



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2007

Jack Sprinkle
Mitch Cromer
Dr. Tim Strickland
Whitney Lamb
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Julie Magness
Jerry Canady
Sandy Mayberry
Larry Bunn
D. Ritchie Brooks

Members Present:

Jack Sprinkle
Mitch Cromer
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Julie Magness
D. Ritchie Brooks
Jerry Canady
Whitney Lamb

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Judy Blevins
Kelly Nash
Matt Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Member Jerry Canady at 6:15 P.M.

Members not in attendance were Sandy Mayberry and Larry Bunn.

Minutes

A motion was made by Jerry Canady, seconded by Jennifer Tierney to accept minutes of November 16, 2006. Approved as written.

Public Comment/Presentation

Tim Jennings introduced 2 members of the public that were referred to the Advisory Board by the BOCC/County Manager. Tim said he had asked each of them to prepare a presentation for the advisory board.

Gary Smith and Frankie Petree presented to board members problems in their neighborhood regarding number of animals a person is allowed to have on their property, noise violation issues about disturbing neighbors i.e. odor and consistent barking. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Petree advised board members they have went to several agencies with no results and they were bringing this to the Advisory Board with hopes that these issues could be addressed.

Copies of the zoning code addressing kennels and the County Code sections address noise were provided. There was general discussion that these issues are due to the owner's attitude and that they do not take into consideration their neighbors or their community. Tim advised that the issue is actually a zoning concern, but the Advisory Board could recommend to the BOCC that the planning board consider limiting the number of animals a person can own in a residential area. Jennifer Tierney questioned if this was a huge problem for Animal Control and Tim advised that it would help solve some of the problems that residents are having. Large numbers of animals create many issues. Currently pet licensing is the only department tool addressing the number of animals residents have, assuming they are properly maintained. Staff advised of the responses by various departments as well as animal control and options for the victims of noise and environmental problems were discussed. Both Mr. Smith and Ms. Petree advised they did not wish to take the step of appearing before a magistrate to swear out a complaint and felt that government should be able to address their problem without their direct involvement. Jerry Canady asked that this be put on next months agenda to allow time for research.

Guest Presentation

Tim Jennings asked if Friends of the Shelter's presentation could be postponed to the next Advisory Meeting. The request was in regard to the limited meeting time available to cover all topics. It was agreed by board members to carry it over.

Old Business

- *Appeal Hearings*

Tim Jennings reminded board members that the Mock Hearing scheduled for March 1, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the shelter. He also advised that on March 22, 2007 at 1:00 pm is the first scheduled Appeal Hearing.

- *FCAC Code Revision Recommendations:*

Tim also advised members about code revisions in reference to Dangerous Dogs.

It was also discussed about the stray hold period, which the county ordinance requires that the animal be held for 120 hours, whereas the state statute requires 72 hours. Tim proposed discretion to hold the unidentifiable strays for 72 hours and hold legally obtained pets for 120 hours. Matt Smith advised board of statistics showing how the five day hold compounds the space problem for animals that could go into adoption. Matt stated that 80% of the redemptions occurred within one to two days of the pet arriving at this facility.

Tim introduced Tom Brown. Tom did a study in 2003 comparing 1994- 2002. It compared the number of redemption and adoptions with 3 day mandatory holds and 5 day. The theory was made that if the animals were held longer the owners would come to redeem them. The study shows that were not the end result. Staff expanded on Tom's report and provided stats on 2003-2006. The policy and operation changes were also discussed including staffing issues and hours of operations as they effect adoption and redemption.

Staff reported on their analysis of the effect of the 5 day hold on euthanasia of dogs for space need. Currently the 120 hour hold time that the county adheres to, is not consistent with the common State guideline of 72 hours. Staff believes a conservative estimate would be that healthy dogs euthanized for space need would have been able to have an additional 4 days per dog if un-adoptable strays had not been held for the additional 48 hours.

Another recommendation addressed animals that have broken the skin in a bite, i.e. Puppy/kitten while playing, or without aggression. Current code language prohibits us to adopt any animal that bites and some discretion when evaluating accidental skin breakage without aggression would be preferred.

It was also discussed changing the language on dangerous, diseased and feral animals regarding hold time. Tim advised we go to extreme links to avoid quick euthanasia and it is currently addressed with written policy.

- *Draft Performance Measures*

A copy of the Asilomar Accords was handed out along with budget request, sample shelter stats and performance measures. Tim asked members to read over it before the next meeting. Staff is recommending these measures, separate from current performance measures tracked through the budget process, be adopted for development of advisory board reports and strategic plans.

Due to time restraints new business will be discussed at the next meeting, approved by members present.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be March 15, 2007, 6pm.