

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

**Present ASAB Members:** Daniel Textoris, Ross Oglesbee, Jean Austin, Bonnie Norwood, Dewana Anderson, Pat Sanford, Moses Carey and Rachel Beckham

**Absent ASAB Members:** Tracy Carroll, Susan Elmore, Suzanne Roy, James Cramer and Kris Bergstrand

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

**Public Members Present:** Melissa Marsh

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

Motion was made by Jean Austin and seconded by Moses Carey to approve the Minutes date June 18, 2008 with corrections to a few typographical errors and to add Pat Sanford's name to the present members.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

Motion was made by Pat Sanford and seconded by Daniel Textoris to approve the Agenda dated July 16, 2008, with a request from Pat Sanford to add the following items to items to the agenda: Spay/ Neuter Outreach; a thirty (30) percent euthanasia target; and the transportation of adoptable animals to northern shelters for adoption. **VOTE:** Unanimous

**General Public Comment**—Melissa Marsh came to the board to share her experience and express the concerns she has regarding stray dogs in Orange County. In September of 2007 her husband found 6 puppies on Harmony Church Road and when they contacted rescue groups in the area to take them they were full and would not accept the puppies. Since then they have had 3 more strays come to their property and they are trying to place these as well. Ms. Marsh encouraged and requests the ASAB and the County to consider further increases in the license fee for intact dogs and cats because this is one way to help decrease the stray animal population in Orange County. Ms. Marsh thinks the current amount is not high enough, and that citizens who choose not to have their pets spayed or neutered may think more about their decision with a larger licensing differential. Since the licensing fees have recently been increased, this issue was referred to the Spay Neuter Committee and if not this year, in subsequent years another fee adjustment may be requested.

**Unfinished Business**—

**Tethering Ordinance Update**— Bob Marotto reported that at the last meeting some of the ASAB members made a request that a special work session be held prior to the commissioner's meeting in September. Since that meeting Mr. Marotto had a discussion with the BOCC liaison to the ASAB, Moses Carey, to discuss how to proceed and if this would be possible.

At tonight's meeting Moses Carey first expressed his and the BOCC's appreciation for all the hard work that has been done by the ASAB and the Tethering Committee. As it stands now, he indicated, the BOCC wants to make changes but are unsure what changes should be made since they have not had a chance to discuss all of the issues among themselves. He also noted that no work sessions would be held until the BOCC has had time to discuss and review all input so far received in regard to the proposed tethering

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*ordinance. Some of the areas of concerns and questions from individual Commissioners included (1) the required size of enclosures; (2) enforceability and the cost associated with enforcement; and 3) the three hours limit versus longer time period such as 8 hours. Commissioner Carey said that upon review after its summer recess the BOCC might forward a list of questions to the ASAB to address.*

**June Statistical Summary**—*Ms. Jess Allison gave an overview of the June 2008 statistical summaries. She reported that there was a decrease in the number of intakes and an increase in the number of adoptions compared to May 2008. Overall, she noted that we are doing reasonably well considering the UNC remediation project and hard economic times.*

**ASAB Committees**—

**Spay/Neuter Committee**—*Bob Marotto reported that he and Paula Ragan met with Beth Livingston of Animal Kind to discuss the \$20 Fix Program. Since that meeting Bob Marotto and Sarah Fallin met with Nancy Coston and other staff from the Department of Social Services (DSS) to explore a three-way partnership and that DSS was very positive about doing the program. One suggestion of an effective and efficient way to do the outreach would be to include a spay/neuter /voucher notice in with the reports that DSS provides to its clients on a regular basis. DSS staff also stressed that any co-pay would be very difficult for DSS clients in these hard economic times. The next step will be for Animal Services staff to go back to Animal Kind to discuss the possibilities that emerged from contact with DSS.*

**Placement Partner Update**—*Mr. Marotto reported that they are still working on the agreement and expected to have a draft to present to the ASAB at its upcoming meetings. The ASAB was supportive of a two step process with a working draft to be reviewed at its August meeting and that placement partners be invited to attend the September meeting to provide additional comments before the agreement and guidelines are submitted to the BOCC for approval.*

**Six Month Foster Program Report**—*Jess Allison reported that they are working on the program report and that it will be an item on the Agenda at the next meeting for review and discussion.*

**Outreach of Spay/Neuter Program**—*Pat Sanford provided a handout explaining the request being made by Friends of the Orange County Animal Shelter (FOCAS) to (1) ask Channel 17 to have a program to discuss the problem of overpopulation; and (2) transport animals to shelters in other parts of the country seeking animals for adoption; and (3) to set a euthanasia target of 30 percent or less as a goal for the next three years. The ASAB was amendable to FOCUS working with Animal Services on Channel 17 programming regarding pet overpopulation and the benefits of pet sterilization. Discussion of animal transport identified some key concerns for long-distance relationship involving the transfer and disposition of animals but there was agreement that transport was an option worth exploring on the basis of new placement partner procedures once these are put in place. In regard to a euthanasia target, there was considerable discussion and the outcome was that the matter would be referred to the ASAB Spay/Neuter Subcommittee with the request that something comparable to a strategic plan be developed and presented to the ASAB.*

***New Business—***

***Budget—*** Mr. Marotto gave an update on the fiscal year 2008/2009 Animal Services budget. He indicated it was a continuation budget for the second consecutive year. He also indicated that as part of a BOCC initiative there would be a conversion of most temporary funds and that the department would gain two FTE's (about three-quarters of which is due to the conversion of temporary dollars.)

***New Facility Update—***Mr. Marotto reported that the project is moving along very well and he is impressed with the commitment and collaboration of the Construction Manager at Risk, Clancey & Theyes. At this time the project schedule indicates that the Certificate of Occupancy will be obtained in February 2009.

***Remediation Project—***There have been some “sheltering in place” situations and one “evacuation” in the last month. One cylinder unexpectedly discovered at the site contained phosgene (a highly toxic gas). Excavation was suspended while modeling was performed in regard to the safety of “off-site parties” and the health and safety plan was revised in light of the modeling and other information. At this time the excavation stage of the remediation project is expected to be completed by mid September 2008.

Motion was made by Jean Austin and seconded by Moses Carey to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

***VOTE:*** Unanimous.

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