



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

March 17, 2022

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

Priscilla Ivester, *Chair*
Chad Griffin, *Vice Chair*
Amy Pugh, DVM
Cristina Griffin
P.J. Lofland
Joseph Chrobak
Erin Turner
Rick Borucki
Bill Cowan
George Francisco

Members Present

Priscilla Ivester George Francisco
Bill Cowan Christina Griffin
Chad Griffin Joseph Chrobak

Rick Borucki
Amy Pugh
Erin Turner

PJ Lofland
Michelle Connelly

Staff Present

Capt. V. Loveland
Tonya Ward

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Priscilla Ivester.
- Approval of meeting minutes January 20, 2022
MOTION: Rick Borucki 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

- **Differential Pet Licensing Update**
Captain Loveland said he wanted to thank the Board. He went on to discuss the County Commissioners voting to repeal pet licensing. He explained that Animal Services can now focus on entering rabies vaccination information (including working with local vets to increase participation in sending the reports), spay/neuter vouchers, holding rabies clinics (including the addition of mobile clinics), administrative tasks, and participation in the Debt Set Off program. PJ Lofland asked about mobile clinics and Captain Loveland explained that Animal Services would be able to hold rabies vaccination clinics at locations around the county to make it more convenient for citizens to vaccinate their pets.
- **Statewide Rabies Database**
Chad Griffin said he has spoken with Joyce Krawiec and she is interested in meeting with Board members to discuss a statewide database as well as amending regulations on one and three year vaccines being

given by Certified Vaccinators. He said he would follow up with her. Priscilla Ivester asked all Board members to let Chad know if they would wish to be involved in these meetings.

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

Captain Loveland let the Board know this change was approved at the same time as the repeal of pet licensing. He reiterated that this was the change to the Potentially Dangerous/Dangerous Dog regulations which will hopefully help keep dogs/owners from re-offending while awaiting an appeal hearing.

- ***Citizen Survey***

Bill Cowan said he had one more issue regarding the County Commissioners, he stated that during the planning meeting there was discussion of a citizen survey. According to this survey, Animal Services had a 51% satisfaction rate among citizens. He suggested this information could be used for budget purposes as well as support. Captain Loveland asked where the survey participants were selected and said he would like more information regarding the areas of service that were asked about as well as other criteria for this survey.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Proposed Ordinance Change Recommendation – Guest Speaker: Mark Neff, Executive Director Forsyth Humane Society***

Mr. Neff began by thanking the Board for allowing him to make a presentation and for their hard work on pet licensing.. He went on to discuss the statistics for Forsyth Humane Society (FHS) in 2021, he explained the numbers he presented and what they all entailed. Priscilla Ivester asked if these numbers would be publicly available and he responded that they will be posted on the FHS website along with the annual reports from previous years. Mr. Neff then presented the new program FHS is working on called the “Mighty Mouser program” which would allow otherwise unadoptable cats to get a second chance by being returned to the community as barn cats or in other outdoor capacities. He went on to say that he plans to speak to the Forsyth County Commissioners regarding this issue and a possible ordinance change which would allow for free-roaming cats. Priscilla Ivester asked if the Board could see the exact language he intends to present and he said he would send it to the Board. Mr. Neff discussed the benefits of this program including reducing the high euthanasia rates for un-socialized/feral cats.

- ***Coyotes in Forsyth County***

Priscilla Ivester let the Board know that she is concerned about the rate of coyotes in Forsyth County. She went on to say that, on social media/neighborhood apps, there have been many posts about sightings in the Ardmore area specifically. She pointed out that there is concern among neighbors in the area that coyotes had possibly killed domestic animals, there have been several social media posts regarding this. There was discussion of individuals who are photographing and feeding the coyotes. Captain Loveland said neither is illegal as long as the person is not attempting to keep the coyote as a pet, though Animal Services advises against feeding wildlife of any type. There was a discussion of rabid raccoons and Captain Loveland advised the Board that there has not been an increase in known positives, he followed with an explanation of how it is determined which animals are sent for testing.

- ***Federal Bill Regarding Breeding of Animals***

Bill Cowan stated this bill was currently being debated and he had asked staff to include it so the Board members could read it. Priscilla Ivester said that the extra rules may sound good on paper but she does not believe they would be beneficial, she said it was a “one size fits all” policy which will not work. Erin Turner said she felt like the bill would help stop puppy mills. There was a discussion of “good vs bad” breeders as well as the other limitations of the bill. Erin Turner asked for clarification as to what the Board was being asked to do regarding this matter. Priscilla Ivester replied that Board members were being asked to read over the information provided regarding the bill, including an email from the American Kennel Club. Erin Turner stated she felt the information from the AKC was written in a “slanted” manner. Amy Pugh said she thought the fact that standards are being discussed is a good thing and perhaps those who over-breed animals can be stopped. Priscilla Ivester said if Board members wish to

become involved by contacting representative they can do so or they can read the information and do nothing further.

- ***Rabies Clinics 2022***

The first 2022 Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 26th. This will be a drive-up clinic as has been done the past two years very successfully.

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and members for the Tribunal Hearings scheduled for April 21st were discussed. Rick Borucki, Amy Pugh, and Erin Turner said they were available.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business Priscilla Ivester asked for a motion to adjourn. Rick Borucki made the motion, which was seconded by PJ Lofland. Priscilla Ivester adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.