



Forsyth County Animal Control Advisory Board

Annual Report

April 2007

Background

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.

Additional duties of the Advisory Board include strategic planning, through the development of a series of Five-Year Plans, and acting as an appeal Hearing Tribunal for the appeal of civil citations issued by the Forsyth County Department of Animal Control.

The Advisory Board has two-(2) types of meeting that alternate monthly.

1. Advisory Board Public Meeting
Day: 3rd Thursday of each month
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Forsyth County Animal Shelter
5570 Sturmer Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

This meet is utilized 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 and facilitates the Animal Control Department's identification and interaction with community goals and projects.

2. Appeal Hearing Tribunal
Day: 3rd Thursday of each month
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Forsyth County Animal Shelter
5570 Sturmer Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

A sub-committee of the Advisory Board hears appeals of civil citations and abatement orders, and provides a written recommendation regarding final disposition to the department Director.

Membership and Representation

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Member</u>
Two (2) at large members	Franklin M. Cromer Jack Sprinkle
A representative of the Forsyth County Veterinarian Association	Dr. Timothy Strickland, DVM
Two (2) members affiliated with animal welfare organizations	Jennifer Tierney Whitney Lamb
A member who is the owner of a fertile hunting dog	Thurman Dillon
A member who is affiliated with a purebred animal registry	Julie Magness
A member who does not own a companion animal	Jerry Canady
A member who owns an animal other than a dog or cat	Sandy Mayberry, Chair
A representative of the Health Department	Larry Bunn, Vice-Chair
A representative of a municipality receiving animal control services	D. Ritchie Brooks <i>City of Winston-Salem</i>
<i>Ex-Officio non-voting member:</i> Animal Control Director	Tim Jennings

2006-2007 Work Plan

The advisory board adopted a multi-tracked work plan to provide organization and focus to its meetings. The program tracks may be identified as:

1. Long Range Planning/Program Development - the advisory board is receiving presentations from individuals and organizations regarding current community resources and service gaps.
2. Code Issues – Discussion and review of County Code and potential amendments.
3. Appeal Tribunal – Development of policy and procedure pursuant to mandates of FCC 6-5 Advisory Board, FCC 6-56 Appealable Actions, and FCC 6-57 Appeal Procedures.

Long-Range Planning

Presentations received by the Advisory Board have ranged from those to assist in advisory board functionality, operations of the Animal Control Department, support for low income animal owners, programs and proposed ordinance amendments.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Advisory Board By Laws	Ron Graham, <i>Deputy County Manager</i>
HSUS Consultation Report 2003	Tim Jennings, <i>Animal Control Director</i>
Public/Private Partnerships <i>Positive financial impact for County</i>	Keith Murphy, <i>FurEver Friends</i>
Dogs in Cars – Hazardous Environment <i>Request to Ban</i>	Wynoka & Donnie Hicks
FCAC Service Response <i>Priority Response</i>	Tim Jennings, <i>Animal Control Director</i>
Forsyth Humane Society Programs <i>Adoption</i> <i>Education</i> <i>Low Income Assistance: Spay/Neuter</i> <i>Sick/Injured</i>	Lori Sears, <i>FHS Shelter Manager</i>
FCAC Community Care Program <i>Partnerships to re-home pets</i>	Matt Smith, <i>Animal Control Shelter Manager</i>
Public Meeting Law <i>Hearing Tribunal & Sub Committees</i>	Lori Sykes, <i>Assistant County Attorney</i>
Pets Per Residential Lot <i>Zoning Limits Needed</i>	Gary Smith Frankie Petree
Budget Development <i>Performance Measures</i>	Tim Jennings, <i>Animal Control Director</i>
Stray Hold Period Analysis <i>Impact upon redemptions/adoptions</i>	Tom Brown, <i>Animal Welfare Volunteer</i>
Forgotten Felines of Forsyth <i>Feral Cat Trap Neuter Release Programs</i>	Diana Perkinson Khristin Schachtschneider

Program Development

The key function of the Advisory Board has been the development of the policy and procedure for the Appeal of civil citations and Hearing Tribunal function pursuant to Advisory Board By-Laws and County Code. Six (6) members form a sub-committee to hear appeals and make recommendations to the Director of the Animal Control Department. The hearings are planned to be held every other month in the afternoon hours and located at the animal shelter.

Information regarding the Advisory Board is available to the public as a section of the Department of Animal Control web site. Current information contains background on board function, meetings, agendas and meeting minutes. Eventually the site will include reports and drafts for public comment.

The Board conducted a survey of its membership and their areas of interest may be summarized as:

- Hunting Dogs
The number of hunting dog breeds in the shelter annually.
- Shelter Image & Needs
*Volunteers
Licensing
Code support for operations
Education programs*
- Support for Animal Control Department
- Feral Cats
Trap neuter release programs
- Revenue support for animal services.
Local tax of pet food/supplies
- Code Review
*Chaining laws
Strengthen animal welfare codes.
Repeal differential licensing*
- Community awareness and education
- Customer relation ideas
Adoption application process

Code Review

During its initial year of inception the Advisory Board has reviewed code issues on a limited basis. The board did determine it would actively solicit public opinion before forwarding any proposal to the Board of County Commissioners. The Animal Control Department has presented recommendations on FCC Chapter 6 Animals, identifying suggested amendments to enhance regulation of Dangerous Dogs and shelter population management. Additional areas of interest to be discussed include implementation of widespread sterilization programs, anti long term tethering ordinances, and differential licensing. In response to issues of public concern, the board is reviewing FCC 6-1 Definitions-Abuse, UDO 150 Kennels, FCC 15-1 Loud and Disturbing Noise.

STATISTICS: Forsyth County Animal Control

Program	2005 Jan. – Dec.		2006 Jan. – Dec.		
<u>Custody & Care</u>					
Animals Received		% shelter pop.		% shelter pop.	% CHG 05-06
<i>Owner Release</i>	3,508		3,571		
<i>Citizen Strays</i>	1,761		1,770		
<i>ACO Impound</i>	<u>2,704</u>		<u>3,054</u>		
<i>Total Received</i>	7,973		8,395		+ 5%
Redemptions	403	5%	483	6%	+ 20%
Adoptions :					
<i>Shelter</i>	1,098		1,057		
<i>Transfers</i>	<u>203</u>		<u>238</u>		
<i>Total Adoptions</i>	1,301	18%	1,295	15%	- 0.5%
Euthanasia					
<i>Space Need</i>	678		789		
<i>Health-Medical</i>	3,188		3,038		
<i>Behavioral</i>	<u>2,258</u>		<u>2,695</u>		
<i>Total Euthanasia</i>	6,124	73%	6,522	78%	+ 6%
<u>Patrol</u>					
Service Response/ Complaints	12,866		14,417		+ 12%
Investigations	2,416		2,964		+ 23%
Citations - <i>Individuals</i>	971		1,071		+ 10%
Cited Violations	1,804		2,124		+ 18%
<u>Administration</u>					
	Jan. - Dec. 2005		Jan - Dec. 2006		
Pet Licenses	<u>Transactions</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Transactions</u>	<u>Fees</u>	
<i>Altered Dog</i>	17,008		19,897		
<i>Un-Altered Dog</i>	4,195		3,684		
<i>Hunting dogs</i>	494		554		
<i>Show</i>	3		11		
<i>Assistance</i>	5		16		
Total Dog	21,705	\$174,569	24,162	\$191,390	# +11% \$ +10%
<i>Altered Cat</i>	4,398		8,202		
<i>Unaltered Cat</i>	146		243		
Total Cat	4,544	\$24,849	8,445	\$45,178	# +86% \$ +82%
Total	26,249		32,607	\$236,568	
<i>Suspense Status</i>	265		300	\$2,176	
Total Transactions	26,514	\$201,397	32,907	\$238,744	# +24% \$ +19%

Summary

During its initial year the focus of the Animal Control Advisory Board has been upon the development of its operational and strategic planning processes. The advisory board has received public comment regarding the lack of numeric restrictions on the number of dogs per premise within residential neighborhoods. The board is currently reviewing “Kennel” definitions of jurisdictions of similar size for future recommendation. The Advisory Board is soliciting public comment upon the following code sections for recommended revision or enhancement:

Sec. 6-1. Definitions.

- No definition of a Dangerous Dog exists within the code while an annual license fee exists for a “Dangerous Dog” (\$100).
- FCC 6-16 requires Spaying/Neutering for a dog declared “Dangerous”.
- FCC 6-55 Penalties exists for “dangerous dog” violations.
- State statute defines Dangerous Dogs and provides the County with additional authority to regulate potentially dangerous dogs. The Statute also mandates appeal processes for such labeling. The current Preventive Measures ordinance does not allow other jurisdictions to regulate a “dangerous dog” from the Forsyth County regulatory action.

Sec. 6-46. Redemption by owner generally.

- Forsyth County maintains a longer holding period for stray animals than state statute mandate. 120 hours compared to a 72 hour stray holding.
- Forsyth County holding period is longer than other jurisdictions of similar population.
- The extra holding period has not encouraged the redemption of animals.
- There is no differentiation/benefit for licensed vs. unlicensed animals.
- Limits ability to manage shelter for performance goals.

Sec. 6-47. Destruction or adoption of unredeemed animal generally.

- Language limits ability to manage shelter toward desired performance goals by mandating biting animals may not be put up for adoption. Not all breaks to skin are related to aggressive behavior.

Sec. 6-50. Destruction of wounded or diseased animals.

- A 5 day hold for a feral animal is inhumane to the animals as well as hazardous to employees and other animals.
- FCC 6-14 provides for public safety destruction of animals in the field. No provision once they are in custody.

Sec. 6-55. Violations and penalties.

- Regarding licensing violations only. An automatic penalty waiver if compliance within a specific period. This will encourage compliance on violations.
- Compliance encourages the altering of pets a key County performance goal identified within the code.
- An administrative waiver would significantly reduce volunteer (Advisory Board) and staff time processing appeals.

Recommendations

The Advisory Board recommends the surgical suite within the animal shelter be equipped with the proper supplies, and equipment, to permit surgical procedures upon the premises. Department staff within the Shelter Attendant classification should receive additional training to enable them to act as veterinary surgical assistants.