



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

September 16, 2021

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

Members Present

Priscilla Ivester
Bill Cowan

Cristina Griffin
Joseph Chrobak

Chad Griffin

Staff Present

Capt. V. Loveland
Tonya Ward

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Priscilla Ivester.
- Approval of meeting minutes July 15, 2021
MOTION: Bill Cowan made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Chad Griffin and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- As the meeting was held virtually, there was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- ***Repealing Differential Licensing***
Priscilla Ivester let the Board know that she and Captain Loveland attended the recent County Commissioner meeting. Damon Sanders-Pratt also spoke at this meeting. The Commissioners will continue to consider repealing licensing. Captain Loveland said that he has met with Finance and the Budget departments to put together a more in-depth study with the total cost of everything involved in licensing. This will also address why other counties have discontinued licensing. Captain Loveland and someone from Finance will present this information to the Commissioners at their winter workshop after the first of the year. There was discussion of the cost of licensing vs the amount of income generated and the fact that Animal Services pays the costs associated but does not receive revenue. Additionally, the spay/neuter program was discussed and importance of rabies vaccination information.
- ***Status Update on FCC 6-57***
Captain Loveland said this issue was brought up at the meeting as well. He suggested the Board speak with Damon Sanders-Pratt in order to keep this topic on the agenda. He said the Commissioners seemed

receptive to making the requested changes. Priscilla Ivester said she had spoken with Damon Sander-Pratt and he indicated the Commissioners wanted options. Captain Loveland pointed out that options had been discussed previously.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Forsyth Humane Society Update – Guest Speaker: Mark Neff, Interim Executive Director***

Mark Neff shared some statistics from the partnership between Forsyth Humane Society and Animal Services. He stated that, to date, Forsyth Humane Society (FHS) has cared for over 24,000 dogs and cats. Over 10,000 of these animals were adopted, more than 2,700 were returned to their owners, and more than 4,000 have been transferred to the rescue partners FHS works with. The euthanasia rate has been reduced by 43% according to Mr. Neff. He gave statistics from 2019, 2020, and 2021 through August 31st, explaining that he was comparing 2021 to date to 2019 since 2020 was such an anomaly. While Intake and adoptions numbers were down, reclaims were up, and euthanasia was down as well. He then discussed some of the factors involved such as the re-opening in 2021 of the Country Club Road adoption center, partnerships with local groups, services to the public such as pet food pantries, and their collaboration with Animal Services. He opened the floor to questions. Priscilla Ivester asked about the percentage of dogs vs cats in the euthanasia numbers and he replied that euthanasia is around 60% cats and 40% dogs due to feral cat trapping by community members. He also stated they have been seeing an increase in sick animals in 2021 due to some of the same factors. Priscilla Ivester asked if FHS works with feral groups and Mr. Neff replied that they do, offering spay/neuter services as well as food donations. Priscilla Ivester then asked about dog houses being provided to community members and he responded that there are some at the facility currently available. PJ Lofland asked which group accepts the largest number of transfers. Mr. Neff replied that, locally AARF does, especially young kittens and that they have a transport partner in MD and are working on establishing another in CT who accept 50 cats per month or more. He stated that all partners they work with are “no kill”. Mark Neff finished his presentation by letting the Board know that all statistics will be available on the Forsyth Humane website once a new Executive Director is hired. All information will be easily accessible and available for community education.
- ***Meeting with State Senator Regarding Rabies Vaccination Reporting***

Chad Griffin stated that State Senator Joyce Krawiec is interested in discussing this topic. He said he will check to see if she is available to possibly attend a future Board meeting. Captain Loveland pointed out that rabies reporting is also beneficial to Public Health as well as Animal Services. He continued that sometimes citizens move counties or visit veterinarians in another county so a statewide database would solve that issue. Chad Griffin said he will try to speak with Senator Krawiec as soon as possible. Bill Cowan pointed out that Senator Krawiec is the chair of the Appropriations on Health and Human Services Committee in the NC Senate.
- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and members for the Tribunal Hearings scheduled for October 21st were discussed. Tonya Ward requested the Board add another October date on the 14th as there have been a larger number of appeals filed recently. The Board agreed. Christina Griffin, Priscilla Ivester, and PJ Lofland were scheduled for the 14th and Erin Turner, Chad Griffin, and Bill Cowan were scheduled for the 21st.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business Priscilla Ivester asked for a motion to adjourn. Chad Griffin made the motion, which was seconded by Bill Cowan. Priscilla Ivester adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.