



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

May 16, 2019

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Forsyth County Animal Control Department
5570 Sturmer Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Bill Cowan, Chair
Priscilla Ivester, Vice-Chair
Janice Freeman
Tara Stebbins
Mitch Cromer
Terry Jessup
Amy Pugh, DVM
Cristina Griffin
P.J. Lofland
Joseph Chrobak
Andrew Martin

Members Present

P.J. Lofland	Janice Freeman	Joseph Chrobak
Priscilla Ivester	Cristina Griffin	
Bill Cowan	Terry Jessup	
Mitch Cromer	Amy Pugh	

Staff Present

David Morris
Scott Bird
Tonya Ward

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Bill Cowan. Staff stated Tara Stebbins had advised she would not be able to attend the meeting.
- *Approval of meeting minutes March 21, 2019*
MOTION: Priscilla Ivester made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Cristina Griffin and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment

OLD BUSINESS

- ***NC Debt Set Off***
Office Manager Tonya Ward stated the Debt Set Off program has collected \$12,671 to date. Now that tax season has mostly come to a close, we do not expect to receive large payments most months however it was noted that there has been an increase in individuals paying both current and past citations as word has spread through the community about DSO.
- ***Rabies Clinic - March 23rd***
Staff stated that the first Rabies Clinic of 2019 was held on Saturday March 23rd from 9-11 am. A total of 182 vaccines were given and 98 spay/neuter vouchers were provided to low-income community members. FHS also offered microchips at the clinic.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Discussion of Cold Weather Precautions for Outdoor Pets***

Lt. Morris began the discussion with some background information on the current ordinance, the definition of abuse as stated in the County Code, and provided an example of an ordinance addressing weather from Indiana. He discussed some of the provisions of the IN ordinance such as animals must be brought inside if the temperature is under 20 degrees or over 90 degrees, He asked the Board to consider and discuss whether there was a need for a similar “one size fits all” ordinance or something different. Priscilla Ivester said she does not think a specific temperature applied to all breeds is needed and wondered if there should be differences based on breed. Bill Cowan said he thinks guidelines would help but expressed concern for times when the temperature was close to the limit but not quite past. Mitch Cromer said there were a lot of good points to consider and he does not feel “one size fits all”. He went on to say all animals need food, water, and shelter but not all owners look at animal care the same. There was discussion of education and options available to pet owners. Staff stated a PSA has been sent out and posted to social media as well as the County website for the past several years. The PSA will be provided at the next meeting for the Board to read. There was further discussion of what any possible ordinance would entail. Board members discussed whether or not specific dates would be given, the differences between what is needed in winter and in summer, educating the public as to what is involved in “winterizing” an outdoor dog house including what types of bedding would stay dry and be the most beneficial. Joseph Chrobak asked if it would be possible to define the term “adequate shelter” within the current ordinance. Lt. Morris asked the Board to consider whether heat should also be addressed? Should shade be required over a certain temperature? He asked that the Board continue to consider this topic, it will be discussed again at the July meeting.

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and members for the Tribunal Hearings for May 30th was discussed. Staff noted that, while the additional dates added recently have helped, there remains a backlog of appeals to be heard. There was discussion of adding an additional date for written appeals on June 27th and an additional date for hearings on August 1st. Cristina Griffin, Amy Pugh, and Bill Cowan said they would be available for the June date and Cristina Griffin, Mitch Cromer, and PJ Lofland said they were available for the August 1st date. Members for the regularly scheduled August 15th hearing and any additional dates needed for September will be discussed at the next meeting.

- ***Monthly Report***

Lt. Morris presented the department monthly statistical report for April 2019. Calls received have increased. Animals impounded have increased for the month but are down for the year to date. Revenue is up for the month but remains down for the year. Euthanasia is down for both the month and year. Citations are down, but the department is still short officers. Officers are being very thorough in their investigations. Licensing remains down, staff is working on some options. Lt. Morris stated he has added new categories to the report: transfers, traps, and follow ups. This will better reflect accurate information about departmental performance. He also let the Board know that FHS is working towards assuming euthanasia duties and hopes to be ready to take over the process in June.

- ***Thank You***

Lt. Morris said he wished to thank both Priscilla Ivester and Janice Freeman for their service on the Advisory Board over the last several years. Bill Cowan added that as Board Chair he wished to thank them both on behalf of the Board.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business, Bill Cowan asked for a motion to adjourn. Cristina Griffin made the motion, which was seconded by PJ Lofland. Bill Cowan adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.