



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2007

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

Members Present:

Larry Bunn
Mitch Cromer
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Dr. Strickland
Sandy Mayberry
Joe Redman
Lori Sears
Julie Magness
D. Ritchie Brooks

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Judy Blevins
Matt Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sandy Mayberry at 6:00 P.M.
Staff reported that Jerry Canady had provided notification he would not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Minutes

A motion was made by Thurman Dillon and seconded by Lori Sears to accept minutes of August 16, 2007. The minutes were approved as written.

Election of Chair – Vice Chair

Tim Jennings reported to the advisory board that a member had approached him with concerns over the recent election of a chair. The issue involved the NC General Statute requiring written ballots to be signed. Tim apologized for the oversight, provided copies of the NCGS, and advised he had discussed the issue with the County Attorney, who advised the election must be re-held and should be conducted as though the election August 16, 2007 had not occurred. Sandy Mayberry made a motion to amend separate vote for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Motion was passed (6 for and 4 opposed). Members requesting their name not to be submitted for Chairman were: Sandy Mayberry, Tim Strickland, DVM, Thurman Dillon, Lori Sears, Larry Bunn and Jennifer Tierney. Members requesting their name not be submitted for Vice Chairman were: Tim Strickland, DVM, Thurman Dillon, Jennifer Tierney and Joe Redman. Final vote for Chairman: Julie Magness (6) – Mitch Cromer (4). Final vote for Vice Chairman : Lori Sears (6) – Larry Bunn (4). Ballots are maintained with the official meeting record.

Public Comment

Becky Hutchinson, Margaret Whisenhut and Helen Haire addressed the advisory board about the problem with a dog killing cats in the area of Gordon Manor, she states that she is not getting any response from Animal Control. Larry Bunn asked Ms. Hutchinson if she saw the dog kill cats and she stated no, she only noticed that the dogs were there before and after the cats were killed. Tim Jennings advised that he is aware that large numbers of man hours have been put into this situation and area, but he is not up to date on the specifics. If Animal Control has evidence then we can take action to penalize owners and impound animals. Tim provided his telephone number and requested Ms. Hutchinson call him to arrange a meeting to answer their questions.

Guest Presentation

The AARF organization notified staff they will be unable to make presentation and requested they be rescheduled.

Old Business

- *Feral Cat Program - TNR*

Tim Jennings updated the board that Forgotten Felines of Forsyth had asked to reschedule and they haven't set a new date. He summarized the discussions and attempts to identify issues to clarify and develop a TNR program that can have broad community support, create a written agreement that would require such things as recognized colonies, definition of feral and other cats associated with a colony, notification to animal control with information of microchip, rabies and spay/neuter. Forgotten Felines of Forsyth to obtain membership with CCP program, clarification of assistance the County can provide the TNR program. These could include assistance arranging spay/neuter services, traps, or providing the microchips to be implanted. Mitch Cromer asked if the group is using private money, Tim advised yes and they participate with various veterinarians. Julie Magness advised that they try to place friendly cats in homes. Mitch Cromer asked if the group works with Wildlife before releasing feral cats to form a colony. Matt Smith advised that those are the issues we are discussing and clarifying regarding colony viability. FFF has advised us they do take wildlife into consideration when evaluating a colony's viability. Tim Jennings said the department is advising FFF of the liability issues they face regarding responsibility for feral cats on private property and the concerns of citizens.

- *Shelter Surgical Suite: Policy re: criteria*

Matt Smith advised the board that he, Tim Jennings, Jennifer Tierney and Dr. Strickland met in reference to use of Surgical Suite. It was decided it was not feasible due to cost and staffing at this time. Current procedure for determining medical care for injured animals was reviewed along with the identified resource needs of the department. The animal control department has partnered with some CCP partners for help for injured animals. Jennifer Tierney stated the surgical suite issue should be considered secondary to the identified immediate personnel and resource needs for basic operations.

New Business

- *Breed Specific Ordinances*

Tim Jennings gave out breed specific handouts to the advisory board members as background information and asked them to go over it before the January 17, 2008 meeting. Tim summarized the request from the Commissioners to review the issue of certain breeds of animal impacting the public safety and that a recommendation may address code changes, or policy changes. He pointed out sections of the County Preventive Measures ordinance that direct the department to consider the breed of an animal when determining measures to ensure future problems affecting public safety do not occur. The department does utilize breed specific policies at this time. Some discussion was held. Staff pointed out the issue does not necessarily mean banning breeds, but can involve higher fees and penalties because of the greater impact upon resources by bringing larger breeds into the community, mandating specific conditions such as kennels, fences, liability insurance, or mandatory spay neuter. Matt Smith advised that 780 Pit Bull mix had entered the shelter in the last year, of that 641 was euthanized. He also advised in a six week period 173 had entered the shelter. Jennifer Tierney advised that she was working on some proposals that apply to this issue.

- *Appeals Hearing*

Hearing Tribunal date is November 15, 2007. Volunteers for hearing are Mitch Cromer, Jennifer Tierney and Jerry Canady.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM with the next meeting being January 17, 2008.