



## Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board Annual Report 2018

The Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board is an eleven (11)-member board identified in the Forsyth County Code, Chapter 6, Sec. 6-5 - Animal Control Advisory Board. The Advisory Board makes recommendations on animal services codes, policies and programs. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to identified interest categories. The Advisory Board conducts regular public meetings and prepares an annual report for the Board of County Commissioners. Pursuant to FCC Chapter 6, Sec. 6-5, the Advisory Board has adopted By-Laws governing its purpose, duties, operations and membership subject to the approval of the County Manager.

### Advisory Board Membership & Representation

<b>Priscilla Ivester</b>	<i>Member at Large</i>	<b>Bill Cowan</b>	<i>Purebred Animals</i>
<b>Mitch Cromer</b>	<i>Member at Large</i>	<b>Tara Stebbins</b>	<i>Animals other than dog or cat</i>
<b>Dr. Amy Pugh</b>	<i>Veterinarian</i>	<b>Vacant</b>	<i>Public Health Department</i>
<b>Janice Freeman</b>	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	<b>P.J. Lofland</b>	<i>Municipality receiving Animal Control services</i>
<b>Cristina Griffin</b>	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	<b>Vacant</b>	<i>Non-Pet Owner</i>
<b>Terry Jessup</b>	<i>Hunting Dogs</i>		

## Work Plan

The Advisory Board adopted a multi-track work plan to provide organization and focus to its meetings in addition to its mandate to act as a Hearing Tribunal.

Issues reviewed by the Advisory Board in 2017-2018 focused upon the outcomes generated by Forsyth County Local Government's 2016 Animal Control Services Study, as well as general issues of animal welfare and public safety.

### Animal Control Services Study

The study results were originally presented to the Advisory Board in late 2016 with feedback requested by March 2017. Advisory Board members provided feedback and discussed multiple options. As a result of this study and subsequent discussions, activities initiated included a partnership with the Forsyth Humane Society where they provide custody and care for cats and dogs, including adoptions; more aggressive pursuit of civil penalties through use of the NC Debt Set Off program allowing for collection of past due fines via State tax refunds and/or lottery winnings; changing the department name from "Animal Control" to "Animal Services" to better reflect our statutory obligations while decreasing misinterpretation of services provided; and increasing staff responsiveness with the addition of an Animal Care Officer.

### Animal Welfare

Prior to the partnership with the Forsyth Humane Society, the Advisory Board considered options to improve adoption rates and manage space within the shelter. To this end, the Advisory Board voted to reduce cat adoption fees when shelter capacity reached 80%. Fees would be lowered for a period of one week or until capacity was sufficiently decreased.

### Public Safety

- FCC 6-59 Dangerous Dogs
- FCC 6-52 Security for Costs
- FCC 6-57 Appeals

The Advisory Board continues to address reducing the duration between "Dangerous Dog" or "Potentially Dangerous Dog" declarations and any associated appeals hearings. Frequently these animals remain at their owner's premises without preventive measures pending any appeal hearing, continuing to pose a public safety issue for the community.

The Advisory Board reviewed potential solutions such as having previous board members serve as tribunal hearings officers. Deputy County Manager, Damon Sanders-Pratt, attended multiple Advisory Board meetings to discuss this option. It was determined that, based on the bylaws, hearing tribunals must be composed of current Commissioner-appointed Advisory Board members.

Additionally the Advisory Board asked County Management about administratively extending Advisory Board member term limits or allowing members whose terms expired to reapply after sitting out one meeting since the by-laws do not explicitly define the amount of time Advisory Members must be off the Advisory Board before reappointment. Deputy County Manager, Damon Sanders-Pratt, and Assistant County Attorney, Lonnie Albright, advised the members of the Advisory Board that the spirit of the term limits provisions is that former Advisory Board members must sit out at least one year before reappointment.

The Advisory Board has continued to increase the number and scheduled frequency of appeal hearings. The objective being to ensure time periods for the requirement of a security bond are reasonable and in compliance with the time periods identified within the code. Additionally, the Advisory Board has added dates to address an increased volume of written appeals in lieu of in-person testimony before the tribunal.

The Advisory Board will continue to discuss potential amendments to FCC 6-1 Definitions to enhance sheltering requirements for animals maintained primarily outdoors. Some topics of discussion will include:

- Defining suitable intervals for provision of adequate food & water for pets.
- Identifying unacceptable solid surface flooring for pets.
- Identifying types of primary housing not acceptable as adequate shelter.
- Considering durations and temperature ranges in which outdoor sheltering can be considered potentially life threatening to pets
- Considering durations and temperature ranges in which prolonged outdoor activity can be considered life threatening to pets.
- Requiring animals transported in open bed trucks and trailers to be cross tied in order to secure them within the vehicle bed.

### Tether Code Service Impacts

**Study period:**

	11/14/15 - 5/12/16	11/14/16 - 5/12/17	7/1/17-6/30/18
<b>Tether specific complaints</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>686*</b>
<b>Citations issued</b>			<b>191</b>

\*Thirty three (33) dogs were impounded as a result of tethering violations.

## Performance Measures

### Administration Division

#### Spay /Neuter Rate – Registered Pets

Year	2008	2012	2016	2017
Cats S/N	97%	98%	97%	98%
Dogs S/N	83%	88%	88%	90%
% Total	87%	92%	91%	93%

#### Targeted Spay/Neuter Assistance Program -

- Low Income Pet Owner Assistance
  - \$10 Spay/Neuter Vouchers
  - In July 2017, FCAS began a voucher program separate from the previous coalition program. \*Vouchers were only offered at one clinic in 2017. Since that time, if FCAS vouchers are not offered at a clinic, FCAS partners with a local rescue group to offer vouchers. In 2017 AARF provided vouchers, and in 2018 Humane Solutions provided vouchers.
- Shelter intake dropped 31% in a 5 year period.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% chg 2012 - 2017
Vouchers Issued	315	426	422	482	453	80*	
Dogs & Cats Sheltered	8,483	7,498	6,314	6,453	6,146	5,869	-31%

## Patrol Division

### Time of First Response

Priority Code	Examples	Response Goal	2016	2017	2018
<b>1 Imminent Danger</b>	Attack in-progress Animal Rescue – life threatening	<b>30 minutes 1 hr EDO shift</b>	2 min	N/A	10 min
<b>2 Urgent</b>	Animal Bites Rabies Exposures Quarantine Check	<b>ASAP 2 - 3 hours</b>	3 hr 8 min	2 hr 14 min	1hr 57 min
<b>3 Today</b>	Witnessed cruelty-neglect Vicious behavior Animals in traps	<b>8 – 10 hours</b>	1 day 4 hrs 4 min	15 hrs 4 min	12 hrs 23 min
<b>4 Normal</b>	Investigative follow-up Neglect Stray animals Nuisance animals Anonymous calls	<b>48 hrs</b>	4 days 5 hrs 7 min	2 days 17 hrs 59 min	3 day 3 hrs 30 min
<b>5 General</b>	Check for License Humane Trapping Special Program Mailed Warning letters	<b>5 – 7 days</b>	8 hr 37 min	11 hr 11 min	11 hrs 1 min

### Hearing Tribunals

- During 2017, the Advisory Board Hearing Tribunal conducted 106 hearings regarding appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations.
- An additional 96 appeals of violations of FCC 6-10 - Registration of Dogs and Cats Required - were processed administratively pursuant to FCC 6-55 - Violations and Penalties.

## Custody & Care Division

Fiscal Year	Dogs & Cats Sheltered	Dogs & Cats Re-Homed	% Re-Homed *
2009-2010	8051	1812	23%
2010-2011	7978	1646	21%
2011-2012	8452	2019	24%
2012-2013	7685	2359	31%
2013-2014	6922	2164	31%
2014-2015	6400	2292	36%
2015-2016	6402	2315	36%
2016-2017	6048	2172	36%
2017-2018**	5178**	2721**	n/a

\*Re-Homing includes new adoptions, transfers to Community Care Program partner organizations, who guarantee adoptions to FCAC standards, or redemption of the pet by its owner.

\*\*FY 2017-2018 numbers are affected by partnership with FHS. In January 2018, FHS began handling over-the-counter intake at the shelter (which causes sheltered number to be significantly lower) as well as transfer of all cats and dogs brought in by officers (which causes number shown as "re-homed" to be significantly higher)

# Work-Load Statistics

## Departmental Operations Report

June 2017

### Animal Control

Departmental	Jun 2017	Jun 2016	% Change	2016-2017 Year-to-Date	2015-2016 Year-to-Date	% Change
Animals Redeemed	63	53	18.9%	641	676	-5.2%
Animals Euthanized	458	392	16.8%	3,886	4,125	-5.8%
Citations Issued	87	70	24.3%	769	774	-0.6%
Number Violations Issued	215	176	22.2%	1,840	1,649	11.6%
Animal Bite/Quarantine	97	129	-24.8%	936	1,068	-12.4%
Calls Received	1,143	1,039	10.0%	11,007	10,671	3.1%
Animals Impounded	674	614	9.8%	6,245	6,772	-7.8%
Animals Adopted	123	125	-1.6%	1,540	1,730	-11.0%
Monthly Revenue	34,197	36,502	-6.3%	376,911	400,239	-5.8%
License Transactions	3,802	3,636	4.6%	35,894	35,194	2.0%

## Departmental Operations Report

June 2018

### Animal Control

Departmental	Jun 2018	Jun 2017	% Change	2017-2018 Year-to-Date	2016-2017 Year-to-Date	% Change
Animals Redeemed	1	63	-98.4%	391	641	-39.0%
Animals Euthanized	208	458	-54.6%	2,732	3,886	-29.7%
Citations Issued	89	87	2.3%	1,089	769	41.5%
Number Violations Issued	244	215	13.5%	2,659	1,840	44.5%
Animal Bite/Quarantine	98	97	1.0%	857	936	-8.4%
Calls Received	920	1,143	-19.5%	10,547	11,007	-4.2%
Animals Impounded	363	674	-46.1%	5,185	6,245	-17.0%
Animals Adopted	205	123	66.7%	2,354	1,540	52.9%
Monthly Revenue	17,249	34,197	-49.6%	269,146	376,911	-28.6%
License Transactions	3,241	3,802	-14.8%	35,011	35,894	-2.5%

In addition to civil citations Animal Services Officers have charged twenty eight (28) misdemeanors and thirty one (31) felonies from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

## Recommendations

The Animal Control Advisory Board recommends the Forsyth County Commissioners continue their support for proactive public and private partnership programs. These recommendations are consistent with the strategies identified within the Five-Year Plan for Animal Services.

- **Code Considerations:**

**Hearing Tribunal FCC 6-57**

Amendment of code and Advisory Board by-laws to allow former, experienced, members of the Animal Control Advisory Board to serve as tribunal members for appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations. This action would allow for an increased scheduling of hearing tribunals and reduction of the often 4-6 month waiting time between the filing of an appeal and the actual hearing.

**Advisory Board FCC 6-5**

Amendment of code and Advisory Board by-laws to allow current members who are rotating off the Advisory Board to reapply for a vacant board position if that position remains unfilled after the former member has been off the Advisory Board for at least one board meeting.

**FCC 6-55 Violations and Penalties**

The Animal Control Advisory Board recommends FCC 6-55, "Violations and Penalties," be amended to differentiate between violations, victimless violations, and those involving public safety concerns or the welfare of animals.

<b>Current Penalties</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
\$50 first violation	Violation of FCC sections first offense.	
\$75 second violation	Subsequent violations double in penalty amount.	
\$150 third violation		
\$200 fourth violation	6-59 Potentially Dangerous Dog	\$100
\$500 fifth and successive	6-6 General Duties	\$100
	6-7 Cruelty	\$200
\$500 violation of Dangerous Dog	6-8 Control of Vicious	\$100
\$50 increase if not paid or appealed	6-27 Rabies Quarantine	\$500
FCC 6-10 Registration may be administratively dismissed upon compliance	Authority to administratively dismiss violation of rabies vaccination upon proof of current vaccination received	