

**Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board
Annual Report
2010**



<u>Section</u>		<u>Page</u>
I	Animal Control Advisory Board	2
II	Membership & Representation	2
III	2009-2010 Work Plan	3
	Code Review Summary	4
IV	Performance Measures	5
V	Work Plan Summary	6
VI	Recommendations	7

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.

Advisory Board Membership & Representation

Priscilla Ivester	<i>Member at Large</i>	Julie Magness	<i>Purebred Animals</i>
Joe Redman	<i>Member at Large</i>	Jerry Canady	<i>Non-Pet Owner</i>
Dr. Timothy Strickland	<i>Veterinarian</i>	Marsha Crumpler	<i>Animals other than dog or cat</i>
Jennifer Tierney	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	Charles Cahill	<i>Public Health Department</i>
Lori Sears	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	D. Ritchie Brooks	<i>City of Winston-Salem</i>
Toby Cranfill	<i>Hunting Dogs</i>	Tim Jennings	<i>Animal Control Director</i>

III. 2009-2010 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 are intended to support the identified goals and policies of Forsyth County government to help create a community which is a safe, healthy, convenient and pleasant to live in. The work plan included a review of department programs and FCC Chapter 6, Animals.

- **Program Development**

In 2004 the Forsyth County Commissioners adopted FCC 6-10 Registration of Dogs and Cats Required. This ordinance established a goal of lowering the number of unwanted dogs and cats through incentives to spay or neuter pets. In 2009 the Animal Control Department entered into a partnership with the Forsyth Spay/Neuter Clinic. This program enables the department of Animal Control to provide certificates to Forsyth County residents discounting 30% off the clinics standard cost for the altering of dogs and cats. One thousand three hundred ninety five (1,395) certificates were issued by Animal Control staff in the program's first year.

- **Code Review**

The following issues were reviewed for possible addition, or amendment to Chapter 6, Animals of the Forsyth County Code:

Mandatory Reporting of Found Domestic Pets

To assist reuniting lost pets with their owners require notification to the Animal Control Department of found dogs and cats.

Scoop Requirement

Mandate owners or custodians of dogs and cats to remove excrement or other solid waste left by their animals in areas not designated for such solid waste.

Confinement

Prohibit tethering as the primary permanent method of confinement for dogs.

Animal Sheltering Requirements

Enhance code language defining shelter requirements and add guidelines for the interpretation of severe environmental conditions.

Spay/Neuter Incentive

As an incentive to alter pets provide for a twelve (12) month waiver of the pet registration fee for a newly altered dog or cat.

Agent Fees

Establish an agent fee to encourage the optional registration of dogs and cats by veterinarians or other suitable parties.

Pet Limits

Limiting the number of domestic pets per household to reduce nuisances and hoarding situations.

Kennel Definitions/Breeder Permits

Establish regulations on activities that may increase the number of unwanted pets within the community.

- **Hearing Tribunal**

During the past year the Advisory Board Hearing Tribunal has conducted forty (40) appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations.

An additional one hundred forty eight (148) written appeals of licensing violations were reviewed and dismissed upon the appellants gaining compliance with FCC 6-10 Registration of Dogs and Cats Required, pursuant to sec. 6-55 Violations and Penalties of the Forsyth County Code.

IV. Code Review Summary

Public comment was actively solicited regarding the proposed new sections to the County Code. The method utilized to solicit Public Comment included:

- Designated Public Meeting for public comment
- Access to proposals and comment email on webpage & at Shelter
- Prior to meeting: 2 paid advertisements Winston-Salem Journal
 2 public service announcements
 Multiple media reports: print, television & radio
- Designated telephone number and voicemail for comment
- Designated email address for comment
- Comment periods over 30 days.

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Support Proposal</u>	<u>Oppose Proposal</u>
Scoop Requirement	6	0
Mandate Lost & Found Reporting	2	0
Agent Licensing	1	3
Spay/Neuter 12 month Fee Waiver	1	0
Prohibition on Tethering	1504	80
	1059 Forsyth residents	76 Forsyth residents

V. Performance Measures - Forsyth County Animal Control Department

- **Administration Division**

Spay/Neuter Rate- Licensed Pets

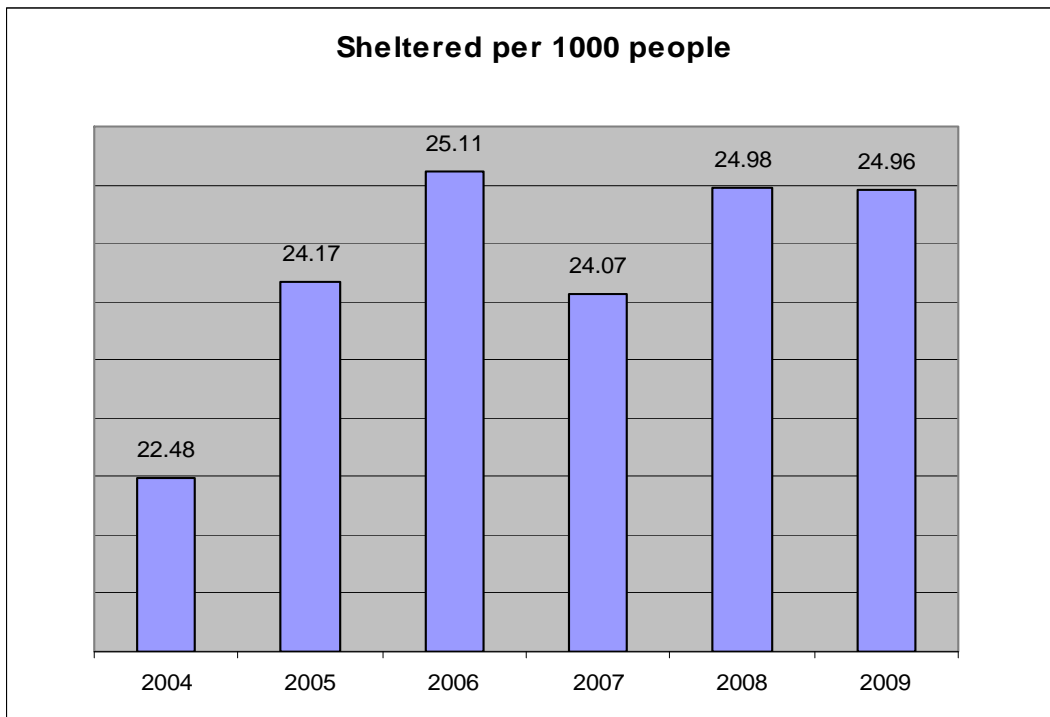
Year:	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
% S/N:	80%	82%	87%	86%	87%	89%

- **Patrol Division**

Priority Response

Priority Code	Examples	Response Goal	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	Actual 2009
1 Imminent Danger	Attack in-progress Animal Rescue – life threatening	30 minutes 1 hr EDO shift	23 min	24 min	17 min	13 min	14 min.	56 min
2 Urgent	Animal Bites Rabies Exposures Quarantine Check	ASAP 2 - 3 hours	3 hrs 13 min	7 hr 17 min	2 hr 18 min	2 hr 11 min	1 hr 05 min	1 hr 50 min
3 Today	Witnessed cruelty-neglect Vicious behavior Animals in traps	8 – 10 hours	5 days 4 hr 22 min	22 hrs 12 min	12 hr 58 min	5 hr 46 min	9 hrs 39 min	9 hrs 23 min
4 Normal	Investigative follow-up Neglect Stray animals Nuisance animals Service of Citations	48 hrs	6 days 17 hrs 14 min	7 days 8 hrs 6 min	4 days 12 hrs 8 min	3 days 7 hr 38 min	1 day 4 hrs 15 min	2 days 14 hrs 21 min
5 General	Check for License Trap Route Special Program Mailed Warning letters	5 – 7 days	3 days 15 hrs 38 min	5 days 59 min	1 day 18 hrs 59 min	2 days 13 hrs 32 min	3 days 5 hrs 35 min	3 days 13 hrs 21 min

- **Custody & Care Division**



VI. Work Load Statistics - FY 2009

Animal Control	June 2009	June 2008	% Change	2008-2009 Year to Date	2007-2008 Year to Date	% Change
Service Requests	1,319	1,433	- 8.0%	15,261	16,256	- 6.1%
Animal Bites	55	60	- 8.3%	668	576	16.0%
Sheltered	894	841	6.3%	8,833	8,105	9.0%
Adoptions	108	115	- 6.1%	1,474	1,338	10.2%
Redemptions	54	28	92.9%	581	575	1.0%
Euthanized	719	623	15.4%	6,581	6,052	8.7%
Citations Issued	153	116	31.0%	1,274	1,153	10.5%
Violations Cited	253	156	62.2%	1,919	1,550	23.8%
Revenue	30,507	27,176	12.3%	462,988	431,470	7.3%
Pet Registrations	2,705	2,316	16.8%	37,883	38,595	- 1.8%

VII. Recommendations

The Animal Control Advisory Board recommends the Forsyth County Commissioners consider the following recommendations for new, and amended, sections to FCC Chapter 6, Animals.

(New Sections)

Mandatory Reporting of Found Domestic Pets

To assist reuniting lost pets with their owners require notification to the Animal Control Department of found dogs and cats.

Scoop Requirement

Mandate owners or custodians of dogs and cats to remove excrement or other solid waste left by their animals in areas not designated for such solid waste.

Prohibit Tethering as the Primary Method of Confinement of Dogs

The permanent tethering of dogs has been linked to acts of dog aggression and situations of abuse. It is recommended the code prohibit tethering as the primary permanent method of confinement for dogs. The Advisory Board recommends that, with consideration of this recommendation, the following policy actions should accompany approval.

- Institute a phased 24 month implementation program
- Provide resources to assist dog owners obtain compliance
- Provide exemptions for certain functions and circumstances
- Complaint driven enforcement by monetary penalty

Spay/Neuter Incentive

FCC 6-10.2(e) Registration Payment Exemptions

The current code language provides for a refund of registration fees to be provided to pet owners who have subsequently had their pet altered. It is recommended the code provide for a twelve (12) month waiver of the pet registration fee for a newly altered dog or cat. This process will provide incentive to have pets altered through reduced expectations upon the pet owner. It will also reduce County expense processing refunds.