst board members about electing of positions on the board and new members.

Motion Jerry Canady to select use of option #3 to elect Chair and Vice Chair. Seconded by Julie Magness. Two members opposed. Motion carried. Procedure will be for staff to provide chair nomination ballots listing all board members, including new appointees, before the next meeting. Members will turn in their completed ballots to staff at the start of meeting. A voting ballot shall be immediately created from the list of nominees. The election may then be conducted by written ballot at the end of the meeting.

- *YTD Statistics*

Year to date statistics were provided to members. Staff referenced to the healthy euthanasia being up and speculated with the differences is the new facility. By not moving pets around as much and not as many pets in a kennel staff feels they are viewing less negative behavior issues and are better able to inhibit the spread of disease within the facility.

- *Appeals Hearing*

Hearing Tribunal date set for July 19, 2007 . Volunteers for hearing are Mitch Cromer, Jennifer Tierney, Larry Bunn and Ritchie Brooks.

- *Lost and Found Photos*

Julie Magness has expressed concern the photos are not always on the website or they delay in their showing for up to 24 hours. Tim Jennings said he understood those updates were scheduled in the same manner as the adoptable animals, but staff will check with the EGov team who manages the website.

- *Feral Cat Issues*

There was expressed concern by Melody Hawkins and Teresa Driver with issues related to stray and feral cats. Melody has requested all information related to question asked during this forum. Tim Jennings said they will be invited to the planned TNR meeting with Forgotten Felines of Forsyth to evaluate TNR locally with the input of the feral cat conference FCAC staff has also attended.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm. The next meeting will be August 16, 2007, 6pm.