

## **ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (ASAB)**

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 22, 2014

### **Meeting Summary**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michelle Walker (Chair), Warren Porter (Vice Chair), Aviva Scully (Secretary), Susan Elmore, Suzanne Roy, Dewana Anderson, Arthur Sprinczeles

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bob Marotto (Animal Services Director), Sarah Fallin, Rachel Williamson

**UNC Kenan-Flagler Fellows in Attendance:** Eleanor Nave and Maria Grimshaw

Agenda

#### **1. Review and adoption of meeting agenda**

Adopted unanimously with addition of an item for update on status and plans for ordinance changes related to animal recovery fees and requirements.

#### **2. Review and approval of November 20, 2013, ASAB meeting summary**

Approved with removal of sentence under new business #1.

#### **3. Review of public participation guidelines, Michele Walker**

No public in attendance. Michelle went over public participation guidelines for benefit of new member (Arthur Sprinczeles)

#### **4. General public comments on items not on the agenda (3 minute limit)**

None.

#### **5. Monthly Meeting Attendance Record (confirm completion)**

Confirmed

#### **6. Election of 2014 ASAB Officers**

ASAB unanimously approved the following officers for 2014:

- Chair – Michelle Walker
- Vice Chair – Warren Porter

- Secretary – Aviva Scully

## 7. **Programs** (Sarah Fallin, Program Coordinator, Animal Services)

a. Introduction of Rachel Williamson, recent hire as Assistant Program Coordinator Rachel has Bachelors degree in animal science and 4 years experience in Prince George, VA in all aspects of shelter operations.

### b. Past and Future Program Highlights

2013:

- **Volunteer program:**  
Over 1,700 volunteers logged 12,000 hours in 2013. This is equivalent of six full-time employees per month. Community service volunteers logged an additional 1,000 hours.
- **Outreach**
  - Shelter animals taken out into the community 50 times throughout the year – almost once a week.
  - 17 special events – Dog swim was the biggest yet (108 dogs participated).
  - Open House – well attended.
- **Rabies Clinics:**  
Vaccinated 1,132 animals. This did not quite meet the goal of 100 per clinic but it was very close with an average of 94 per clinic.
- **Community spay neuter**
  - 472 spay/neuters done in 2013; 373 were DSS clients. Down from 512 last year, possibly due to fact that DSS is no longer mailing out information on \$20 Fix to clients.
  - Every door direct mail campaign launched to publicize availability of \$20 fix. Mail targeted to low income areas in Hillsborough, Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Cost is about 30 cents per flyer.
  - Last quarter saw increase in spay/neuters after mailings
  - Aviva suggests making flyers in Spanish for distribution to Spanish-speaking populations in county.
- **Disaster Management**
  - Did not have to set up pet co-location but provided sheltering for pets as a result of the flood. Sheltering was done at Century Center in Carrboro, which is not approved for animals, so animals came directly to the Animal Services Center for sheltering.
  - Did one mock disaster exercise using shelter dogs

- New Emergency Services for county so must re-establish working relationship.

Future:

- **Increase job opportunities for volunteers.**  
Tiered responsibilities. Experienced volunteers would take on more responsibility. Increased use of volunteers for adoption counseling.
- **Spay Neuter Day** (Feb. 2014) – 34 animals on list so far.
- **Every door direct mail outreach**  
Continue.
- **Spay/Neuter billboards**  
To run on Highway 70E/W through March. Suggestions made for:
  - Billboards in Spanish (Aviva)
  - Banners in 3 spots (rotating – 1 week each location) in Carrboro – reserve through town (Dewana)
  - Banner in front of Ford dealership on South Churton St., Hillsborough.
- **Spay Day Resolution for the BOCC.**  
Passed unanimously by board to be presented at Feb. 18 Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting.

## 8. ASAB Affairs

### a. Potentially Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearings

Suzanne Roy reported on the one hearing that occurred since the last ASAB meeting. The Potentially Dangerous Dog Appeals Subcommittee upheld the potentially dangerous designation for a husky-mix dog who was running at large and seen running out of woods with a mortally injured cat in her mouth. The cat died at the veterinarian's office. The subcommittee concluded that the preponderance of evidence indicated that the dog was responsible for the death of the cat and that the designation of potentially dangerous was supported under the state statute.

### b. ASAB Appointment Recommendations

The board reviewed applications and voted unanimously to recommend the following applicants for the three open positions on the ASAB:

- Certified Animal Handler/Trainer  
Beth Grooms (Primary recommendation)

Suzy Armstrong (Back up recommendation – if she is certified dog trainer)

- Animal advocate  
Marshall Gray (Primary recommendation)  
Maureen Hoffman (Back up recommendation)
  
- At Large  
Caroline Green (Primary recommendation)  
Maureen Brown (Back up recommendation)

Note: The board suggested back up recommendations in the event that the primary recommendation declined the position.

## 9. Business

### a. Animal Services Updates—Bob Marotto

Mr. Marotto presented numerous Animal Services updates detailed in a handout provided to ASAB members. Highlights included:

- **Community Giving Fund**
  - For the first 12 months of fund, Animal Services received \$10,672. Top category for donations was medical care for shelter animals.
  - ASAB members are encouraged to spread the word about this fund to support Animal Services.
  
- **Partner Placement**
  - Mr. Marotto stressed the importance of partner organizations to the shelter's adoption program, and requested that the ASAB continue Partner Profiles at its meetings.
  
- **Budget**
  - Staff has been asked to prepare a continuation budget – no increase in expenditures
  - Will be working with county staff to apply funds saved due to staff openings to support shelter operations.
  
- **Ordinance Changes**
  - Seeking ordinance change regarding recovered animals to: 1) require microchipping of all recovered animals; and 2) implement a differential recovery fee for intact vs. sterilized animals and a revised recovery fee schedule that increases with number of times animal is recovered.
  - ASAB voted unanimously to endorse the proposal that staff move ahead

with presenting the recommendation to the ASAB instead of waiting for the Unified Animal Ordinance to be passed by the BOCC.

#### b. Unified Animal Ordinance Update

Michelle Walker gave an update. Mr. Marotto, the 2013 officers - chair (Susan Elmore) and Vice Chair (Michelle Walker) - met with Aimee Wall, professor at the UNC School of Government, who focuses on animal control issues and laws, to discuss outstanding issues of public concern with the Unified Animal Ordinance. Issues discussed:

- **Potentially dangerous/vicious dog designation appeals.** Prof. Walls:
  - Cautioned against expanding scope of appeals to include any administrative action by Orange County Animal Services (OCAS).
    - Frequency of hearings could increase dramatically – overburden committee.
    - Could open county up to more potential liability if volunteers are making such decisions.
    - Not done in other areas of county government.
  - Recommended that the vicious designation under county ordinance should be appealable, along with potentially dangerous dog designation under state law, and that it would be appropriate for the ASAB subcommittee to hear both sets of appeals.
  - Recommended that ASAB subcommittee continue to hear appeals, with consideration given to proper training of subcommittee members, sworn testimony at appeals hearings, and board members run appeals hearings as opposed to staff.
  - Will follow up to clarify what other appeal options are available for other types of administrative decision appeals.
  
- **Watch dog/trespass issue.** Prof. Walls:
  - Recommended removing “watchdog” exemption from current vicious dog provision of ordinance for bites or attacks that occur on property of dog owner. “Watch dog” category has no foundation, lacks real meaning and is subject to misuse.
  - Recommended adding “implied or express consent” to willful trespass provision.
  - Created a flow chart to assist Animal Control with determining whether a trespass was willful and without consent. Flow chart based on scenarios provided by ASAB in October 2013 meeting.
  - Will clarify if and how trespass standard would apply to children differently?
  
- - Livestock at large/ nuisance issue

The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board has proposed new language for this section of the ordinance: "Except in the case of domestic livestock, any animal at large off the premises of the owner or keeper. At large domestic livestock will be considered a public nuisance when it, in the judgment of the Animal Services Director, or designee, presents an immediate public danger, is destroying or damaging property, is violating property rights, or has been habitually at large."

ASAB voted unanimously to recommend that staff move forward with changes that resulted from discussion with Amy Wall.

- Striking watchdog
- Adding consent as an element of trespass
- Making the change the Ag Board has requested with regard to stray livestock.

#### c. Free-Roaming Cat Task Force Progress Report

Warren Porter reported on the FRC subcommittee progress.

November 20, 2013 meeting:

- Set framework for future meetings
- Defined goals – what are the questions that need to be answered, areas for additional research, topics to address.
- Discussed different TNR programs that exist, what's been tried, what's worked, what's documented, what data is available, what results have been achieved.
- Discussed different elements of the cat population and which to target.
- Set timeline: minimum of 6 months to cover this complex topic.
- Assigned research to fellows – explore model programs in NC and nationwide, model ordinances, data available on results.

January 8, 2014 meeting:

- Heard research updates from UNC fellows
- Heard Orange County cat statistics from Bob Marotto
- Discussed terminology and definitions.
- Set goal of bringing subcommittee charge to ASAB for February meeting.
- Draft charge is being circulated and worked on via email
- Next meeting February 5, 2014
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#### 10. Ongoing and Upcoming Events

- Low Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinic, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, January 25, Animal Services Center
- Low Cost Rabies Vaccination & Microchip Clinic, 3 to 5 p.m., Thursday, February 13 at shelter.
- Beat the Heat Campaign—January to March 2014
- Billboards on 70 East and 70 West in Hillsborough up February 10-March 31
- Beat the Heat advertising and outreach
- Spay/Neuter Day, January 31 and February 27, 2014
- Spay Neuter Resolution
- Valentine Adoption Special – February 1-28.

#### 11. Information Items

- December 11, 2013, Communication About Vacant ASAB Positions
- ASAB 2014 Goal Setting Document for BOCC
- Monthly Sheltering Statistical Reports: November and December 2013
- Monthly Field Service Statistical Reports: November and December 2013

#### 12. Informal discussion

none.

#### 13. Adjourn – 8:35 p.m.

#### Accompanying Documents:

1. Summary for November 20, 2013, ASAB meeting
2. Spay/Day Resolution (forthcoming)
3. Animal Services Advisory Board Applicants
4. Willful Trespass “Decision Tree”
5. December 11, 2013, Communication About Vacant ASAB Positions
6. ASAB 2014 Goal Setting Document  
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7. November and December, 2013, Monthly Sheltering Statistical Summaries  
(<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/monthlyreports2013.asp>)  
(forthcoming)
8. October 2013, Field Services Statistical Summaries  
(<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/fieldstatistics2013.asp>)  
(forthcoming)