

Lincoln County Animal Services

Advisory Board Meeting

June 6, 2017

Minutes

Attendees:

Hannah Beaver, Animal Services Director

Josh Grant, Program Operations Manager

Danielle Rudisill, Vice Chairman

Dr. Karen Miller, Secretary

Ms. Robin Franklin, Board Member

Diane Leatherman, Board Member

Mark Connolly, Board Member

Tyler Moore, Animal Services Caretaker

Opening:

Director Beaver handed out the agenda, May 8, 2017 minutes, PowerPoint presentation, the rabies compendium, press release for the first 2017 rabies case, press release for the second 2017 rabies case, the rabies memorandum, the new rabies post-exposure guideline, the legislative proposal form, and an example of a regulation for potentially dangerous dogs. Danielle Rudisill opened the meeting at 6:36pm. Dr. Ashley Oliphant and Doug Woods were not in attendance.

1) Approval of Minutes:

Danielle Rudisill asked if there were any suggestions or changes that were required of the March 14th minutes. After the board took a moment to look over the minutes, Mark Connolly motioned to accept last month's minutes and Robin Franklin seconded. The minutes were passed unanimously.

2) Rabies Compendium Presentation

a) *First Rabies Case – Cat*

Director Beaver explained that there was a positive case of rabies in Lincoln County and that the cat was actually housed within our facility. The cat was an intake as owner surrender from the area of Green Street in Lincolnton, NC. The reason the cat was surrendered was

because the owner could not get the abscessed paw to heal, even after taking it to a veterinarian for treatment. Aside from the paw, there were no other obvious health problems. Director Beaver explained that two days before euthanasia, the cat had a subtle behavior change which increased the next day. On the last day, the cat had a decline in its health, leading it to be euthanized. With this positive case, LCAS had exposure to staff and shelter workers leading to the post-exposure treatment to be required.

b) Rabies Case #2 – Fox

Director Beaver explained another case of rabies in the area of Highway 73 and Club Drive in Stanley, NC. The fox had come onto someone's porch and had been acting strange; therefore, the Animal Control Officer was dispatched. The fox had no obvious health issues, but had suspicious behavior when the ACO and Director arrived. The animal was brought into our facility, and per policy, was euthanized. When the fox was sent off for testing, it was confirmed to be rabid. Thankfully, there was no confirmed exposure to people or animals.

c) Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention, 2016

Director Beaver suggested that the board review the handouts that were given at the beginning of the meeting for more information on rabies and the changes that the Board of Health could possibly adopt. Director Beaver does recommend that the Board of Health should adopt the new compendium.

3) Dangerous Dogs Continued

a) Definitions

Director Beaver referenced the handouts and the previous meeting about dangerous dogs for the definition to a potentially dangerous dog, dangerous dog, and a vicious dog. The only definition not referenced from the last meeting was a vicious dog, which is a "dangerous dog, that after having once committed an act making a dangerous dog, or having been determined a dangerous dog, commits a subsequent attack on a person or domestic animal and any dog that kills a person." Director Beaver recommends that we include the definition of vicious dog and make it unlawful for vicious dogs to be kept in Lincoln County such that the animal must be removed from Lincoln County or euthanized.

b) Potentially Dangerous and Dangerous Requirements

1. Registration

Any person owning, keeping, or harboring a potentially dangerous or dangerous dog must register the dog with the Sheriff's Department within five (5) business days to the animal being declared or may voluntarily register (due to having a hearing), which would be a declaration that the dog is dangerous or potentially dangerous.

2. Permanent Identification

Any dog that is declared potentially dangerous or dangerous would need permanent identification such as a tattoo or microchip. The Advisory Board seems to like the idea of having both the microchip and tattoo (but location of tattoo is yet to be determined). The owner is required to allow the county in examining the tattoo

and/or scanning the microchip when deemed reasonable or when the animal's identification is in question.

3. Permits

The owner of the potentially dangerous or dangerous dog must apply for a permit to be able to keep the animal. To gain the permit, the owner must fill out an application, pay the fee, and an inspection by an Animal Control Officer of the property where the animal would be kept. The permit would have to be renewed after so many years determined by the county and it can be revoked at any time by the discretion of Animal Services. The Board suggests having the inspection of the enclosure to be done before release of the animal into the custody of the owner and that the impound fees are the owner's responsibility.

4. Notification of Changes

The owner must notify the county, in writing and within two (2) business days, of any changes that may occur such as a change in residence (and including the new correct address and physical location). If the animal dies or is euthanized, the owner must notify the county immediately so that the county can read the tattoo and scan for the microchip to make the proper identification.

5. Inspection

There will be a periodical inspection by Animal Services of the property and the animal. A notice will be given before the inspection to make sure the owner is compliant with the provisions given by the county. Also, an inspection fee can be included for the completing the inspection. The Board suggests making the inspection random (or including a random inspection) instead of giving a notice to be able to determine true compliance.

6. Spay/Neuter

The registered dog must be altered by a veterinarian within seven (7) days of the declaration of potentially dangerous or dangerous dog. The surgery will occur before the dog is released into the custody of the owner and will be at the owner's expense.

7. Security/Restraint

The security and restraint of the potentially dangerous and dangerous dog is referenced in example of a regulation for potentially dangerous dogs (handout number four) in section A1. The Board suggested that the enclosure listed is too vague and a certain blueprint for all owners' to follow would ensure the safety of the public and make it easier for the officer to inspect. Some suggestions for the enclosure are a concrete floor with a certain gauged wire in the concrete.

8. Insurance

The owner of the potentially dangerous or dangerous dog must purchase and maintain liability insurance covering injury or property damage caused by the dog with a minimum of \$100,000.00 for personal injury or property damage. Proof must be given to Animal Services to keep on file.

9. Other

Animal Services will require the owner to pay for expenses while the animal is being boarded such as board and vaccination fees. The Board suggested having the owner

pay for the fees before starting the process of registration. Also, penalties and citations for violating any of the sections of the dangerous dog ordinances could range from \$100-\$500.

10. Discussion

The Board discussed whether or not they would want to adopt the ordinances that are outlined in the presentation or would they like to continue to discuss this topic. Mark Connolly motioned to adopt the grey area (which is to continue to discuss the topic) and Robin Franklin seconded.

4) Spay and Neuter Review

a) *Differential Reclaim*

The differential reclaim is having differing fees (with unaltered pets being higher) depending on whether the animal is spayed or neutered to incentive the public to spay and neuter their pets. Also, the fee would increase for animals that have been in the shelter system prior. The differential reclaim fee is enforceable with the current staff levels and requires very little to change. This fee schedule has been discussed to change at previous meetings.

b) *Differential Licensing*

Differential licensing is having different registrations of animals that are spayed or neutered. There are some counties that require licensing such as Forsyth County, Gaston County, and Orange County. However, with licensing there will need to be a software created, laptops, and administrative staff to be able to complete. This is an idea that could be for the upcoming years for Animal Services.

c) *Spay/Neuter Ordinance*

The spay/neuter ordinance is a permit to leave the animal unaltered, which is issued through the county. For breeders, they must be licensed by the county to breed their animal. Failure to comply with this ordinance will result in fines. However, there are not enough resources by the county to be able to do licensing. By partnering with the Humane Society, any litter that is surrendered, a certification is issued to the owner to spay the mother. The issue outlined by this method is being able to incentivize the owner to spay the animal with the certification.

d) *Recommendation*

The differential reclaim is occurring with the new fee schedule with ideas like a reclaim "adoption" where the animal is able to be spayed or neutered. The Board suggested maybe having a tethering regulation included, but with other ordinances, there is no administrative staffing available. However, this is something that can be looked at in the upcoming years along with licensing.

5) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be scheduled at a later date due to being on Independence Day. The next meeting will have a guest speaker for TNR/Cat policy review.

6) Public Comments

None.

7) **Motion to Adjourn**

Danielle Rudisill asked the board to end the meeting. Dr. Karen Miller motioned to adjourn with a second from all of the board and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.