



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2008

Julie Magness, Chair
Lori Sears, Vice-Chair
Joe Redman
Mitch Cromer
Dr. Tim Strickland
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Jerry Canady
Sandy Mayberry
Larry Bunn
D. Ritchie Brooks

Members Present:

Larry Bunn
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Dr. Strickland
Joe Redman
Lori Sears
Ritchie Brooks

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Liz Jacobson
Kelly Nash
Judy Blevins

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Lori Sears at 6:05 P.M.

- *Minutes.*

A motion was made by Tim Strickland, DVM and second by Ritchie Brooks to approve the minutes. The motion was approved by members present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Presentation

- *Tethering*

Shari Strader is the Triad Regional Coordinator for Dogs Deserve Better.com. This organization has been in existence for 8 years and is active in every state and three countries. She presented a slide show of animals she had photographed over the last few years in Forsyth County. She also presented each member with handout containing information concerning tethering. Stated that dogs are pack animals and all they do is pace if they are chained. Dogs can become aggressive or attack if their territory is violated. Also cited that tethering promoted aggression regardless of breed. The CDC, AMVA, and the USDA all agree through independent studies that tethering can make a dog three times as likely to bite. She presented the statistic that North Carolina leads the country in the highest number of attacks by chained dogs. Currently 116 communities limit or ban tethering which has reduced injuries, and reduced number of complaints to the local animal control.

Tim Jennings referred to conversations with Jennifer Tierney and other board members as to how specifications could be difficult to enforce. The consensus in the department as this time is language referencing restricting tethering as the primary method of confinement may be the best form of code. Shari Strader suggested a minimum of one hundred square feet for a dog pen if fencing or kenneling is mandated.

New Business

- *Tethering code*

Tim stated, as requested by board members, Animal Control is working with the NC Department of Agriculture looking into codes governing the tethering of other animals. They do not have the results

at this time. Members questioned if the department could provide local statistical information regarding acts of aggression by dogs that are kept tethered. Tim stated there would not be any way to have that type of data pulled from the databases, but a physical review of bite reports would provide reference to how the animal was maintained. Unfortunately, many acts of aggression do not result in a bite, but can be just as serious. Animal Control will begin a review of the 2007 dog bite reports. This process will be time consuming.

- *Appeals Tribunal*

Members who volunteered were Lori Sears, Jerry Canady, Jennifer Tierney, and Mitch Cromer. Next tribunal hearing is June, 19th 2008.

Old Business

- *Feral Cat TNR Program*

Tim discussed the feral cat program. Forgotten Felines is a non-profit based organization that Tim is drafting a memo of understanding. Funds have been set aside to purchase traps and microchips. It would have to be a registered colony with signs posted. They would also be able to give out spay/neuter vouchers. There may be the enlistment of property management and housing authorities into assisting with licensing and spay/neuter. We have already been canvassing some neighborhoods trying to hand out spay/neuter vouchers with little success.

- *Annual Report*

Page 8, Sect D was reworded to the language provided at the last meeting.

- *Board Appointments*

Charles Cahill, an Environmental Health Specialist with the department of Public Health, has been appointed to represent the Public Health Director now that Larry Bunn has retired. Tim Jennings and other board members have asked Larry to continue to come to the meetings. All other Advisory Board members received re-appointment to their respective positions by the County Commissioners.

- *Signage*

Larry Bunn presented several options for signage pointing out that there are many limitations in reference to size, height and positioning on county property. He also pointed out that due to the topography of the intersection of University Parkway South and Shattalon Drive a sign within our means would not be visible from the road. Jennifer Tierney inquired as to the possibility of an outside organization donating the sign to the county. Tim believed that we would be able to accept it.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM. The next meeting will be held July 17th, 2008