



Forsyth County Animal Control Advisory Board

July 17, 2014

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
Thurman Dillon
Molly Douglass, DVM
Chad Griffin
Koy Kincaid
Tina Sanderford
Tracey Shifflette
Jennifer Tierney
Tim Jennings

Members Present

Mitch Cromer
Sandra Averitt
Molly Douglass
Chad Griffin
Koy Kincaid
Tina Sanderford
Tracey Shifflette
Jennifer Tierney
Tim Jennings

Staff Present

Judy Blevins
Lt. John Day
Karin Burnette

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Mitch Cromer.
- *Welcome New Members* - Mitch Cromer welcomed the new members of the Advisory Board: Molly Douglass, Chad Griffin and Tracey Shifflette. The Board introduced themselves one by one. Tim Jennings remarked that we are still waiting on 2 positions to be filled: the replacement for Charles Cahill's seat and someone who does not own a dog or cat.
- *Approval of meeting minutes May 15, 2014* - Tina Sanderford made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2014 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Sandra Averitt and approved unanimously by the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- With no public comments made, Tim Jennings congratulated Jennifer Tierney on her recently awarded National Highway Safety Award. Mr. Jennings then announced that Judy Blevins, Office Manager, will be retiring after 31 years with the department on July 31.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Dangerous Dog Breeds Preventive Measures* - Tim Jennings told the board that he, Lt. Day and Mitch Cromer (with input from Martha Wilson and Brad Craig) had met to discuss the idea of requiring preventative measures (PMs) that are deemed necessary on appeals to prevent repeat offenses while waiting on appeal hearing -- specifically for the breeds recognized by insurance companies as being higher risk. Pros to providing PMs include education on responsible pet

ownership and personal protection. Cons include loss of potential adopters, the perpetuation of backyard breeders and the increase of euthanasia and appeals. The suggestions included:

- Requiring sally-port entrances for Dangerous Dog enclosures;
- Steps to reduce the time between appeal submission and hearing;
- Amend the appeals information brochure to emphasize written appeals; and
- Expedite Dangerous Dog appeal hearings.

Mr. Jennings suggested that an education brochure/handout be created that focuses on respect, perception and responsibility to be given out to all adopters and people receiving citations and Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dog Declarations. As a Work Plan Issue, he suggested input from the Board. Jennifer Tierney said that it was not fair to direct this at specific breeds -- she agrees with the issue, but feels it should be all inclusive for every adoption. Mitch Cromer Agreed. Tracey Shifflette asked if it could be part of the adoption contract. Mitch Cromer and Molly Douglass suggested that we need to force adopters to read it and make it a bit tedious so that they understand the responsibility they are assuming when adopting a dog. Sandra Averitt advised that we need to make people aware that not everyone loves dogs and cats and that there are people in the community who are scared to death of animals. Jennifer Tierney suggested the Adoption Contract include information on Dangerous Dog penalties, Tethering and Pet Responsibility. They should read and sign it. Chad Griffin interjected that not everyone is going to read it. The problem people we are talking about won't come to FCAC to adopt.

Koy Kincaid said that the penalties we currently have in place are not stiff enough. Mr. Jennings said about 14% of civil penalties are actually collected. He said that reviewing fines and collections are part of the Work Plan for this year. Jennifer Tierney said the fees should be increased and come to FCAC instead of to the school system. Further discussion on this topic will take place at a future meeting.

Motion: Sandra Averitt made a motion that the board start by making a brochure/pamphlet about responsible pet ownership, including the laws. The handout should be in large print, friendly and understandable that people will need to read before completing an adoption and should be included in adoption packets. Jennifer Tierney seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued. It was agreed that the handout would be matter-of-fact, easily understandable, inclusive of all dog breeds, included with every adoption packet and would come before the board for final approval. Tim Jennings suggested a review of what we currently include in our adoption packets and for offenders. A committee should be formed to come up with a draft document, which will be circulated via e-mail. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- *Stay Together Program* - Tim Jennings gave the board a background of the Stay Together Program and how it arrived at its current iteration of the Dog and Cat Help Teams. Priscilla Ivester gave the board a brief overview of the Cat Help Team presentation/program, noting that she will be adding break-away collar information in the near future. Molly Douglass asked her to include information about home medicating cats and advise not to do it. Mr. Jennings then directed board's attention to the printed cards and asked for board's help in distributing them in the community.
- *Spay Day 2014* - Mr. Jennings reported that FCAC received \$10,000 in this year's County Budget to support Spay/Neuter. This year, 416 vouchers were issued and 6,922 animals were sheltered. We are currently evaluating ways to increase this program and expand it past the one-day event that happens in February each year.
- *Tribunal Liability* - In response to previous board discussion, Mr. Jennings shared a memo from the County Attorney concluding that "Members of the Animal Control Advisory Board, acting in

their official capacity, performing a government function are immune from suit for negligence claims pursuant to the legal doctrine of “Governmental Immunity”.

- *Chameleon System* - Tim Jennings and Karin Burnette demonstrated the Chameleon System for the board, showing how much detail and information is included and how interconnected the information is. They also showed the Dispatch Information and discussed the overload of calls waiting for the few officers that we have. A volunteer task force was suggested to assist officers on investigations of abuse/neglect.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Hearing Tribunals* - The schedule of the upcoming Tribunals on August 14 & 21, 2014 was distributed, along with the Tribunal Member Schedule. Changes were made to the schedule: August 14 will be Mitch Cromer, Thurman Dillon and Koy Kincaid. August 21 will be Sandra Averitt, Jennifer Tierney and Tina Sanderford.
- *Monthly Report: FYTD June 2014* - The June 2014 Statistical Report was reviewed, showing a decrease in all lines except Animal Redemption (up 2%) and Animal Quarantines (up 12.5%).

ADJOURN

With no further business, Mitch Cromer adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.