

Animal Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2009
7:00pm

Chairperson Dianne Barrett called the Animal Advisory Board Meeting of Wednesday February 25, 2009 at 7:00 to order. The following Board Members were present: ex-officio members: Franklin County Animal Control Director Graham Stallings, Commissioner Bob Winters, and Franklin County Humane Society President Ida Estep; voting Board Members: Dianne Barrett, Elyse Goldman, DVM, Brenda Simmons, Mark Speed, Jackie Oakley and Paulette Woods. Absent: ex-officio member Kimberley Barth, DVM and voting Board member Bess Nicholson.

First Discussion: Time of meeting was set for 6:00 at the previous meeting and then was changed to 7:00. A request was made for the next meeting time to be 6:15 because of scheduling. Everybody then agreed and the discussion went to the next meeting date.

Second Discussion: Date of next meeting is set for March 25, 2009 due to someone having to work on the 18th. Nobody was opposed to the date of March 25, 2009. It was mentioned that someone needs to get the information to Kristen King in the Clerks office. It was then mentioned about putting the information on the Web. Woods said that John Ryan and Chip Broughton were sending the Minutes out but then said that the information was not reaching people and the information was not reaching the calendar. Stallings said he sent the information to the ITP department as soon as he received the minutes. He then said that he would take the information himself if you gave him the information. It was mentioned that the minutes have to be approved before they are taken to ITP. Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes to be given to ITP. Woods seconded and all said aye, none opposed.

#1 Feral Cat Issues

Any action on the Feral Cat issues at the last meeting will be carried to the next meeting due to no new information available as of the date of this meeting. Stallings will speak to Harris or Darnell Batton to get information before next meeting.
Continued until next meeting.

#2 Spay and Neuter options for pets adopted from the Franklin County Animal Shelter.

Stallings said we are in full force trying to follow-up every adoption and we are even going back further on the modification adoption agreement in January to do follow up on the original adoptions. Everything is doing well so far.

Goldman said that everybody is on board about the changes that Harris and Winters wanted at the last meeting. All information was faxed and approved. The information was given to Stallings and he was going to have pamphlets made to include that list.

Stallings mentioned that the Vance Granville students of teacher Sue Guerrant will be making the pamphlet and it will be free of charge to the Shelter. However, the contents of the brochure will need to be reviewed as a group. It was mentioned if the prices would be put on the pamphlet. Stallings said that he does not think anything needs to be done

until it is discussed as a group. The class is making the graphic design and the board will need to make the information to input on the pamphlet.

Goldman: Vets are ready and waiting for the information on when they can start charging the price. Goldman passed out a handout of the prices and info at the last meeting. Stallings asked if we need to wait until the brochure is ready. It was mentioned that all options must be in the pamphlet (SNAP, SNIF) Stallings plans to get the brochure ready for review before the next meeting.

Goldman wanted to know what to tell the Vets? Winters said all prices were agreed upon. Goldman made a motion to move forward with the proposal. Several people seconded the motion. All agreed no opposed.

#3 Status of Pet Disaster Planning Group

Met in Jan 08 and then in Nov. 08. Mr. Graham Stallings called and was advised that the meeting should be in the later part of March. There is a problem because the meetings are so far apart and the people change and you forgot about what was being discussed. Mr. Stallings was to get the information today regarding and will forward it to the Board. He recommends that if the board needs to make any changes then they should suggest the change.

Oakley stated that she was unsure of what the Disaster Planning Group is? Answer: Came out of Katrina and from now on there are options for dogs, cats, ferrets, and other pets kept in the schools and the owners take care of them. It was also brought up when the fires came about. Dr. Tickle suggested camions special cages that rolled out. Vance has one and Franklin does not. Issues that need to be brought up; Are shots needed, can we use the schools, what are we to do if the power goes out for a week? Re: look at website minutes from last meeting. The ability to use the schools is still unknown.

#4 Update of Training of Animal Control Personnel to ID personal cats.

Stallings said that they are very cautious. They have Simmons, Barrett, and Barth involved in euthanasia. They are very cautious before they put down any cat. They go by the 72-hour ordinance. They go through together and decide what animals go down and what animals don't. Today they identified three cats before they proceeded. We need to keep the cats in the shelter before we euthanize them. We have come a long way and please give us time we are improving. New facility allows us to evaluate the animals and hold them longer. How do cats react in the facility? They are kept separate from the dogs and people are working with them in the evaluations to see if they can go up front.

Estep discussed the handling of fearful dogs and to bring in Melissa Duran from Companion Animal Hospital that runs Canine Acclaim to do evaluations.

#5 Materials from Estep of Sick /Injured Animals

Estep contacted Professor Ed LaSalls at NC State and forwarded it to Barth to provide a presentation concerning how animals behave and show pain.

#6 Phone answering and dealing with the public

Stallings: Christy and Stallings have discussed the new phone system that we have in our main switchboard. Christy sent me a copy of her system. Stallings is currently working on making his own to put in his SOP.

Simmons has heard compliments on callbacks and feedback. Please tell the staff to keep up the good work.

New Business

#1 Licensing in the County

Start implementing a fee to give the owners an incentive to get their pets fixed. The original shelter committee looked into licensing because case studies show that the only thing that worked in cutting population down was licensing and mandating spay and neuter. This allows you to know where your breeders are and helps locate the puppy mills because you have to get your license by the amount of dogs located there. This helps the animal shelter by giving it a scheduled fee causing less support from the shelter, allows the shelter to be self-supporting, and cuts back on the animal population in the county. Once instituted it takes about 6-7 years for a turn around to take place. In states that currently have this in place they have a shortage of cats and dogs. They are coming down south and getting puppy mill pups and kittens. They also have stipulations that cover the hunters and show dogs to grandfather them out. This allows great revenue for our county and allows the people causing this problem pay for it. All the money will go to the shelter and the spay and neuter program. Commissioners told us that we had to have a spay and neuter program into place before they would consider this and we have that into play now. Maybe licensing is the next thing we do need to look at. They predicted that in 6 years if we do not do something about our problem the Animal Control Director will be going back in 6 years to get an expansion to the new shelter.

Questions:

Would you need a license for each pet?

Yes, animals that are spayed or neutered will be charged a license fee. Two to three dollars per animal. There will also be kennel or multi dog license. Maybe a flat rate per a certain amount of dogs. Animal fee for un-fixed animal cat or dog will be greater than fixed. The license fee will be a yearly fee. It will take at least 6 months to get this into effect. All information will be in the computer and the Animal control will be able to pull up who has what animal. In addition, you will license breeders and this will shut down the breeders that have hundreds of dogs that are not being cared for. This also keeps up with Rabies vaccines in the county because you will not be able to get a license unless you have proof of a current rabies vaccine. Stallings would support such a fee.

Question:

Who would enforce the license? (Animal control/police department?)

It would be done possibly with taxes. Franklin County used to have this in effect but it fell through because there was no accountability to enforce or track.

Franklinton is ready for action and is talking about getting things done.

Winters: File with property taxes and treat as property tax. The municipalities could receive a commission and may encourage their participation.

#2. Leash Law

Tabled for now in order to focus on the licensing issue. Speed would support a leash law.

#3. Rabies shots

Have a certified rabies vaccinator (CRV) provide rabies shots at the shelter one Saturday a month.

Discussion: There is belief this is a great revenue source for the county. This would be another option for people to get a rabies vaccine.

Goldman: Guilford county Mr. Ireland said that it was a headache and not a revenue maker that people say that it is. Franklin County does not put any money into the rabies program right now. Estep: He had 41 CRVs and it got out of control. This is not what Estep has in mind.

Comment: It has made revenue in other counties. This would be another option for people to get a rabies vaccine.

Problem: The County would like to have a year round shot available to those people having tags that expire in the winter months. Question: Why not have CRV give shots at the shelter because they are already there to do shots and bookkeeping, and the charge would be \$5. Estimated cost per vaccine:

\$1.40 for rabies vaccine

\$0.10 for syringe

\$0.29 for tag

Question:

How often do you have CRVs available to give a shot?

Stallings: This is only discussing rabies vaccines at the shelter. Cathy Johnson is there all the time and she could provide the service.

Winters is not comfortable with the county getting in competition with the local veterinarians.

All rescue dogs in county get rabies for \$5.00 by all vets in the county any time of year.

Concern: There are many animals not adopted from the shelter. Main concern is to offer clinics year round.

Goldman: Offering year round clinics are not a problem. Currently clinics are set up to reach the greatest number of people that they possibly can. Clinics are traveling to all reaches in the county. Problem is that for example in August people drive up with pets in the car. It is not the best time to have a rabies clinic.

Question: What should you do if your tag is up in August?

Answer: Most people that cannot afford the shot already know that the clinics are in the spring and fall. It is difficult to have a cat brought up in the middle of August.

Question: Price for Rabies Vaccine for walk in non-client. Being required by law people are letting rabies shots expire because they are charged for more in a vet office.

Answer: Certified person can only do one-year shots. This would be confusing to people. People can get a 1-year or 3 year for same price at the rabies clinics. We are getting the public trained on this and if CRV comes in and says, you could get a 3-year shot but we cannot give them.

Question: Can a person come in and get a rabies shot and no physical?

Goldman: I cannot speak for every vet in the county, but at Tar River, you can get just rabies shot with no office visit, fecal, anything.

Comment: It would be nice to know if all vets have that policy. This way they can say you can go to any of your local vets and just get a rabies vaccine. Ten-twelve dollars every 3 years is not unreasonable.

Comment: Winters does not think that the shelter will make \$3 a shot because it would only be the first year vaccine and the CRV is currently employed to do other duties. Winters questions the County going into competition with the local veterinarians

Dispute of \$3.00 made for county, and liabilities. No known lawsuit regarding this. What type of liabilities are you subjecting the Shelter to, having the shots done at the Shelter to justify \$3.00. Response: There has never been a lawsuit. Comment: It takes time to find lost dogs by the tag numbers. These things happen everyday.

Question: Winters asks the number of Animals in the County Stallings answered with the Demographics of 2005

Cats 13,000

Dogs 15,000

Speed Commented: Liability issues from Insurance agent: Premium will be biased on the amount of traffic your business does. If you are going to run these clinics on a monthly basis then you need to notify your insurance to let them know that it is going to be monthly. Response: Winters and Estep said: there is no current insurance. The County has sovereign immunity against accidents.

Winters said that if all pets came there then in the first year they could make a total of \$5,600.00. He did not see where that would be worth it and would rather get the money from the license. Is anyone opposed to this?

Goldman: You have a professional service being provided by a non-professional. Is that good public health and if that's not important than anyone can give a shot.

Stallings would support having shots done at shelter on a monthly basis.

Concern is liability for clients if there are reactions. If reactions then they would have to go to their regular vet.

This is an option for people to get rabies shots not eliminate veterinary rabies clinics. The state amended the law to make other options available.

Estep: In a discussion with Dr. Williams the Public Health Veterinarian, commented that many of the counties that use CRV's to provide rabies vaccines like the program.

Goldman: John Freeman wrote the law and it was for counties that did not have a vet available. It was not intended for the way it is trying to be used in counties where there are vets available.

Simmons: However, the program has been in effect for years now, because it has worked, with no known liability issues. His views have been disproven. Estep: The statute is clear on its face. The intent is not relevant for a statute that is clear. The point is that it would be a source of revenue for the county and provide another option for people.

Simmons: All the Counties in North Carolina were queried, and those that use the program liked it.

Barrett: In favor of CRV's vaccinating animals.

Will the county send out reminders when the vaccines are due?

No. The expiration date is printed on the certificate and it is the owner's responsibility to keep up with it.

If someone does not follow up on the vaccination when they are due, then are they in violation of the law?

Yes. Because required by law.

Stallings would like to see an officer give a vaccine once a month. He would like to give it a try to see if it can work. Simmons: The County used to use CRV's. Estep: Gives people another option.

Goldman: Wouldn't it have to be approved by the Health Department? No, because the CRV is already certified. Goldman responded that it was conditional upon ordinance. Estep: Any ordinance change would have to be approved by the Commissioners. The recent change to the ordinance was a negotiation compromise in order to get the CRV appointed. Winters commented that the way you want to extend it seems like instrumentalism. Estep said it was a forced compromise.

Question: Winters said walk-ins would it hurt the local traveling clinics by having the shots at the Shelter causing a lesser option to the public in the long run? Wanting to offer both.

Option: Could Goldman go out once every month and turn in the number of people interested in shelter vaccinations to see how much money the County could generate?

Simmons: Motion to approach the Commissioners to amend the ordinance to have the CRV give rabies shots at the Shelter one Saturday every month, on a trial basis for 6 months to see the revenue and impact to the community.

Motion seconded by Barrett.

Discussion:

Question: Will you do it the same time as the current rabies clinics? No that can be figured out.

Winters: Does not think it is appropriate to compete with any vet practices.

Motion Passes:

For:	Opposed:
Barrett	Speed
Woods	Goldman
Simmons	

Abstained: Oakley

Barrett motion to adjourn, Oakley seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
Elyse Goldman, DVM
March 24, 2009