

**Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB)**  
**Approved Minutes for January 16, 2008 Meeting**

**Present ASAB Members:** Ross Oglesbee, Daniel Textoris, Pat Sanford, Susan Elmore, Jean Austin, James Kramer, Bonnie Norwood, Dewana Anderson, Rachel Beckham, Suzanne Roy, Moses Carey and Kristine Bergstrand

**Absent ASAB Members:** Tracy Carroll

**Others in Attendance:** Animal Services Director Bob Marotto, Animal Control Manager Irene Paul, Animal Shelter Manager Jessica Allison and Administrative Assistant Paula Ragan.

**Public Members Present:** Ms. Aviva Scully

**Welcome and Opening Comments**—ASAB Chair, Ross Oglesbee, called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by James Kramer and seconded by Bonnie Norwood to approve the Agenda dated January 16, 2008 **VOTE:** Unanimous.

Motion was made by Jean Austin and seconded by James Kramer to approve the minutes dated November 28, 2007 with one typographical error corrected. **VOTE:** Unanimous

**General Public Comment**—None

**Unfinished Business and Status Reports-**

**Fine Adjustment Update**— A second hearing was held with the BOCC on the recommended increase of fines and fees. The recommendations were accepted with one change to the timetable for the public relations plan, which became a six month plan, making the new fines and fees effective on July 1, 2008.

**Tethering Ordinance Update**— There should be a draft ordinance prepared by the Office of the County Attorney for initial review at the February ASAB. Suzanne Roy volunteered to prepare a draft of frequently asked questions that was requested by the commissioners at the last work session. She will work with other committee members to bring a draft document back to the ASAB at its February meeting.

**Nuisance Animal Noise**— Bob Marotto reported his discussion with the County Attorney and County Manger's Office concerning the ASAB recommendation to define nuisance animal noises more broadly than barking. On this basis, the ASAB decided that there should be more research, e.g., polling staff regarding nuisance complaints about noise that does not involve dogs, animal nuisance definitions in adjoining counties, etc. Bob Marotto and Irene Phipps agreed to gather such information and bring it back to the February ASAB meeting for further review and discussion.

**Potentially Dangerous Dog Appeal Committee**—Jean Austin reported that there was a hearing held on December 27, 2007 and that it was reaffirmed that the declared dog was potentially dangerous.

**Pet Overpopulation Committee**— Pat Sanford reported that the committee is working on how to identify problem areas within the county. They have invited feral cat advocates in the county that have colonies to meet amongst themselves and come back to the committee's February meeting with their

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*recommendations and ideas to help reduce the number of feral cats coming in to the shelter. The committee also hopes to gather data to determine where the majority of kittens and puppies are coming from in order to come up with a plan to target those areas in order to reduce the number of animals being euthanized. A list was provided to the POP Committee from staff with ideas along with administrative costs associated with outreach and education for the spay/neuter program. The members of the ASAB committee will come back to a future meeting to review and discuss how to design the spay neuter program to use funds in an appropriate manner.*

*At the last meeting of the POP Committee, Sarah Fallin came to the meeting with a proposal to participate in "Spay Day USA," an annual event now sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States, that will held on February 28, 2008. The idea is to enter into an agreement with Pet Overpopulation Patrol, NC, a mobile surgical clinic, to perform thirty sterilization surgeries on "Spay Day USA" for approximately \$1800. The expense associated with this event would come out of the Spay Neuter Outreach Fund. Also, Bob Marotto will speak with Commissioner Moses Carey about a Resolution by the County Commissioners that would declare February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008, as "Spay Day" in Orange County. A motion was made by Jean Austin and seconded by Susan Elmore to support and approve "USA Spay Day" activities. **VOTE:** Unanimous*

**Adoption Placement Committee**—*Dewana Anderson reported that the Placement Partner Agreement has been drafted and reviewed by the Office of the County Attorney. In light of that review, the Committee polled six groups regarding the issues of them having their own liability insurance and whether they would agree to a "hold harmless" provision. The data collected will be reviewed at the January 25, 2008 meeting to discuss how to proceed, and it is expected that the Committee will soon forward its working documents to the ASAB for discussion.*

**Animal Placement and Fostering Updates**—*Jessica Allison gave a brief summary of accompanying documents on the foster program and sheltering activities for the months of November and December. There was discussion of a preliminary report on adoption returns, and it was requested that information be included regarding what happens to animals that have been adopted and then are returned. Ms. Allison reported that a staff progress report on the Foster Program is in draft form and that it will be reviewed by the ASAB Foster Committee in coming weeks. A final draft report is expected to be presented to the ASAB for discussion and review at its February meeting*

**Animal Identification Initiative**—*Irene Paul provided a review of this initiative, which became effective on the first of the year, and also discussed some related changes in the data entry process at Animal Control. Overall, the new rabies tags and animal identification system was implemented and it is working successfully.*

**New Business-**

**2008 Schedule for Rabies Vaccinations**—*Irene Paul reported that a working schedule has been developed and the first group of clinics will be offered in February. Two of these clinics will be at the County's Animal Shelter, one will be held at Animal Control, and another at the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department. In addition, letters will be sent out to the veterinarians thanking them for prior services and notifying them of the upcoming schedule.*

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***New Animal Services Facility***—Bob Marotto reviewed the site and floor plan of the new animal services facility. The site plan is largely unchanged and has been approved by the Town of Chapel Hill as part of the zoning process. The floor plan itself has been refined in regard to various aspects of animal flow, among other considerations. With regard to the operation of the new facility, Bob stressed the importance of animal intake examination, and also indicated that it would become essential to consider the number of staff that would be required to operate the facility at an optimum level.

***Select Updates***—Irene Phipps reported that Karen Adams of Orange County Cooperative Extension along with Animal Services staff organized and held a training seminar on the condition and body scoring of livestock. More than sixty animal care and control professionals from throughout North Carolina attended the seminary. On a departmental level it was noted that staff are looking at internal preparedness for what has already been a difficult time for horses and other large animals as a result of the drought.

Motion was made by James Kramer and seconded by Daniel Textoris to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.  
***VOTE:*** Unanimous.

***Next ASAB Meeting:*** Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the John Link Government Services Center Conference Room, 200 S. Cameron Street, Hillsborough.