

**Lincoln County Animal Services**  
**Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 5th, 2019**

**Attendees:**

Hannah Beaver, Animal Services Director

Dr. Ashley Oliphant, Chairman

Dr. Karen Miller

Robin Franklin

Diane Leatherman

Lindsey Houser, Animal Control Administrative Secretary

Josh Grant, Program Operations Manager

**Guest Attendees:**

None

**Opening:**

Director Beaver handed out the minutes from 1/8/19 as well as a copy of the Draft Animal Ordinance 2019 Summary. Dr. Oliphant opened the meeting at 6:43 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Oliphant asked the board if there were any suggestions or changes required for the minutes from the last advisory board meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The minutes were approved with a motion from Robin Franklin and a second from Diane Leatherman.

**Big Picture Ordinance Discussion:**

Director Beaver discussed how the ordinance is a foundation for improvements to come in the future. The updated ordinance must be written to be enforceable for the animal control agency.

### **Ordinance Summary and Highlights of Changes:**

Director Beaver stated that the updated ordinance will move away from rewriting the state law, instead it will reference the state law. Dr. Oliphant referenced page 5 of the handout under “Relation to Hunting Laws” and asked if there would be a loophole for treating animals in a cruel fashion under the guise of “training” a hunting dog. Director Beaver stated she would look into this possibility further.

Director Beaver stated that she added adequate environment and adequate vet care under the “Animal Cruelty and Neglect” portion of the handout. These were added because they are a cruelty issue rather than a nuisance issue (with the exception of livestock).

Director Beaver referenced the “Tether” portion of the handout, stating that she reviewed over 300 pages of documents on the topic and found that there was more to be added into the ordinance revision under this section. Director Beaver stated that the following would be enforceable in the ordinance for a tether to be permitted: tether must be a minimum of 12 feet, and only one dog will be attached to a single tether. Director Beaver stated that the following would be enforceable in the ordinance for a tether to be prohibited: the dog is tethered in a manner that is likely to cause injury, strangulation, or entanglement and if the dog is sick/injured, pregnant or nursing, or under 6 months of age.

Dr. Oliphant asked if 12 feet was a standard length for a tether, to which Director Beaver stated that it was a more progressive length. Dr. Oliphant also asked if a dog in heat would be allowed on a tether. Director Beaver stated that this would be covered in the nuisance section of the ordinance. Robin Franklin asked if the advisory board had discussed a time limit for a dog to be tethered, to which Director Beaver replied that a time limit for tethering is currently not enforceable. Director Beaver stated that these new tethering standards will improve the lives of dogs within Lincoln County. Dr. Oliphant stated that she believes as the tether section of the ordinance is written, she doesn’t think it will garner a lot of community attention. Director Beaver stated that a goal for the future addition to the ordinance would be to have every dog that is tethered be spayed or neutered. She also mentioned that if this were to happen that offering free spay and neuter appointments for these animals may be a possibility.

Director Beaver referenced the “Leash Law” section of the handout, stating that the word “resident” in this portion would be changed to “property owner”. Dr. Oliphant asked if this would mean that renters wouldn’t get a vote in the leash law petitions, to which Director Beaver agreed.

Director Beaver referenced the “Disposition of Stray Animals” portion of the handout, stating that the stray hold time (96 hours) would be added into this section. Proof of rabies vaccination status prior to an animal leaving the shelter would be added to this section as well. These are both policies that LCAS already operates on, these would just be written into the ordinance now.

Director Beaver referenced pg. 6 of the handout, under the “Animal Services Advisory Board” portion, stating that “animal services supervisor” would be changed to “animal services director” throughout the new ordinance, as “animal services supervisor” is an old title.

Director Beaver stated that she was looking into changing the following statement “The secretary shall be responsible for taking notes from which the official minutes of the Board may be prepared by the Animal Services Supervisor or his or her designee”.

Director Beaver stated that the highlight of this is the updated animal cruelty and neglect and tethering portions because they are the current ordinance’s weakest pieces.

### **Update and Discussion on Next Steps**

Director Beaver stated the upcoming months would consist of continued legal review and nailing down specific language to be used in the ordinance. She stated that there would be a full draft of the ordinance to be brought to the ASAB, hopefully by the next meeting. Director Beaver stated that in her conversations with county management, County Manager Kelly Atkins recommended advertising a public information session to interact with the public prior to the ordinance being voted on. Dr. Oliphant suggested letting the Humane Society and HATS view drafts of the ordinance prior to the public information sessions in order to garner support throughout the community. She also suggested using small groups at tables during the session to make conversation and questions flow better. Diane Leatherman stated that there will need to be an answer prepared when people ask why spay and neuter requirements are not included in the new ordinance. Dr. Oliphant suggested creating a document showing ways we have modified language that most people would miss to get more out of the ordinance. Director Beaver mentioned the possibility of including the reduction of a stray hold for feral cats to 72 hours rather than 96 hours in order to move the cats out of the shelter quicker and reduce their time in the care of LCAS.

### **Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting date for the advisory board was proposed to be Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Oliphant was unable to make this date. Director Beaver suggested moving the meeting to April 30<sup>th</sup> to give more time for legal review.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn by Robin Franklin, with a second by Dr. Karen Miller. The meeting ended at 7:14 PM.