

Franklin County Animal Advisory Board Minutes May 21, 2008

The Animal Advisory Board of Franklin County, North Carolina met at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, County Administration Building .

The following Board Members were present: ex officio members: Franklin County Animal Control Director Graham Stallings and Franklin County Humane Society President Ida Estep; voting Board Members: Dianne Barrett, Chip Broughton, Bess Nicholson, John Ryan, Brenda Simmons and Paulette Woods. Absent: voting member Sandra Wood, ex-officio member Commissioner Bob Winters, and Franklin County Manager Angela Harris. Member of the general public present: Franklin County Board of Health Chairman Elyse Goldman, DVM

1) Board Members reviewed and approved minutes of the April 23, 2008 meeting.

2) Status of CRV proposal:

Estep reported that Animal Control Officers Wesley Denton and Maylon Edwards will train on June 16, 2008. The proposal to amend the County Ordinance to allow CRVs will be on the agenda for the Commissioners Meeting on June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.; Board Members are urged to attend. Both Estep and Stallings reported that the Franklin County Board of Health Director Eric Ireland and the County Board of Health are in support of the CRV proposal.

3) Appointment of Veterinarian as ex officio member of AAB:

Stallings reported that adding a veterinarian as an ex officio member would require a bylaw amendment. He observed that one Board member has been absent from all meetings which might cause the appointing Commissioner to appoint a replacement Board member. Simmons stated that the Veterinarian currently under contract with the Franklin County Animal Control would be available to consult with the Board. Estep confirmed that Kimberley Barth, DVM, has agreed to be available for meetings as necessary and that Barth expressed the opinion that most Board decisions are not really veterinarian related.

The consensus was that the Board did not need a veterinarian as an additional ex officio member.

4) Shelter Open House

Stallings stated that the open house has been delayed from mid-July to early August with a definite date to be set after he meets with the builder on June 4, 2008. A tentative date was set for August 9, 2008, subject to checking for conflict with other county events.

A Shelter Open House committee will include one Member each from Animal Control, the Commissioners Office, the Humane Society, County Administration and two members from the Animal Advisory Board. Projected committee members are Graham Stallings, Kristen King, Ida Estep, Ada Pitt, Chip Broughton and Bess Nicholson.

Open House Events:

Booths for area Veterinarians and Rescue groups
Canine Demonstration from the Sheriff's Office

Retriever Demonstration

Speakers, an agenda will need to be set for the speakers

Local Bluegrass Band has volunteered to perform

Door prizes from local businesses and veterinarians

Food vendor (Broughton suggested Johnny Sledge who could handle concessions with a portion of revenue donated to Animal Shelter.)

Guided tours through the facility

Stallings will speak to the Sheriff regarding parking for the Open House.

After discussion, the board agreed it would enhance the Open House to have animals in the facility but left the final decision up to the Shelter committee.

Simmons stated volunteers would be available to be with the animals during the tours.

The Board agreed it needed to explore media coverage, TV, newspaper and radio.

5) Database for Animal Shelter

Stallings discussed the New Hanover County software which costs approximately \$35,000.00, which New Hanover offsets by a licensing fee of \$3.50 per animal.

Stallings indicated that AnimalShelter.net, a database used in Johnston County, is currently in use at the Franklin County Shelter. Ryan spoke to Coy Floyd, Franklin County IT about the current database they will be meeting to discuss the database for the New Shelter.

6) Adoption and other fees

The Board reviewed research on fees done by Ryan which showed a wide range of fees for dog and cat adoption, boarding, and redemption fees.

Adoption Fees: Dogs: Lowest \$15, Highest \$115, Average \$65 – 6 Counties
Most Popular \$75

Cats: Lowest \$15, Highest \$100, Average \$60 – 5 Counties
Most Popular \$65

Adoption Fees include (in 34 out of 55 counties) in various combinations: Physical Health Exam, Spay/Neuter, Rabies Vaccinations, DHLPP and Parvo, Feline Leukemia and Feline Aids, De-worming, Flea/Tick Baths and Microchip.

The Board discussed the fee issue with Simmons stating that, in surrounding counties, the normal adoption fee is \$25.00 with a \$50.00 refundable deposit (held in an escrow account) for Spay/Neuter, with the option for the adopter to donate the deposit to the Shelter. The Board agreed to that amount.. Rescue groups would pay \$5 for each animal to cover the rabies vaccination.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Shelter should provide a rabies shot and treatment for external parasites, which can also become a human health issue. Micronex is currently used every morning to spray inside and outside the Shelter.

Broughton stressed that animals must have a rabies shot before leaving the shelter; this is a health issue for the county.. The other testing and treatments are not a county priority.

Spay/Neuter must be considered otherwise you are just perpetuating the problem. Broughton also suggested that baths would make the animals more attractive for adoption, maybe using honor prisoners. Simmons stated there are already people wanting to volunteer that could possibly do the bathing.

Stallings stated that he has approached the Sheriff about using honor prisoners to help clean the facility at this time; he has spoken to the Sheriff. Working with the animals could possibly happen at a later date.

Ryan's research on Reclaiming Fees showed some counties charge a reclaiming fee, a flat fee, a daily rate or a combination. The fees varied:

Reclaiming Fees: Flat Fee: \$20.00 - \$100.00

Daily Fee: \$3.00 - \$8.00

Boarding Fee: Dogs \$3.00 - \$10.00

Cats \$5.00 - \$10.00

Bite Confinement Fee: \$10.00 - \$15.00

After discussion, the Board decided there would be \$25.00 Reclaiming Fee, replacing the current Boarding Fee of \$7.50 for the first day and \$2.50 for each additional day.

As to bite quarantine, depending on the circumstances, the quarantine period could be from 10 days up to 6 months. Stallings stated if owner has proof of rabies vaccination, the Health Director has the option of allowing the owner to keep the animal at home if they have the proper enclosure. The new shelter will have facilities for quarantining and the Board decided there would be a \$5.00 per day Quarantine Fee.

7) Ryan stated Duties of Animal Control Staff and Volunteers in the New Shelter will be tabled until the next meeting, scheduled for June 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by Paulette Woods, Secretary the Board