



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2008

Julie Magness, Chair
Lori Sears, 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
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Joe Redman
Ritchie Brooks
Charles Cahill
Mitch Cromer
Jerry Canady
Dr Tim Strickland

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Liz Jacobson
Kelly Nash
Matt Smith
John Day

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Magness at 6:04 P.M.

- *Minutes.*

A motion was made by Jennifer Tierney and seconded by Ritchie Brooks to approve the minutes with one amendment to change the reference of the Forsyth Humane Society to the Humane Society of the United States in as a co-sponsor of the 2007 Animal Fighting seminar for law enforcement personnel. Motion was passed with none opposed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Presentation

- *Fur-Ever Friends – Megan Shapiro presenting*

Megan Shapiro provided an extensive overview of the function and purpose of Fur-Ever Friends. Included in her presentation was a list of current projects Fur-Ever Friends has been working on, including their board that is comprised of 7-8 members, and their large volunteer base. Jerry Canady asked how the injured animal fund could be accessed. Megan Shapiro explained that it was accessed through vets or the shelter and was also listed on their website.

New Business

- *Tethering code*

Lt. Day reported that changes had been made in the way officers are documenting information in regards to bites and tethering of dogs. This information is also applicable to the 2009 survey NC Public Health authorities are planning to conduct, gathering information about tethering in regards to animal aggression. There was some continued discussion on the authority of the county to enact and carry out certain ordinances and policies pertaining to a citizen's ownership of dogs. Kelly Nash reported on the data that had been gathered from various counties across the countries as to how they had approached the tethering issue. There was some concern about resources for the community as well as an added work load for the staff of FCAC. Jennifer Tierney put forth the idea that it will even out because tethering laws could potentially cause a decrease in other violation calls such as neglect. Thurman Dillon and Mitch Cromer stated they wanted the commissioners to be

provided with information reflecting all sides of the opinions of the board pertaining to tethering. It was agreed that the county commissioners would be fully informed.

- *Spay/Neuter Intake*

Tim Jennings reported on the percentage of animals that have come into the shelter already altered in the month of September.

Cats

Altered	7%
Unaltered	74%
Unknown	39%

Dogs

Altered	6%
Unaltered	86%
Unknown	8%

The majority of the altered animals are owner surrenders. The majority of unknowns are litters. Tim Jennings suggested that this information could be tracked for future changes if the board so requests...

- *Appeal Tribunal*

Tim Jennings provided the schedule of appeals. There will be five appeals for the next Appeal Tribunal scheduled for October 16, 2008. Members to attend the hearing are Charles Cahill, Mitch Cromer, Lori Sears and Jerry Canady. Tim also stated that the staff would be working on training regarding staff reports and presentations. Lori Sykes of the County Attorney Office has been invited to observe the next tribunal to provide any recommendations regarding staff presentations and tribunal function. Jerry Canady asked about the public's opinion in regards to the appeal tribunal. Tim Jennings stated that so far there hasn't been negative feedback or additional appeals. Tim explained that since every appellant is provided with a copy of the staff report prior to the hearing, they are aware the hearing will be fact based, not a complaint forum. Lt Day stated that the officers strive for a staff report and presentation as professional as possible.

- *New Business*

Tim Jennings brought up the need for a 2009 work-plan and requested that all members of the advisory board consider other changes to the county code, or new programs that could be discussed at future meetings. Jennifer Tierney suggested changes that would make it easier for keepers of animals to follow the law, and also perhaps to make the law easier to enforce for the animal control officers to enforce. Other topics suggested were a weather permitting policy on shelter for outside pets along with reviewing the definition of a shelter.

Old Business

- *Feral Cat TNR Program*

Tim updated the board on the newly implemented programs FAIR and CANVAS. He explained how a goal of these programs will lighten the work load of staff using volunteer man power. FAIR targeting property management with history of issues with cats or ones requesting assistance with cats only, and CANVAS combines neighborhood issues related to dogs and cats with property management firms, providing contacts and focused response, if tenants are required to license their pets, not just pay a pet deposit. The Almost Home foster program utilizes veterinary practices in our community to provide foster care for pets under FCAC custody as an extension of our adoption program. Similar to private foster homes this makes space at the shelter. The Almost Home program is marketing the pets to the veterinarian's clients while continuing to showcase the pets upon the Animal Control webpage and shelter adoption information. Tim answered the boards questions in regards to how often vets would foster animals and who was covering the cost for food and shelter in these foster situations.

- *Annual Report*

Tim Jennings advised the board that the ordinance changes are on the agenda for the public meeting on Monday, September 22, 2008. He also explained a change to the Dangerous Dog code that requires the owner to identify the County as a co-insured for the liability insurance. This way the insurance company will directly notify the county if there are any changes to the liability policy covering actions of the Dangerous Dog.

- *Signage*

Tim Jennings revealed that in the first week of July FCAC received a donation of \$18,000. This donation is also on the agenda for the Monday, September 22, 2008 public meeting. The County Commissioners must approve its addition to the departments operating budget. The budget office is supporting FCAC request to allocate funds toward one of the projects the board has discussed additional signage. Some of the funds are available to match the pledged donations for fencing in areas around the shelter for the purposes of a dog walk area. There are also allocations for training and temporary help. Julie Magness expressed a concern about how this donation would show up in the budget. Tim Jennings explained that the budget office was aware that this was a one time donation and he does not expect it to be reflected in the continuation budget for next year. Julie Magness then asked what would be done should such donations be received in the future. Tim said the key area of need is staffing and if such a future donation were received he would request it go towards temporary help for data entry and licensing processing. There was some discussion as to what that temporary help entails and the cost of that outsourcing and whether or not volunteers could be used for that purpose. Tim Jennings explained that as licensing was a financial transaction, governed by statute as well as policies, this is not a project to try to rely upon volunteers to meet performance demands.

Adjourn

Lori Sears motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mitch Cromer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM. The next meeting will be held December 11th, 2008.