



## Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

**September 20, 2018**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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

**Bill Cowan, Chair**  
**Priscilla Ivester, Vice-Chair**  
**Janice Freeman**  
**Tara Stebbins**  
**Mitch Cromer**  
**Terry Jessup**  
**Amy Pugh, DVM**  
**Cristina Griffin**  
**P.J. Lofland**

### **Members Present**

Tara Stebbins  
Priscilla Ivester  
Cristina Griffin  
Mitch Cromer

P.J. Lofland  
Amy Pugh

### **Staff Present**

David Morris  
Scott Bird  
Tonya Ward

### **CALL TO ORDER**

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Mitch Cromer
- The Board was notified that Bill Cowan, Terry Jessup, and Janice Freeman had contacted staff to state that they would not be able to attend the meeting. Additionally, Priscilla Ivester had called to say that she would be a few minutes late due to unforeseen circumstances.
- *Approval of meeting minutes July 19, 2018*  
**MOTION:** Tara Stebbins made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Amy Pugh and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- There was no public comment

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- ***Questions regarding FHS partnership/STP Cat and Dog Help programs***  
Priscilla Ivester stated she was still concerned about adoptions at the facility, she states FHS staff told her no adoptions were being conducted here. Lt. Morris stated that Sarah Williamson confirmed to him that adoptions are taking place at the facility. S. Williamson also told Lt. Morris that FHS would begin placing STP Cat Help flyers at their Country Club Road location as well as making them available with adoption information as soon as a time and location for the program were established. Priscilla Ivester stated she is unable to hold the program herself every month as she has other commitments. There was discussion regarding where the program should be held: at FCAS facility or at FHS Country Club location and

whether FHS volunteers should be recruited for involvement. Lt. Morris stated he will speak further with Sarah Williamson. Amy Pugh asked if any cat owner could come for the program or if it was limited to adopters and Priscilla Ivester replied that the program was open to all cat owners.

- ***NC Debt Set Off***

Shelter Manager Scott Bird stated the Debt Set Off program is still going well. Staff has processed half of 2017 debts and will continue to finish out 2017 before going further back into 2015. FCAS feels word is getting out into the community that these debts need to be paid.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- ***Rabies Clinics***

Two more clinics are planned for 2018. The clinic planned for Saturday, September 29th will offer one year vaccines only as FCAS has been unable to locate a volunteer veterinarian to give three year vaccines. At this clinic spay/neuter vouchers will be offered as well. FHS will again be offering microchips and Unchain Winston will be on site to provide information on dog houses and fencing. The last clinic of 2018 will be held on Monday, October 22nd. This clinic will only offer one year vaccines. No vouchers, microchips, or other services will be offered at this clinic.

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and panel participants for the Tribunal Hearings in November 2018 was discussed. Staff stated that there are still a large amount of pending appeals and asked if an additional date could be added in November. November 29th was suggested. Priscilla Ivester, PJ Lofland, and Cristina Griffin said they were available on that date. Tara Stebbins said she would be available as alternate. It will be added to the appeal calendar. Staff asked about the December 20th scheduled hearing date. Amy Pugh, Cristina Griffin, and Priscilla Ivester said they were available for that date. There is no alternate available for that date.

- ***Discussion of Pet Limits***

Lt. Morris clarified that, at this time, any discussion is intended to open communication and attempt to answer the question “Is there a way to prevent hoarding situations?” He stated that FCAS understands that all pet owners are different and have access to different resources. Priscilla Ivester stated that there are already laws in place to address specific problems and asked how adding limits would help. Lt. Morris stated that the issue was raised again within the community after the Criscoe case earlier this year. P. Ivester asked that he give more information on that case in case some members were not familiar with it. Lt. Morris said complaints had been received about the high amount of animals at the residence but investigations by the Department found that animals were not neglected. Animals were both inside and outside, in both areas feces and urine had been cleaned but there was an odor. The case was reviewed by the Assistant County Attorney and a search warrant was obtained based on the animals not being licensed. The animals were not sick or injured. Lt. Morris stated the many agencies had been contacted but, as is often the case, there is little that can be done if an individual is capable of caring for themselves. He stated the community then looks to Animal Services as the “gatekeeper” and wants answers. At a meeting after the case was completed, the issue of pet limits was brought up again. Tara Stebbins asked if there was even a way to write something that specific and P.J. Lofland stated she was not sure it was the Board’s responsibility to tell people how many animals they are allowed to own. T. Stebbins said maybe the number could be a flag which would trigger an investigation into conditions. Amy Pugh asked if it was possible to address it as a ventilation issue, since veterinarian’s offices and shelters are required to have certain ventilation, why not pet owners? Discussion on how limits would be enforced and inspected, whether owners would have to surrender animals, if limits would apply to only cats and dogs or other animals such as horses or reptiles, what about those who foster and rehabilitate wildlife? Concern was expressed by several board members over any limit on pet ownership being used as a tool in personal grudges or to harass people. Could any potential ordinance be written regarding conditions rather than limits? Priscilla Ivester pointed out that there are already laws on the books regarding conditions and stated she thinks limits would restrict individual liberties for good pet owners due to a few “bad apples”. Discussion on different

amounts of land and space which would mean specific limits wouldn't work as well as the fact that even if an area is clean there could still be a an odor. Further discussion regarding past conversations on pet limits - would there be exemptions? What constitutes a "kennel"? How much land is required? Discussion about organizations which have a large foster program such as FHS or AARF, how would that be impacted? It was stated that, in the past, the Board decided not to address limits due to the concern that it would cause more problems than solutions. Priscilla Ivester asked the Board to review two documents she provided regarding pet limits for further discussion at the next meeting. Lt. Morris also asked the Board to think about this topic, to not automatically be either for or against it but to look at both perspectives and consider whether or not there are any viable options.

- ***Monthly Report***

Lt. Morris presented the department monthly statistical report for August 2018. Response time on all calls continues to go well. License transactions are down slightly for the year and revenue is down as expected with FHS handling adoptions and redemption of animals. Lt. Morris stated he continues working towards changing the way these statistics are presented since the partnership with FHS began in January 2018. He is focused on adding information regarding the number of calls officers are responding to, especially follow up calls. FCAS has been working with retraining staff to ensure calls are all logged appropriately to reflect the numerous times officers may have to go to one location.

- ***Annual Report'***

The Annual Report for 2018 was presented to the Board for review. Topics covered included Patrol response time as well as intake numbers from 2017. It was noted that these numbers will be impacted for 2018 due to the partnership with FHS. The targeted spay/neuter program was discussed, intake at the facility has dropped 31% in the 5 years since the program was instituted. The section of Board recommendations was discussed, several Board members expressed concern over the section regarding changing definitions to sheltering requirements. They stated they would like further time to discuss that topic and asked if the wording could be changed from "establish" to "consider" as well as moving this section from "recommendations" into "work plan". The Board has concerns over changing the definition of sheltering requirements, specifically the issue of what constitutes appropriate temperature ranges. It was agreed that if this section could be moved into "work plan" and the wording changed to reflect that this topic is still being discussed, the report could be submitted to the Commissioners. P.J. Lofland made a motion to accept the Annual Report with the amended language, Tara Stebbins seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** With no further business, Priscilla Ivester asked for a motion to adjourn. Cristina Griffin made the motion, which was seconded by Tara Stebbins. Priscilla Ivester adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.