



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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2009**

**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  
Lori Sears  
Jennifer Tierney  
Thurman Dillon  
Joe Redman  
Charles Cahill  
Mitch Cromer  
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 Julie Magness at 17:59 P.M.

- *Minutes.*

Jennifer Tierney requested a minor change to the minutes. A motion was made by Charles Cahill and seconded by Lori Sears to approve minutes with the change requested.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**New Business**

- *2009 Work Plan*

There was some discussion in regards to the anti-tethering legislation currently being considered by the North Carolina state senate and what this would mean on any county level legislation on the same matter. There is also legislation being discussed that would work against puppy mills.

Staff reported on the current tracking of information in regards to tethering as a primary means of confinement and its affect on animal aggression and biting. Tim Jennings said there had been fourteen (14) bites over the last few months in which the primary means of confinement was tethering and upon a request from Mitch Cromer explained that this was out of approximately thirty to forty bites each month involving dogs. Tim Jennings also explained that not every bite report made it clear whether or not the primary means of confinement was tethering.

A draft of a preliminary work plan was provided to advisory board members. The first item discussed was a possible change in the code to reflect the terms of office of advisory board members and the hearing tribunal's need for sufficient members in attendance. The items discussed for Chapter 6 of the Forsyth County Code were as follows: community input of help finding animals, requirement of cleaning up after pets on walks, definition of public nuisance, definition of shelter (to include specifications such as flooring types, barrels/cardboard boxes), licensing, breeder permits/hobby registration, and a proactive spay/neuter program to include spay/neuter encouragement. Suggestions from FCAC officers were included with the preliminary 2009 work plan. There was more discussion on the possible state legislation and the issues of the definition of leashes and tethering in general. Lori Sears made a motion to have FCAC create a draft of a tethering code

that would be enforceable that the board could work through. Julie Magness seconded the motion. Motion was passed. Julie Magness thanked the staff of FCAC for all the work involved in creating the work plan. Tim Jennings said that a draft of the work plan could be provided at the next Advisory Board Meeting.

- *YTD Statistics Report*

Tim Jennings reported that intake for 2008 was up 7% and reminded the council that this number included the intake of 63 fighting cocks. The adoption rate overall was up 6% with dogs showing an increase of 11% and cats a decrease of 24%. Redemptions, revenue and transactions are still showing an increase and steady gain. Tim Jennings also reported that while we have not seen an increase of intake of animals for financial reasons, there has been a 20% increase in abandonment calls. Tim Jennings mentioned how having a mandatory found policy could help increase cat redemptions

- *Hearing Tribunal*

For the upcoming hearing tribunal there are seven (7) appellants scheduled. Jerry Canady, Lori Sears, Mitch Cromer and Richie Brooks volunteered to attend. Due to the difficulties in attendance of the tribunal hearings a motion was made by Julie Magness to change the time of the hearings from 1:30 pm to 6 pm. Charles Cahill seconded the motion and was passed.

- *Budget Calendar*

Tim Jennings explained to the board how FCAC was not asking for outsourcing of licensing or new programs. FCAC is requesting a continuation of the previous budget to include a technological alternative of wireless access and laptops for officers in the field. This would greatly reduce the number of man hours officers spend working on a call. Sandy Mayberry asked if it was going to be tied in with the police and sheriff departments' computer systems and Tim Jennings said that we would be able to access the law enforcement data base although currently that is not available. It was agreed that these improvements would greatly reduce paperwork and the overall workload of shelter staff. The county commissioners will be meeting to review a continuation of alternate service benefits.

- *Rabies Clinic*

The next rabies clinic is to be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Forsyth Humane Society is holding an event on the same day so extra help will be needed all around. Julie Magness, Lori Sears, Jerry Canady, Mitch Cromer and Ritchie Brooks all offered their services for the rabies clinic.

- *Annual Election of Officers*

The annual election of officers was conducted. Lori Sears was voted to be the new Chair of the Advisory Board with Julie Magness now the vice-chair.

## **Old Business**

- *Annual Home for the Holidays*

The Home for the Holidays event was a great success. Two hundred and sixty nine (269) pets went home for the holidays. Our focus this year was on our in-house special programs. Staff and volunteers enjoyed the holiday goodies at the volunteer appreciation banquet.

- *Signage*

As of the last meeting all construction had been halted. Due to the donation made to us in September of over \$18,000 we have been given the go ahead for two (2) signs within a \$4,000 budget. The other construction project of the fenced in dog exercise area is on hold until meeting with county management.

## **Adjourn**

Lori Sears motioned to adjourn the meeting, Charles Cahill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting will be held April 16, 2009.