

# **Animal Advisory Board Minutes**

**January 20, 2010**

## **Call to Order**

Chairperson Barrett called the January 20, 2010 AAB meeting to order.

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

Commissioner Bob Winters has moved out of county. A commissioner will be appointed to the board.

Barrett introduced Kelly Larson, who as president of the Franklin County Humane Society, in accordance with AAB bylaws becomes an ex-officio member of the AAB.

**Motion to adopt the Minutes:** Barrett so moved, Simmons seconded, and the motion carried to approve minutes of the October 14, 2009, AAB meeting.

## **Members of the Public**

Barrett recognized Commissioner Harry Foy and Past President of the Franklin County Humane Society and AAB member Ida Estep.

## **Animal Control and Rescue Groups**

Simmons reported an incident where a Franklin County (FC) resident had her pet impounded. After 1 day, a DVM from outside FC was allowed to remove the dog (with minor injuries) from the Shelter. The Animal Hospital treated the dog but kept him in order to have him adopted. The owner called AC to see if her dog was there. Simmons reported the owner felt she received no cooperation from the front office at AC and was told she would have to come in and see if her dog was there. The owner came in the next day, her next available time, but the dog had already been picked up

by the Rescue Group affiliated with the DVM's Animal Hospital. The ACO's were aware of the dog and told the owner where the dog had gone. The owner then received a letter from the Animal Hospital that had picked up the dog and told her she could adopt her own dog back for \$250.00. Due to financial constraints this was impossible for the owner.

Simmons commented that as a board, we want rescue groups to come to the Shelter but also we want Franklin County citizens to have the first option of availability. Further, we want reception at the front office that is helpful and sensitive to the needs of its citizens.

Simmons proposed a change in policy that would give FC citizens the first option and then allow Rescue groups to adopt. Many Shelters will allow rescues to come in and put a hold on animals after the required three business days (unless it is owner surrendered) and a private citizen has not adopted the animal. This prevents unnecessary euthanasia as well as "cherry picking" of purebred dogs by the Rescue groups and gives the citizens first option.

Rescue groups adopt at no charge.

Furthermore, Simmons recommended a system needs to be in place so that an owner can check with a phone call to see if their pet is at the Shelter without having to appear in person.

Stallings reported that verbal instruction to give this information over the phone has been given, but is not written. The proper instructions shall be documented and placed in the AC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). As a follow-up Stallings has tried to communicate with the Veterinary Hospital involved. Stallings will follow-up with the County Attorney for resolution.

Motion made by Oakley to give Stallings authority to rectify this situation with County authorities. Barrett seconded. All in favor.

Motion made by Simmons to create a committee to update Animal Controls policy and procedure as set forth in the SOP to address adoption by Rescue groups and treatment of injured animals. Goldman 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

### **Senate Ratified Bill 467**

An act to assist owners in recovering lost pets, relieve overcrowding at animal shelters, and facilitate adoptions of animals from shelters.

Stallings passed out copies of the newly enacted bill ratified by the NC General Assembly in Section 1. G.S. 130A-192.

### **Phone System**

Stallings updated information concerning the installation of a phone system that will record every call at AC. Pending County management approval. Simmons asked if the phone answering policy is part of the SOP and Stallings replied yes.

### **Rabies Violation Fee structure**

Stallings will present the Rabies inoculation violation fee structure approved by the AAB at the Oct. 14, 2009 meeting to the county commissioners.

### **Election of Officers**

Discussion of election of officers, Motion made by Woods to leave officers in place until next election. Simmons seconded. All in favor.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 6:15pm in the Administration Building.

Motion made and carried to adjourn. All in favor,

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Elyse Goldman, DVM