

# **Animal Advisory Board Minutes**

**July 21, 2010**

## **Call to Order**

Chairperson Barrett called the July 21, 2010 AAB meeting to order.

The following members were present: Voting members: Chairperson Dianne Barrett, Brenda Simmons, Paulette Woods, Jackie Oakley, Bess Nicholson and Dr. Elyse Goldman, DVM; ex-officio members: Franklin County Animal Control Director Graham Stallings, Franklin County Humane President Kelly Larson and Commissioner David Bunn. Absent: Voting member Mark Speed and Non-voting member Dr. Kimberley Barth, DVM.

## **Introduction of Commissioner Bunn**

Stallings introduced Commissioner David Bunn. Commissioner Bunn has been appointed by the County Commissioners to the AAB as Past Commissioner Bob Winters has moved out of county.

## **Members of the Public**

Barrett recognized Past Franklin County Humane President and board member Ida Estep. Animal Control Officer Maylon Edwards, Allyce Johnson, Julie Bonett and Cynthia Johnson. A sign-up sheet was passed for a complete listing of all in attendance.

**Motion to adopt the Minutes:** Simmons so moved, Woods seconded, and the motion carried to approve minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting.

## **Old Business**

1. Discussion regarding euthanasia. Simmons began the discussion relaying a case involving two owner surrendered dogs and the necessity of being able to identify the difference between scared dogs and truly aggressive dogs. Both dogs have been successfully rescued.

Stallings recommended to have a volunteer come in to help identify adoptable dogs and Simmons volunteered (concentrating her efforts on the smaller dogs). Barrett previously offered to evaluate adoptable kittens and cats.

2. Part-time Position. Stallings announced to the board that Danny Howard has filled a part-time position in the Kennel area.
3. Goldman made a motion to hold animals that have become available for adoption an additional 48 hours before rescue groups may adopt. Barrett seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

There may be holds placed by rescue groups on a second card placed so ACO's are aware there is a hold but in a way, the public knows the animal is available for public adoption first.

Stallings said people should be encouraged to use the adoption phone line to check on availability.

4. Crate Cleaning. The method of crate cleaning was discussed.
5. Progress on amending Ordinance for new rabies protocol. Stallings reported from a discussion with County Attorney Darnell Batton. Amy Wall (Animal Control Law Division ) and Fleming Bell from the Institutes of Government , School of Government at UNC, and Batton concur: “ state law relative to Rabies Control enforcement preempts our ability to impose civil penalties/fines on top of the criminal penalties already in place under the State Statues. We are regulated to the enforcement of the Rabies law under threat of or imposition of criminal sanctions only”.

Batton recommended that he and Stallings discuss options to enhance the regulations we already have and to enforce with a graduated approach leading to criminal sanctions as a last resort.

### **New Business**

1. Enforcement of Ordinance regarding female dogs in heat running at large was discussed.
2. Increasing support of local citizens and law enforcement for a countywide leash law was discussed. Simmons mentioned that Franklinton has a leash law.
3. Tethering, fencing and pens were discussed.
4. Cremation at Shelter is in place and operating

5. Licensing. Woods began the continuing discussion of the possibility of animal licenses. Stallings stressed the importance of measuring the pet population in Franklin County which is basic information to understanding and decreasing the population of homeless and unwanted animals. Simmons recalled that the original animal board studied the licensing issue. Woods asked Stallings, which County with licensing in place is closest to the needs of Franklin County. Stallings mentioned Gaston County, and possibly Cabarrus and Guilford Counties. He recommended that if the board wants to pursue that then we should focus on licensing only.

Simmons agreed to work with Stallings to review licensing information and to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Wednesday August 25, 2010 at 6:15pm in the Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Elyse Goldman, DVM