

Franklin County Animal Advisory Board Minutes August 27, 2008

The Animal Advisory Board of Franklin County, North Carolina met at 7:00 p.m. at the Animal Shelter on T Kemp Rd. The following Board Members were present: ex-officio members: Franklin County Animal Control Director Graham Stallings, Franklin County Humane Society President Ida Estep and Kimberley Barth, DVM; voting Board Members: Dianne Barrett, Chip Broughton, Elyse Goldman, DVM, Bess Nicholson, John Ryan, Brenda Simmons, and Paulette Woods. Absent: ex-officio member Commissioner Bob Winters and Franklin County Manager Angela Harris. There were no members of the general public present.

Minutes of the July 16, 2008 meeting were reviewed and will be posted on the Animal Control website.

1) Adoption of a Mission Statement

The AAB bylaws Article 2, Purpose and the mission statement from the Task Force were reviewed. Broughton recommended a concise, mission statement; encompassing anything that the AAB may need to address but keeping in mind the commissioners' constraints. Broughton's mission statement "To be a guiding hand and a watchful eye over a forward thinking animal welfare department" will be reviewed by the AAB and voted on at the next meeting.

2) Feedback from the Grand Opening

Broughton stated he had only had good feedback. The write ups in the Franklin Times and the Wake Weekly were both very positive; he has the articles for anyone needing copies.

Simmons stated there was good representation from the county, a good mix of people. There were a lot of giveaways, thirty seven door prizes. The Grand Opening was generally deemed a success.

3) Revisit the subject of Volunteers in the New Facility

Stallings stated there is a Volunteer application and release form posted on the AC web site. There are currently some volunteers signed up and helping at the Shelter. The AC staff is working hard to familiarize themselves with the new facility and its operation. Once the facility assessment is complete, AC will be better able to evaluate the need for volunteers and match their interests with the needs of the shelter. Stallings recommended community service workers be required to work a minimum of 3 to 4 hours at a time and utilizing these volunteers for kennel cleaning, a job which is time consuming for his staff. Stallings recommended holding off on the use of supervised prisoners at this time.

Goldman suggested utilizing high school students wanting to pursue careers in animal related fields as volunteers at the shelter. Goldman will contact Ms Jones with Franklin County Schools about the volunteer program at the shelter.

Estep commented that County Attorney Darnell Batton had deleted the underage provision for parental approval and would need to consent to allowing people under the age of 18 years old to volunteer at the shelter.

Simmons stated the Humane Society has volunteers unable to assist as fosters or in other areas where the HS needs assistance, who may be able to assist at the shelter. The HS can hand out volunteer applications at the adopt-a-thons which can be mailed back to the shelter.

Estep suggested organizing a recruitment meeting for volunteers to be held at the shelter with a list of tasks available.

The AAB decided to table the item of volunteers at the shelter until the next meeting, allowing Stallings more time to assess where AC needs help with at the shelter.

4) Next Meeting Agenda

Broughton stated the AAB needs to focus on spay/neuter; that euthanasia will not fix the problem. Spay/neuter is the single most important issue that will keep the number of dogs/cats from being born and out of the shelters. Many residents are not aware that there are inexpensive, easy options for spay/neuter and where to go to have the procedure done. Many people do not realize how quickly animals breed, how many litters can be produced, how prevalent the problem is. Education and awareness will help to reduce the numbers in the shelter.

Barrett stated SNAP wants to speak with Stallings about the possibility of coming to the shelter two times a month with their mobile unit for spay/neuter.

Simmons stated we can get together a group of resources, such as other organizations in surrounding counties, local vets and HS SNIF program giving people more options. We need to educate people that drop off litters at the shelter, using brochures, publicity by the local newspapers and radio station. We can use models on spay/neuter and licensing from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New Jersey obtained during the operation of the task force.

Broughton stated Franklin County Manager Angela Harris would like to see the AAB address an emergency operation/disaster plan for the animals in the county. Broughton recommended the possibility of using the old shelter as an emergency set up.

Ryan spoke to the Red Cross on an earlier occasion and will follow up with John Berry the local representative with the Red Cross and report back at the next meeting.

Estep stated that, at an earlier meeting with Emergency Management Director, Randy Liken, the schools being used as shelters could have the hallways set up for people to bring their animals, providing they supplied their own crates.

Barth stated there is a veterinarian program and seminars addressing disaster preparedness that she will check into.

- 5) The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Shelter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Paulette Woods, Secretary to the Board