



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

May 20, 2021

6:00 - 7:30 PM
5570 Sturmer Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Mitch Cromer, Chair
Priscilla Ivester, Vice Chair
Terry Jessup
Amy Pugh, DVM
Cristina Griffin
P.J. Lofland
Joseph Chrobak
Chad Griffin
Erin Turner
Michelle Connelly
Rick Borucki

Members Present

Erin Turner	Michelle Connelly	Rick Borucki	
Amy Pugh	Cristina Griffin	Chad Griffin	
Mitch Cromer	Priscilla Ivester	Terry Jessup	Joseph Chrobak

Staff Present

Capt. V. Loveland
Tonya Ward

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Mitch Cromer. The meeting was held both in person with safety precautions and virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Approval of meeting minutes March 18, 2021
MOTION: Michelle Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by PJ Lofland and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- As the meeting was held with strict restrictions, there was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- ***Repealing Differential Licensing***
Captain Loveland presented information regarding the cost of licensing. He explained how much the tags cost as well as mailing costs. He stated it is harder to determine cost in staffing as staff has other responsibilities as well but certainly that is a substantial cost. Captain Loveland explained to the Board that if they wish to proceed with bringing this issue before the Commissioners they would need to be on their schedule and he suggested contacting Damon Sanders-Pratt to assist with this. Priscilla Ivester and Mitch Cromer both said they wished to thank Captain Loveland for his assistance in obtaining all of this

information and further said they would like for Captain Loveland to be present when the Board goes before the Commissioners. Captain Loveland said he would be glad to attend as this shows a united front regarding this issue.

- ***Status Update on FCC 6-57***

Captain Loveland brought up the potential changes to Forsyth County Code 6-57 dealing with appeals of Potentially Dangerous and Dangerous Dog Declarations. He stated this would also need to be placed on the agenda to go before the Commissioners and suggested speaking with Damon Sanders-Pratt about this issue as well. Priscilla Ivester stated she would speak with Damon Sanders-Pratt about both issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Election of New Officer***

Ballots were distributed and votes counted. Priscilla Ivester was elected Chair for the next year and Chad Griffin was elected Vice Chair. Mitch Cromer said he has enjoyed his time as Chair as well as serving on the Board overall and thanked staff for all the hard work, especially during the challenging times of the past year.

- ***Feral/Nuisance Cat Trapping***

Mitch Cromer said he had asked for this topic to be discussed as in the past it has been a hot button topic. Captain Loveland discussed past policy of trapping cats and explained that Animal Services does not currently have the staff or resources to trap and remove nuisance cats. He further stated that ASD does not loan out traps. Should a citizen elect to trap cats on their own property they may do so but they are responsible for caring for the cat until they can transport it to the Humane Society. Staff stated there are currently only 3 recognized feral cat colonies and there was discussion of what constitutes a recognized colony; the cats all need to be vaccinated, altered, and there has to be permission from the property owner. Erin Turner asked if there was information that could be provided to citizens who are feeding cats without adhering to County Code. Captain Loveland explained that Animal Services can send a letter with information. There was discussion of the benefits of feral/community cats as well as previous issues in the County. Mitch Cromer brought up the damage cats can do to the wildlife population and Erin Turner pointed out that, in some areas, cats have become part of the wildlife population. There was discussion of wildlife information and which type cases Animal Services refers citizens to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Cristina Griffin asked if information is available on the Animal Services website and staff explained that it is. There was further discussion of potentially rabid animals and what options are available if someone is concerned.

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and members for the Tribunal Hearings scheduled for June 17th were discussed. Amy Pugh, Rick Borucki, and Michelle Connelly said they were available to serve.

- ***Welfare Group Complaint Overview***

Captain Loveland advised the Board that he wanted to make them aware, in case they heard anything, that the Sheriff's Office was contacted by a few individuals who had some concerns regarding the way Animal Services has handled cases over the last year. He stated that some of the cases were from early last year and some were still ongoing. Each of the cases referenced was investigated thoroughly and he briefly discussed the outcomes. In all instances, Animal Services followed the County Code and worked with the pet owners to ensure the best possible resolution for both animals and the community. He explained that issuing citations is not always the most efficient way to resolve complaints and that the

policy of Animal Services is to assure that pet owners are in compliance with County Code; charging someone either criminally or civilly if needed but not unless it is warranted. There was discussion of the problem of people discussing things and sharing them on social media while not contacting Animal Services in a timely manner so that there can be an investigation. Then there was further discussion regarding the stigma of bringing animals to the shelter and how that can affect a situation in which someone cannot care for their pets. The Board said they support Animal Services and know that the Division is working hard to do the best for the community. Captain Loveland also explained how collections for citations has increased dramatically in the last year, the Board reiterated how pleased they are with the work of Animal Services.

- ***Officer Ride-Alongs***

Priscilla Ivester brought up the fact that, in the past, Board members could sign up to go out in the field with an officer and she suggested that be reinstated. Captain Loveland stated that the Sheriff's Office has always offered ride-alongs and Animal Services would be glad for any Board member or any community member to fill out the waiver paperwork and ride along with an officer.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business Mitch Cromer asked for a motion to adjourn. PJ Lofland made the motion, which was seconded by Rick Borucki. Mitch Cromer adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.