



**Forsyth County Animal Control  
Advisory Board  
Annual Report  
2014**

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## I. Animal Control Advisory Board

The Forsyth County Animal Control Advisory Board is an eleven (11)-member board identified in Forsyth County Code Chapter 6, Sec. 6-5 Animal Control Advisory Board. The Advisory Board makes recommendations on animal control codes, policies and programs related to animals. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to identified interest categories. The advisory board conducts regular public meetings and prepares an annual report for the Board of County Commissioners. Pursuant to FCC Chapter 6, Sec. 6-5 the Advisory Board has adopted By-Laws governing the purpose, duties, operations and membership subject to the approval of the County Manager.

Advisory Board Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Department of Animal Control. The public meeting alternates monthly with the Hearing Tribunal. The public meeting acts as a forum to solicit public opinion on ordinances, services, and policy. This function also provides information on services, other than those of the Animal Control Department, available within the community. Annual reports then provide a foundation for strategic planning through the creation of a series of Five Year Plans.

## II. Advisory Board Membership & Representation

Mitch Cromer	<i>Member at Large</i>	<b>Sandra H. Averitt</b>	<i>Purebred Animals</i>
Tina Sanderford	<i>Member at Large</i>	<b>Marcia Potter</b>	<i>Non-Pet Owner</i>
Dr. Brad Craig	<i>Veterinarian</i>	<b>Koy Kincaid</b>	<i>Animals other than dog or cat</i>
Jennifer M. Tierney	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	<b>Charles Cahill</b>	<i>Public Health Department</i>
Martha D. Wilson	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	<b>Bruce Bailiff</b>	<i>City of Winston-Salem</i>
Thurman Dillon	<i>Hunting Dogs</i>	<b>Tim Jennings</b>	<i>Animal Control Director</i>

### III. Work Plan

The Advisory Board adopted a multi-tracked work plan to provide organization and focus to its meetings in addition to its mandate to act as a Hearing Tribunal. The work plan goals focused upon completing the Strategic Plan for Animal Services, called for in the Advisory Board by-laws, as well as assisting in the development of department programs establishing the foundation for implementing some of the recommended strategies of the 5 Year Plan.

- **Strategic Planning**

The Advisory Board completed a Five Year Plan for Animal Services. The strategic plan identified goals and objectives, provide historical as well as statistical background on Forsyth County while examining the demand and need for resources and department performance measures when developing it's recommended strategies.

- **Hearing Tribunal**

During the 12 month period November 2012 through October 2013 the Advisory Board Hearing Tribunal conducted one hundred seventy eight (178) hearings regarding appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations.

- **FCAC Program Development**

- **Spay Day Coalition**

- A coalition of eight (8) local organizations working cooperatively to provide access to low cost pet altering services to qualified low income households. Spay Day 2013 provided over 400 spay/neuter procedures from donated funding. It is estimated these procedures may have prevented the birth of as many as 2,000 unwanted dogs and cats.

- **Rabies Clinics**

- In addition to the annual Forsyth County Spring and Fall Rabies Clinics held at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, two (2) clinics were conducted at the Animal Shelter to expand access to the vaccination resource for lower income households.

- **Stay Together Program**

- The Stay Together Program is a free program, conducted and coordinated by volunteers. It is offered monthly to people who have adopted a dog or cat from the Forsyth County Animal Shelter, as well as the general public. The goals of this program include helping pet owners with the transition and responsibility of bringing a new pet into their home. The STP program also wishes to help owners deal with behavior issues that may lead them to consider giving up their beloved pet.

#### IV. Performance Measures - Forsyth County Animal Control Department

- **Administration Division**

##### Spay /Neuter Rate – Registered Pets

Year	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2013
Cats S/N	94%	97%	97%	98%	98%	99%
Dogs S/N	78%	87%	83%	86%	88%	89%
% Total	80%	87%	87%	90%	92%	92%

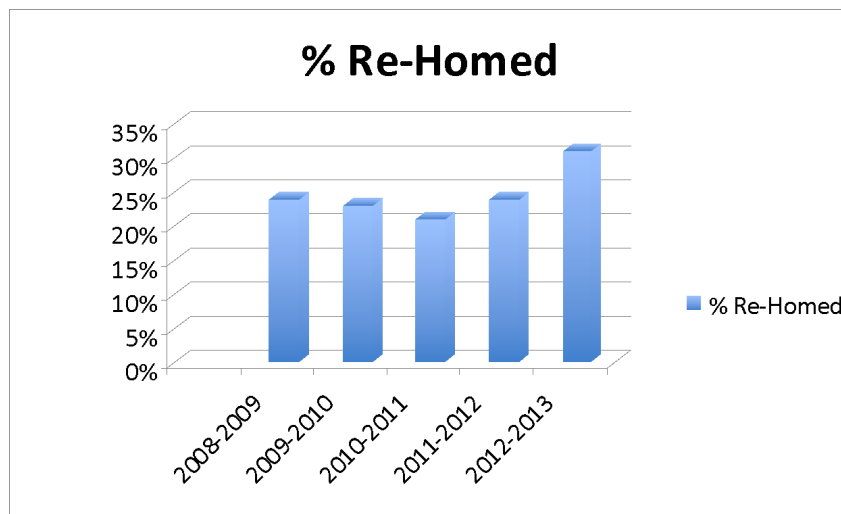
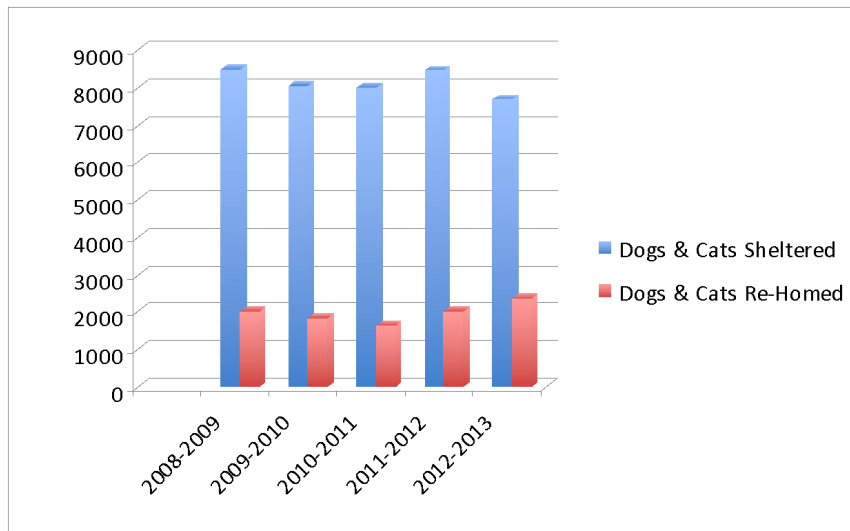
- **Patrol Division**

##### Priority Response – Time of Response

Priority Code	Examples	Response Goal	2012	2013
<b>1 Imminent Danger</b>	Attack in-progress Animal Rescue – life threatening	<b>30 minutes 1 hr EDO shift (3:00 pm – 11:00 pm on call to 8:00 am)</b>	32 min	1 hr 50 min
<b>2 Urgent</b>	Animal Bites Rabies Exposures Injury Assist Police	<b>ASAP 2 - 3 hours</b>	8 hr 50 min	8 hr 2 min
<b>3 Today</b>	Witnessed cruelty-neglect Vicious behavior Animals in traps	<b>8 – 10 hours</b>	2 days 2 hrs	17 hr 1 min
<b>4 Normal</b>	Investigative follow-up Neglect Stray animals Nuisance animals Service of Citations	<b>48 hrs</b>	6 days 18 hrs 25 min	6 days 32 min
<b>5 General</b>	Check for License Trap Route Special Program Mailed Warning letters	<b>5 – 7 days</b>	3 days 8 hrs 21 min	4 days 3 hr 26 min

- **Custody & Care Division**

Fiscal Year	Dogs & Cats Sheltered	Dogs & Cats Re-Homed	% Re-Homed *
2008-2009	8481	2012	24%
2009-2010	8051	1812	23%
2010-2011	7978	1646	21%
2011-2012	8452	2019	24%
2012-2013	7685	2359	31%



\*Re-Homing includes new adoptions, transfers to Community Care Program partner organizations, who guarantee adoptions to FCAC standards, or redemption of the pet by its owner.

## VI. Work Load Statistics - FY 2013

YTD October 2013

### Monthly Report

June 2013

#### Animal Control

Departmental	Jun 2013	Jun 2012	% Change	2012-2013 Year-to-Date	2011-2012 Year-to-Date	% Change
Calls Received	1,428	1,450	-1.5%	14,650	14,902	-1.7%
Animals Impounded	766	974	-21.4%	8,223	9,058	-9.2%
Animals Adopted	126	142	-11.3%	1,797	1,518	18.4%
Monthly Revenue	28,113	29,765	-5.6%	404,065	425,634	-5.1%
Animals Redeemed	48	67	-28.4%	588	592	-0.7%
Animals Euthanized	575	747	-23.0%	5,557	6,727	-17.4%
Citations Issued	66	77	-14.3%	904	842	7.4%
Number Violations Issued	101	117	-13.7%	1,463	1,240	18.0%
Animal Bite/Quarantine	76	79	-3.8%	778	853	-8.8%
License Transactions	2,178	2,763	-21.2%	34,541	37,425	-7.7%

### Monthly Report

December 2013

#### Animal Control

Departmental	Dec 2013	Dec 2012	% Change	2013-2014 Year-to-Date	2012-2013 Year-to-Date	% Change
Calls Received	939	1,139	-17.6%	6,686	7,693	-13.1%
Animals Impounded	545	584	-6.7%	4,176	4,550	-8.2%
Animals Adopted	139	173	-19.7%	794	905	-12.3%
Monthly Revenue	25,210	42,088	-40.1%	162,231	204,790	-20.8%
Animals Redeemed	57	71	-19.7%	297	314	-5.4%
Animals Euthanized	309	359	-13.9%	2,982	3,225	-7.5%
Citations Issued	100	59	69.5%	441	473	-6.8%
Number Violations Issued	176	95	85.3%	768	781	-1.7%
Animal Bite/Quarantine	43	53	-18.9%	462	398	16.1%
License Transactions	1,186	3,564	-66.7%	12,435	18,526	-32.9%

## **V. Recommendations**

The Animal Control Advisory Board recommends the Forsyth County Commissioners consider the following recommendations for additional program support, and amend sections to FCC Chapter 6, Animals. These proposals are viewed as enhancements to existing policy addressing functionality of the Hearing Tribunal, responsibility and accountability of pet owners, and providing for the public safety and welfare.

### **Spay Neuter Program**

In the 2015 budget designate funds to support spay/neuter assistance for low income households. FCAC has facilitated community organizations donating to an annual program for several years. Public funding to match or add to the program will provide sustainability. Forsyth County may be reimbursed for low income spay/neuter assistance by the NC Department of Agriculture Spay/Neuter Program. This recommendation is consistent with the strategy recommended in the Animal Control Advisory Board's Five Year Plan for animal services.

### **Hearing Tribunal FCC 6-57**

Amendment of code and Advisory Board by-laws to allow former, experienced, members of the Animal Control Advisory Board to serve as tribunal members for appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations.

### **Animal Transportation Fee**

A fee to be charged to pet owners who request the County come to their residence for the purpose of surrender to the County and transportation of their pets.

### **Patrol Program Support**

It is recommended consideration be given to additional staff to support the Patrol Division. The lack of timely response was consistently voiced as a public concern in the analysis of community feedback for the Five Year Plan along with the steadily increasing workload demand. Forsyth County currently has fewer officers per population than comparative jurisdictions in North Carolina.

In addition, or as an alternative, it is recommended the County provide resources to establish a volunteer program to support field services. This recommendation is consistent with the strategies identified within the Five Year Plan for Animal Services.

### **Accountability**

Fee and penalty schedules should be reviewed to establish a higher level of accountability when code violations occur involving threats to public safety and

animal negligence. Policies may include mandatory Preventive Measures upon the redemption of animals involved in these types of violations, and possibly applied to dog adoptions of high risk breeds.

**Public Education**

The need for increased public education regarding animal regulations, responsibilities, resources and general responsible pet ownership was identified as a key strategy in for the 2013 Five Year Strategic Plan for Animal Services.