



## Forsyth County Animal Control Advisory Board

**May 21, 2015**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Forsyth County Animal Control Department  
5570 Sturmer Park Circle  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

**Mitch Cromer, Chair**  
**Sandra Averitt Vice Chair**  
**Sandra Clodfelter**  
**Thurman Dillon**  
**Molly Douglass, DVM**  
**Chad Griffin**  
**Koy Kincaid**  
**Robert Lakey**  
**Tina Sanderford**  
**Tracey Shifflette**  
**Jennifer Tierney**  
**Tim Jennings**

### Members Present

Sandra Averitt      Koy Kincaid  
Sandra Clodfelter      Chad Griffin  
Robert Lakey

### Staff Present

Tim Jennings  
Scott Bird  
Dawn Lamb

### **CALL TO ORDER**

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Sandra Averitt.
- *Approval of meeting minutes March 29, 2015*

MOTION: Sandra Clodfelter made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Koy Kincaid and approved unanimously by the board.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- There was no public comment.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- *Annual Report* - Tim Jennings discussed additional research in field services. Next year it will be different as more officers will be hired in June/July 2016. This will allow law enforcement to look at field service in all jurisdictions. Sheriff has volunteered to assist/take on animal cruelty cases, in unincorporated areas.

- *2015 Work-plan* - Tim Jennings discussed the Special Programs, such as the Safe Haven and Program at Wake Forest for students to work on projects for us. The Special Programs are separated in 3 sections:
  - 1) Education/Outreach
  - 2) Community Assistance
  - 3) Shelter Operations

We function as part of the community. Robert Lakey stated there were not enough people for community assistance. Sandra Averitt said she want more board members here to here the presentation on Special Programs and tabled the presentation until next meeting. Tim Jennings pointed out the handouts regarding the Community Care Program and Foster program, with summary description of how those work.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Shelter Definitions:* Tim Jennings discussed the 7 shelter definitions provided in handouts. The 7 definitions include 5 definitions that were equivalent, with additional from Virginia and Florida. The language talks about the environment.

Other jurisdictions struggle with this and how do we describe unacceptable cold weather? Common language can be used to protect animals from weather and humane conditions. How do we write that perfect code as everywhere seasons change? The weather fluctuates quickly here. Sandra Averitt mentioned the 2009 document --1st paragraph, last sentence, regarding water. Icy cold animals don't like and if frozen it needs to be fixed. Or water outside could have things growing in it. Website should mention this as weather changed.

Koy liked Cumberland County's shelter information. Tim pointed out that much what we already have in place. Koy felt too many words if we had measurements for confinement space. Many people get lost so we need to have a straightforward ordinance. It should be intended to be for educational purposes. Either guidelines or education. Guidelines confine and could result in common sense judgements.

Tim Jennings pointed out the board is being asked what is adequate space? Some concerns were brought up that regulation too specific results in push back from the community. Defining space allows authorities to act. Discussion ensued regarding are code violations automatically misdemeanors. Tim advised the violations are civil violations, that may be addressed as misdemeanors if they are severe, seriously endangering, or habitual.

Chad Griffin stated enforcers don't want to always enforce as a crime and there are not enough enforcement actions, but they are rapid in exotic animals. If current laws cannot be fully enforced, there is no reason to create new laws and it make it more complicated. There was general agreement. Chad Griffin stated he believed there are problem with all county codes. Codes are so broad/hard for officers. Koy stated judging can take place, if well kept checklist for officers and use common sense. Walking up can tell if animal is healthy, such as is the coat shining. Chad said he teaches state laws, safety, husbandry, but how can officers enforce fed law. It's easier on officers as long as it is done appropriately.

Tim pointed out the Rhode Island Bill to amend their cruelty statue. It specifically referenced use of the TACC sheet for evaluation environmental conditions along with the overall condition of dogs. This is standard operating procedure for FCAC officer in cruelty investigations. Code language reviewed included:

AVMA Companion Animal Care Guidelines - Animal Environment

Common language among the ordinances:

Adequate shelter from elements, or climatic conditions (Forsyth “protection from the extremes of weather”)

Ambient temperature compatible with the health of the animal

Sufficient shade

NYC Carriage Horse Regulations

90 degrees or 85 Wet bulb - Cease working horses & offered shade, return to stable

General discussion included:

Initial document working paper from 2009 where the Advisory Board left off on this subject.

Added timeline requiring food & water

Air temperature standards & size of structure

Flooring solid, restricting wire or slats to wide

Minimum square footage of confinement space. NC AWA formula

Specific situations NOT adequate for shelter

Protection from direct sunlight

Cross tied in open truck beds or trailers

New York Carriage Horse Regulation. 90/85 degrees minimum cease horses working will need to be in shade and returned to stable for 1 hour. An example of a clear specific guidelines for enforcement. Koy asked if these would just be guidelines? Tim stated it is very specific and enforced, but that first enforcement action appears to be a warning to take the horses off the street. Chad Griffin pointed out that U.S. Wildlife has no officers to enforce and he stated that if code language is too wordy could make officers lives harder.

There was general discussion on the importance the code as an education tool and of the need for simple succinct language that citizens could read and understand.

- *Hearing Tribunals:*

Averitt stated the next Tribunal Hearing is 5/28/15 and it will be members Koy Kincaid, Chad Griffin, and Sandra Averitt present. Tim stated hearings are scheduled up to June. Then Priscilla and Janice will join. Moving forward and very caught up. Continue to undergo 2 Tribunals every other month. Chad stated he can fill in other 2 dates as he is available. Tim stated Karin will send out email. .

- *Monthly Report:*

Tim stated increases and decreases is right where we wanted. Workload officers have to do calls, which was a drop down. Animals down 10%, spay/neutered has increased and led to fewer litters. Last year and this year puppies are down. Euthanasia - was a lot in litters because of dogs with diarrhea and kittens with weak eyes that are very sick.

Citations and Appeals decreased. Citation is the individual and violations are all the wrongful activities. Citations have gone electronically which has allowed more to go out and at a faster pace. Number of bites/exposures are down on a yearly basis. Licenses are strong and revenue is up. Spay Day may come again in the Fall. Spay Day is tied to Rabies Clinic.

Sandra Averitt agreed that is was very positive. Koy thought Running at large occurred a lot. Discussion was made on microchip being mandatory, which is currently mandatory at the shelter for all animals redeemed.

- *Dog Help Team:* Sandra Averitt brought up the Dog Help Team as she is heading one up. Nothing too small or too big to cover and spread the word of program offered once a month. Thanks to Tim for bringing this program. The dog help Team can prevent animals from getting returned to shelter. Dog Help Team is separate on Facebook.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion: With no further business, Sandra Averitt asked a motion to adjourn. Koy Kincaid made the motion, which was seconded by Sandra Clodfelter. Sandra Averitt adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm. A tour was given by Scott Bird for whoever wanted to tour the shelter.