

## Franklin County Animal Advisory Board Minutes April 23, 2008

The Animal Advisory Board of Franklin County, North Carolina met at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Board Members present: Commissioner Bob Winters and Franklin County Humane Society President Ida Estep, serving as ex-officio members, voting Board Members present Dianne Barrett, Chip Broughton, Bess Nicholson, John Ryan, Brenda Simmons and Paulette Woods. Sandra Wood and ex-officio member Graham Stallings were absent. Also present Franklin County Manager Angela Harris.

Members of the general public present included:

Invited Guests: Franklin County Health Director Eric Ireland  
Franklin County Board of Health Chairman Elyse Goldman, DVM

Additional attendees:

Commissioner Penny McGhee-Young, Commissioner Member on the Franklin County Board of Health  
Kimberley Barth, DVM, veterinarian currently contracted by the County over the past two years to provide lethal injections and other veterinary services to Animal Control.  
Franklin County Animal Control Officers, Maylon Edwards and Kathy Johnson

Board Members reviewed and approved minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting.

Board chair Ryan introduced the invited guests and stated the Animal Advisory Board is recommending that Ireland approve Certified Rabies Vaccinator (CRV) training for Animal Control Officers and transfer of certification from Granville County to Franklin County of the one Officer already certified. The Board is further recommending rabies vaccinations be given to all animals leaving the Shelter, excepting only those too young for inoculation or those redeemed by owners who can produce current rabies certificates for their animals. Ireland was asked if he was prepared to do this.

Ireland responded by raising two basic concerns: 1) He felt that CRVs should have veterinary supervision; 2) He was concerned about liability issues arising from inoculations being given by a CRV.

Estep stated that the statute creating CRVs does not require veterinary supervision and that Dr. Carl Williams, State Public Health Veterinarian, who supervises and oversees the CRV program had confirmed that the CRVs did not require such supervision. Barth indicated she is willing to provide indirect supervision by phone for the CRVs.

As to the liability issue, Estep stated that there is no case law on the statute, passed in 1983, to indicate it had ever been challenged. Dr. Williams had reported he knew of no challenges to the CRV program and neither had County Attorney Darnell Batton, when asked about the several years that Franklin County had used CRVs, now both retired.

Winters stated we need to protect the County and not let animals leave the Shelter unvaccinated.

Goldman raised several objections including: 1) that having veterinarians give the rabies shots permitted animals to receive additional, necessary veterinary care; 2) that, although as reported by AC, current rabies follow-up was done on only 14% of animals leaving the shelter, that the veterinary provided shots had not been given a fair trial as inadequate paperwork is provided by Animal Control and the AC fax machine frequently is out of service; 3) that the Board should also be dealing with spay/neuter issues; 4) that the issue of animals too young to be vaccinated had to be dealt with.

Estep stated that additional veterinary care could be broached at the mandatory spay/neuter of animals after adoption; rabies is a public health problem and should be addressed by itself.

Ryan stated having CRVs on staff and the transfer of the Granville County Officer's certification to this county was the important issue. Animal Control Director Stallings wanted rabies to be the number one issue that is why it is on tonight's agenda. Adoption, reclamation and boarding fees will be the topic for subsequent meetings.

Winters stated that adopters could possibly use a voucher to obtain Spay/Neuter and possibly receive a rebate on the adoption fee.

Johnson challenged the assertion that paperwork had not been supplied with the animals and continued that the ACOs always encourage adopters to visit a veterinarian immediately. Johnson felt that AC does a lot of education.

Broughton suggested handling one issue at a time—rabies was the topic. How can we fix it so animals are being vaccinated when they leave the Shelter? Broughton continued that polling of other counties showed that there is no room for error if a CRV does the vaccination as the paperwork is done at the time of the vaccination.

Simmons stated Guilford County (Ireland's last place of employment) has 41 CRV's making it easy to get rabies shots. Here in Franklin County many people feel pressured to get other vet services and have not had easy access to get rabies shots so they have loaded up animals and gone to Vance County for a \$5.00 rabies shot. Rabies is the public health issue; we can't enforce other shots, only rabies shots. We want to see more animals adopted and charge an adoption fee but how do you charge an adoption fee if animals are leaving the Shelter with no rabies shots.

Broughton asked Ireland about any previous experiences that had caused him to have concerns. He mentioned one occasion at a large rabies clinic run by CRVs, vaccine had run low and the CRVs had given each animal half a dose, necessitating that all the animals be re-vaccinated..

Estep stated that this is different situation. In Franklin County, only Animal Control Officers would be CRVs, immunizing at the Shelter, supervised by Barth and Stallings.

Broughton stated high volume clinics would have a vet present... CRV's could handle day to day operations and rabies vaccinations which would allow animals to be adopted more days of the week.

At Goldman's suggestion, Ireland required a scope of authority and responsibility for CRVs and the Shelter veterinarian before he would recommend certification training/transfer.

Simmons responded that only animals leaving the Shelter would be vaccinated by a CRV; we don't want to take over rabies clinics.

Estep stated she would prepare such a statement, have the Board, ACOs, and Barth review it, and provide it to Ireland . Once the recommendation is in, the Board can ascertain the training schedule and also recommend obtaining a locked refrigerator to be used exclusively for vaccines..

Ireland stated he needs to talk to Williams to see what was needed to be able to transfer CRV from one county to another. Estep stated from a previous conversation with Williams all he needs to make the transfer is two emails, one from the Health Director of Franklin County and one from Granville County .

Ireland stated he will take the necessary steps to make the transfer and get the CRV training for the other officers once he has the scope statement.

Winters suggested meeting with Coy Floyd, Franklin County IT, to have a data base set up for the new Shelter to log in all vaccinations, shots, adoptions, etc.

The meeting was turned over to Harris, who requested volunteers from the Board for the Grand Opening of the new Animal Shelter in July; several members responded. Estep stated a specially decorated cake is already in the works.

Stallings stated by email that the Sheriff's Department will provide additional kitchen help, deputies for traffic control, canine officers and the possibility of a color guard demonstration.

Drawings for door prizes from Pet Smart and area veterinarians and donations from area businesses, crates, beds, etc. were mentioned, as was the need to do some event planning.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.; topic is adoption fees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Paulette Woods, Secretary to the Board