



**Forsyth County Animal Control
Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2014

**Mitch Cromer, Chair
Sandra Averitt, Vice-
Chair
Bruce Bailiff
Charles Cahill
Thurman Dillon
Koy Kincaid
Marcia Potter
Tina Sanderford
Jennifer Tierney
Dr. Martha Wilson
Dr. Brad Craig**

Members Present

Thurman Dillon
Sandra Averitt
Charles Cahill
Dr. Brad Craig
Jennifer Tierney
Mitch Cromer
Martha Wilson
Tina Sanderford

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Karin Burnette
Amy Boger
Lt. John Day

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mitch Cromer at 6:00 PM

- *Adjustment-* add to the notes from previous Board meeting; that if the “false report” is reported in goodwill then it is not considered a false report.
- *Minutes* - A motion was made by Tina Sanderford to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2014 meeting with amendment to be added later, seconded by Thurman Dillon and approved by Mitch Cromer and the members present.

Public Comment

- No Public comment

Old Business

- Members must re-apply for board reappointment by June 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
- *Stay Together Program: Dog Help Team*
Sandra referred to a community member that came in with her pit bull that she adopted from the shelter and trained her how to properly have the dog out in the community. Such as walking the dog, greeting with other dogs, how to properly use the leash, and how to have the dog under control. Sandra also reported that some community members have signed up with trainers and with the Winston Dog Club. Sandra believes in the “Word of Mouth”, for the furthering of education to the community.

- *Stay Together Program: Cat Help Team*

Tim Jennings let the board know that CHT / DHT advertising cards had not been received from the print shop due to the printing of the proposed County budget, but that the shelter will have them soon. The cards will be distributed through Priscilla, Officers, and various businesses. Electronic version have been sent to Channel 13. Priscilla Ivester reported they had trained a volunteer to help the Cat Help Team educate the community.

Mitch Cromer reiterated that even if the program stops one incidence then its a success. Mr. Jennings then thanked Sandra and Priscilla for their dedication.

- *Euthanasia Statistics: Dog & Cat*

Tim Jennings presented the shelter report for 2013 and analysis of dog and cat euthanasia rates for 2013 and YTD April 2014. Tim related how he prefers to provide the reasons for euthanasia with the raw numbers as often people don't think of the health and behavioral issues the County deals with for the community. Including 3% of all euthanasia is requested by the pet owners for old and sick pets. When questions about euthanasia arise they are usually looking for the rate of healthy, adoptable animals. .FCAC rate of healthy euthanasia usually ranges form 10 to 15 %.

The rate of Kittens/Cate coming into the facility are down 18% so far this year while last year total was down also. We hope this is due to the education to the community of spay/neuter, as well as the efforts of the community's spay/neuter coalition. This all effects the inventory of adoptable animals and euthanasia numbers.

Priscilla asked if FCAC (Forsyth County Animal Control) can not euthanize for a day as part of a national event. Tim states that is not realistic, it would only put it off for another day and tends to imply euthanasia is an option at open door shelter which is not the case.

Jennifer Tierney is concerned with the number of cats and dogs that are euthanized due to health and behavior reasons, believes that this is not the best place to check for behaviors, and that this number is too high. Tim does agree that this environment does make it hard to evaluate behavior as well as we would like. FCAC uses a 4 step evaluation process. We have the 72 hour hold period, after this clears is when we actually start the evaluation of the behaviors, but staff does make notes during the 72 hour period. There is a policy pyramid; age- 3yrs vs. 8yrs old, public interest, and health is all considered as is the history. The ordinance says we cannot place them into adoptions if the have bite history or behavioral history, this information can be found in the system.

The 20 codes utilized for the reason for the euthanasia were discussed. There was general discussion of how the final determinations are made, who has the authority, and what type of training staff receive.

. He states that we have the foster program and that there are 12 current fosters placed. Over the past year about 100 animals were treated for heart worms and various other medical reasons.

Thurman Dillon inquired how does a euthanasia request work? Do we euthanize just out of request? Tim related the animal becomes county property when the surrender paperwork is signed with identification for proof of ownership. The animal doesn't automatically get euthanized just because it is requested by the owner, but the owner is interviewed as to why this request is being made. If the animal is deemed sick, is in pain, is old in age and sick, or has been injured significantly then the owner will pay the \$15 fee, sign an additional Euthanasia request form, and is given the opportunity to request for the remains to be given back to them. But if

they are just signing the animal over and it is decided that euthanasia is not needed then it may additionally be moved into foster care, or transferred to a Community Care Partner organization for care until ready for adoption.

Mitch Cromer asked about sponsorships to increase adoptions. Tim related some issues that come up with individual sponsors who feel entitled to a positive outcome. FCAC works with organizations to provide sponsorships rather than individuals. For example the March/-June Madness for cats where cats were only \$22. June is also National Adopt a Cat month and Project Pearl is sponsoring cats that are one year or older, the cats will be only \$22. Social Media plays a part in the sponsoring of the animals also. For example; there is a Maltese dog that was groomed and people now want him even though he has medical problems.

- *Dangerous Dog Breeds: Preventive Measures*

Mitch Cromer related his proposal that Preventive Measures, or at least special education information, should be provided for adoptions involving the breeds of dogs insurance companies consider to be dangerous. Mitch would like to meet with staff for some review before making a formal proposal to the board. Jennifer Tierney expressed concern over potential board member liability for their determinations. There are two different final authorities for citations and declarations with the board responsible for only recommendations on citations. Tim related the two appeal sections were added in different years and state statute exists for Dangerous Dog appeals. He believes the board is protected as a quasi government officials through the creation of the board in the County Code, but he will request a review and feedback from the County Attorney.

- *Spay Day 2014-*

Spay Day was extended past February and March into April. Over 400 vouchers were issued so far. Mr. Jennings has hope that these high numbers in Spay/Neuter vouchers is the reason our intake is lower than in the past. Approximately \$25,000 was pledged, donated, and raised through events this year.

- *Rabies Clinic*

938 vaccinations year to date. Paws Plus and one by AARF mini clinics are being held this year. FCAC will have flyer's with this information to hand out to the public and they will be advertising also. The mini rabies clinics elevate the waiting in the long lines, walking far for when the one large clinic was held at the fairgrounds. Charles explained how the fairgrounds was a waste of resources compared to the mini clinics. Rates for the rabies shots do fluctuate, going up but not by much. Charles does state that people will not be turned away for not having enough money.

New Business

- *New Employees* : 2 New Care Officer, Ben Hooker and Casey Foster.

- *Hearing Tribunals*

The next round of Hearing Tribunals will be on June 19th, 2014 . A schedule was distributed to board members. Brad will need to be replaced.

- *Statistics FYTD*
Revenue on license should be coming up. License renewals go out in the mail, even if the person doesn't receive their renewal in the mail they are still responsible for their payment. Adoption inventory is different then before, shelter intake is down and euthanasia is down also.
- *2014 Annual Report*
July 24th the Annual report will be presented to the County Commissioners at 2:00 PM. There will be a formal discussion about the report, also will heavily promote the proposal to allow former experienced tribunal members to serve on current tribunals.

Other Business

- Brad Craig states that it has been a good four years serving on the board, he has learned a lot, and FCAC does a good job with the resources that are provided.

Adjourn

- With no further business, Mitch Cromer asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Martha and was seconded by Brad Craig. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.