



Forsyth County
Animal Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2008

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

Members Present:

Julie Magness
Jennifer Tierney
Thurman Dillon
Joe Redman
Charles Cahill
Mitch Cromer
Jerry Canady
Dr Tim Strickland
Sandy Mayberry

Staff Present:

Tim Jennings
Liz Jacobson
Kelly Nash
Matt Smith
John Day

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Magness at 6:04 P.M.

- *Minutes.*

A motion was made by Jennifer Tierney and seconded by Dr Strickland to approve the minutes with no changes. Motion was passed with none opposed.

Public Comment

- *North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance*

Priscilla Ivester presented the Advisory Board members with a folder of information about the NCRAOA. She explained they represent groups for animal welfare such as purebred breeders and those who show animals. They are a non-profit, 501c3 registered organization.

New Business

- *2009 Work Plan*

Items discussed for the 2009 work plan include the cruelty code in regards to tethering and a better definition of shelter. Staff is considering the making of the reporting of a found pet mandatory. Other items included a county spay/neuter program funded by grants and many approaches to limiting numbers of pets in regards to breeding permits, hobby kennels, and zoning laws. There was general discussion of raising revenue to include outsourcing licensing, dedication to canvassing and a general pet food tax. Productive code changes were suggested to reduce redundant calls and reduce drain on resources and manpower. Tethering issues will be kept on the work plan. Tim Jennings revisited information regarding Orange County. Orange County was primarily focused on tethering as a primary means of confinement, weather conditions and a minimum square footage based on the size of the dog.

- *Microchip/tattoo*

There was general discussion both for and against micro-chipping versus tattoo in determining ownership of stray pets. Dr. Strickland summarized the NC Veterinary Associations position that the act of implanting the chip is essentially a surgical procedure and only a veterinarian should be chipping someone else's animal. There was general discussion of the manner in which non-profits have conducted micro-chipping clinics and the impact of this opinion. Tim Jennings explained the department only microchips animals when it is required by code such as adoptions, redemptions, and

when the animals are under the County's custody/ownership. There was general discussion of a database of records tracking the ownership of hunting dogs. The difference between a hunting dog and a pet quality sporting dog breed which often are found at the shelter was mentioned.

- *Appeal Tribunal*

Staff provided the schedule of appeals. There will be six appeals for the next Appeal Tribunal scheduled for January 15, 2009. Members to attend the hearing are Mitch Cromer, Jerry Canady, Charles Cahill and Lori Sears.

- *Rabies Clinics*

Charles Cahill reported 2008 was a record setting year for total animals vaccinated. Totals for the April and October clinics were 1,520, up 14% from the next highest year. Tim Jennings cited the reason could be the number of cases reported and the special outreach programs including canvassing. Tim further explained in new outreach programs we are working with the city and housing authorities to reach our target audience. There was discussion on the legality of rabies vaccinations and what qualifies a person to be certified to administer these vaccines. Dr Strickland explained there is a one-day course that is required by law that is needed to become certified. There are a limited number of certifications allowed by state law.

- *YTD Statistics Report*

Tim Jennings reported that intake for 2008 through November was up 5% and reminded the council that this number included the intake of 63 fighting cocks. The adoption rate overall was up 6% with dogs showing an increase of 11% and cats a decrease of 26%. Redemptions, revenue and transactions are still showing an increase and steady gain.

- *Annual Home for the Holidays Event*

Kelly Nash reported that this event has been successful in past years and the same is expected again for this year. Media coverage has exceeded expectation and has been quite beneficial to executing this event. This year's focus is on the programs and services animal control offers to our community of which most people are not aware. Exciting news for this year is the launch of a myspace page for the LEAF program. There will be a volunteer appreciation party Saturday evening from 5-7 pm.

Old Business

- *SCCAC-NCAF Conference Nov 19-21st*

Matt Smith and Tim Jennings reported on the classes they presented at the 2008 SCCAC-NCAF conference held in Myrtle Beach, SC. One dealt with non-traditional methods of curbing stray/feral cat populations. Currently FCAC is one of the only agencies in the Carolinas to create partnerships and have a progressive approach to addressing this problem in the community. Forgotten Felines of Forsyth has asked Matt Smith and Tim Jennings to write an article on this conference. Matt Smith also spoke about the class they gave on "Preparing for Construction", which he explained to be a workshop on building a shelter from the ground up. Both Matt Smith and Tim Jennings spoke about problems faced including financial and physical challenges.

- *Annual Report*

Tim Jennings stated there had not been any meetings since the passing of the dangerous dog laws. A letter was sent from the county commissioners in thanks of the hard work put into the research and development of this code.

- *Signage*

Tim Jennings informed the board that as of November there was a halt on all non-mandatory projects. The donation mentioned at the last meeting has been approved for signage.

Adjourn

Thurman Dillon motioned to adjourn the meeting, Joe Redman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM. The next meeting will be held February 19, 2009.