



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

September 17, 2019

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

Members Present

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|--------------|-------------------|
| P.J. Lofland | Erin Turner |
| Amy Pugh | Terry Jessup |
| Mitch Cromer | Priscilla Ivester |

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.
- Approval of meeting minutes July 16, 2020
MOTION: Priscilla Ivester made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by PJ Lofland and the minutes were approved unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding the best way to release the minutes to the public. Captain Loveland had previously asked about approving them via email but Priscilla Ivester said she felt they should be discussed in person. Priscilla Ivester then volunteered to ensure that the minutes are given to the County Commissioners. This was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- ***Pet Licensing***

Priscilla Ivester asked to revisit the issue of pet licensing as discussed at the previous meeting. Captain Loveland stated licensing will remain for the time being as the revenue is important to the County due to loss of other forms of revenue. He also stated that many other cities and counties have discontinued pet licensing programs and it could be discussed again in the future. Priscilla Ivester asked if it would be helpful for the Board to show support for discontinuing the program and he replied that he would ask for their support and for the Board to present the suggestion to the Commissioners directly. Mitch Cromer pointed out that he feels licensing hurts low income county residents and Captain Loveland agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Rabies Laws in NC***

Guest Speaker: Charles Cahill, Forsyth County Department of Public Health

Charles Cahill introduced himself and stated that he has been involved with rabies monitoring and enforcement since 2007. He discussed the Certified Rabies Vaccinator program, he said it was initially begun to assist smaller counties without access to as many veterinarians. He discussed the process of someone becoming a CRV and how it works. CRVs can only give one year vaccines, three year vaccines have to be given by a veterinarian. Mr. Cahill discussed some of the potential reasoning for this, that once an animal has a three year vaccine, they may not have any contact with a veterinarian for those three years. If the veterinarian is required to give the vaccine at least they would see the animal for that visit.

He also discussed the NC State Rabies Compendium and the changes which were made in 2016. He detailed some history of the rabies virus in the state, which animals are the primary vectors, and enforcement including bite quarantine procedure. Mr. Cahill shared several examples of incidents when it was crucial for laws to be followed and agencies/departments to work together, including a fairly recent incident in which a human contracted rabies and passed away in a nearby state with connections to Forsyth County.

- ***New ASD Procedures for Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous Dog Declarations***

Captain Loveland detailed for the Board the new procedures adopted by Animal Services for declaring a dog dangerous or potentially dangerous per Forsyth County Code. He said this was implemented in order to reduce the number of declarations overturned on appeal and to verify that all evidence was presented to show the declaration was needed.

Captain Loveland went on to discuss possible changes to County Code to possibly terminate ownership if the Dangerous Dog Declaration was violated by the owner, especially if it happened on multiple occasions. He asked the Board to consider a recommendation which could be presented to the County Commissioners and to be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. He said he would like to see a change to the ordinance creating an exception to the Stay of Enforcement of DD declarations.

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and members for the Tribunal Hearings scheduled for October 15th were discussed. Amy Pugh and Mitch Cromer said they were available to serve. Staff noted that Chad Griffin had expressed a willingness to serve as well even though he was not present this evening.

- ***Rabies Clinics***

Three drive up rabies clinics have been held so far in 2020. Staff stated they were very successful and well received by citizens. A final clinic for the year is planned for Saturday, November 7th.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business Mitch Cromer asked for a motion to adjourn. PJ Lofland made the motion, which was seconded by Erin Turner. Mitch Cromer adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.