

Orange County Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB)
Public comments during ASAB meetings
Frequently Asked Questions

Purpose of this FAQ sheet: To inform the public about the protocol and process of ASAB meetings.

Q: What is the ASAB?

A: The ASAB is a volunteer, Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appointed board that advises the BOCC on issues regarding animals and animal services in Orange County.

Q: What does the ASAB do?

A: The ASAB works with Orange County Animal Services (OCAS) staff and serves the BOCC in an advisory capacity regarding animal services in Orange County. As such, the ASAB works with the Animal Services Director on various policy ideas, concerns and issues regarding OCAS. The ASAB, along with OCAS staff, prepares a work plan with set goals for the year. The ASAB also hears matters of concern regarding animal issues from Orange County citizens and hears Potentially Dangerous Dog Declaration appeals.

Q: If I have a concern, idea or feedback about an animal-related issue in Orange County, whom should I contact?

A: You may contact Bob Marotto, the Animal Services Director, or bring your concern directly to the ASAB or the ASAB Chair.

Q: What types of concerns will the ASAB NOT hear?

A: ASAB members may not interfere, attempt to interfere or involve themselves in any way in OCAS staff personnel matters regardless of the nature of the matter. For matters concerning OCAS staff, Mr. Marotto should be contacted. Specific decisions or actions by staff in the different operational areas (as opposed to general policies and guidelines) are not the subject of ASAB oversight and thus not heard. The one exception is the potentially dangerous dog appeal process mentioned above.

Q: Can I just show up and speak at an ASAB monthly meeting?

A: Yes. There are two separate sheets for sign-up. One is "Public comments for items on the agenda" and the other is "Public comments for items not on the agenda".

Q: How long will I have to speak?

A: The ASAB follows the same format for public input as the Orange County Board of Commissioners. A 3-minute limit is set for all public comments. If you feel that you cannot convey your thoughts in the 3-minute limit then you may present your ideas or concerns in writing to the board. If more than one person plans to speak on the same issue, it is helpful to have one person be the spokesperson for that group. It is helpful to keep your comments short and to the point.

Q: May I bring printed material or handouts? You are also welcome to bring printed material or handouts that may support your comments for the ASAB, however, the ASAB members will not read them “on the spot”. You are asked to provide the printed materials or handouts to the ASAB Secretary and to not distribute them yourself.

Q: When will the ASAB consider my idea or concern?

A: As a general rule, only those items appearing on the agenda will be discussed or voted on at that meeting. However, the ASAB may choose to discuss your idea or concern, time permitting, so long as no action is taken until a subsequent meeting. In the days following the meeting at which you have spoken, The ASAB Chair, Vice Chair, and the Animal Services Director will discuss your concern and determine if the board should consider this as an agenda item at a future meeting. If you request action from the board, either the ASAB Chair or the Animal Services Director will contact you with the decision and with a date if this will be a future agenda item. Please keep in mind that not all ideas and/or concerns brought to the ASAB result in an action or vote from the ASAB.

Q: What happens when my idea or concern is listed as an agenda item?

A: The Animal Services Director will contact you with the date and time of the meeting at which the item will be considered. You may be invited to speak and possibly have a question and answer period with the ASAB members for a designated period of time. You will then be asked to allow the ASAB to discuss what has been presented without interruption. In some cases a subcommittee may be formed to look into the issue further and you would be welcome to provide input to them as well.

Q: Where can I go to find more information about Orange County Animal Services and the ASAB?

A: OC Animal Services website is

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/index.asp>

ASAB information can be found at

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/board.asp> .