

March 27, 2019 (Regular)

**BURKE COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

The Burke County Animal Advisory Board met in regular session on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Burke County Commissioners' Meeting Room, located at Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, entrance E, Morganton, NC. Those present were:

PRESENT:

Donald Propst, At Large, Pet Owner
Alan Keller, 501 C3 Animal Rescue or Foster Agency Representative
Captain Jeff Robinson, Law Enforcement

Lori Rice, 501 C3 Animal Rescue or Foster Agency Representative
Amy Burnette, Board of Health designee

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Rebecca McLeod, Health Director
Lieutenant Steve Massey , Animal Control Director

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Propst called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

WELCOME

Propst welcomed visitors.

DECISION ITEMS:

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve meeting agenda

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RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Lori Rice
SECONDER:	Alan Keller
AYES:	Amy Burnette, Donald Propst, Lori Rice, Alan Keller, Jeff Robinson
ABSENT:	

Approval of Minutes from 12.12.18

Motion to approve minutes from December meeting

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Amy Burnette
SECONDER:	Alan Keller
AYES:	Amy Burnette, Donald Propst, Lori Rice, Alan Keller, Jeff Robinson
ABSENT:	

DISCUSSION:

Survey Results

Rebecca McLeod provided copies of the survey results. She had previously shared the results with county manager staff members due to the recommendations they were requested to prepare for the Board of Commissioners. There were 1,203 responses from the community. The Board reviewed results of survey.

Burke County Animal Services Recommendations

There has been an email address created for recommendations to the county staff:

animalrecommendations@burkenc.org

The Board reviewed the recommendation summary that had been previously submitted to the Board of Commissioners by Lance Riddle and Kay Draughn.

Audit

Records for 12/1/18 through 2/28/19 provided for all animals pulled from Animal Control by Rescue Groups. There was a general agreement to select groups that had not previously been audited. The groups selected for this time period are Mercy Fund Animal Rescue and Happy Tails Rescue. Propst requested that Rice send out the records requests. Massey to provide contact info for the groups. The records shall be due by 15 days prior to the June 26th meeting, when the records will be reviewed. The records for the next quarter (March through May) are to be selected at June 26th meeting.

Records to be requested are:

Mercy Fund: 12-03-2018 7 (Robinson); 02-15-2019 3 (Propst); 02-21-2019 6 (Keller); 02-25-2019 4 (Burnette)
Happy Tails: 12-07-2018 7; 12-07-2018 8; 12-07-2018 10; 01-09-2019 5. There was no random selection, as these are the only animals this rescue group has pulled in the time period.

Keller states that giving Rescue Groups this long to to comply may give the groups time to falsify records. Massey stated that the board will know by vaccination dates if the Groups are in compliance. Spay and neuter

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may have varying dates depending on different factors, such as age or health status. Rabies also may not be given to puppies until they are of age; also lactating mothers cannot have a rabies vaccination.

Compliance issues would all be solved by doing the audit.

Recommendation Letters for Approval of Rescue Groups

Keller asked why (3) letters of recommendation were required for licensed Rescue Groups to be able to pull from Animal Control. Massey stated that the 2017 ordinance separated licensed groups v.s. foster groups. Keller stated that he does not feel that groups licensed by the state should have to provide recommendation letters.

Update on Operations

Massey stated that they were down to (2) officers on the road. There had been 404 calls in 60 days. Distemper in wildlife is being seen in higher numbers. Rice asked how the public could be educated about distemper; could this be something added into the annual rabies clinic.

Dangerous Dog Board

McLeod noted that there was an opening on the Dangerous Dog Board. A PSA has been put out. Two seats are open as of April 6th (Icard and Davis). The veterinarian on the board (Wallrichs) may be open to another vet taking his seat. Applications should be turned in to McLeod by May 29th.

Public Comment

1). Gwen Stephens requested where the info about the audit is found in the Animal Ordinance. McLeod relayed the section.

2). Gwen Hood addressed Keller's comment that licensed rescues should not have to provide letters of recommendation to be approved to pull. Hood feels that would not be appropriate or equitable, that all groups should meet the requirement. Keller responded that licensed groups are licensed by the state and should be able to be approved more quickly than foster based groups. Keller stated his reasoning is that in an emergency situation it would save time. Massey agreed. Hood stated that no other county differentiates between licensed groups and foster based groups.

Hood asked about the discussion of a pet licensing fee. Would the Board consider other options? Hood feels that a fee hits responsible pet owners twice. They have already spayed and neutered their pets. Hood suggested an alteration fee. Massey stated that if pets were licensed, lost pets may be returned to owners the same day. Rabies tags take time to track, microchips are many times not registered. Hood asked why licensing did not work in Burke County before. Massey stated that there were only (2) employees to do it, it was considered taxing animals, and so was discontinued. Propst stated that licensing gives people an incentive to do the right thing.

3). Linda Schilkowsky states that 15 years ago, when she lived in Charlotte, there was a higher fee for unaltered pets. It was successful there. However, the area is different, city v.s. country area. Propst noted that licensing would be an incentive to obey. Propst feels if an owner is not willing to comply, they should not be a pet owner. Schilkowsky stated that she feels any owner having litters of puppies should have a breeder's license.

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4). Gwen Hood asked if the Board had considered mandatory spay and neuter. Hunters would be in opposition. Who would be in charge of doing the licensing since veterinarians give rabies vaccine? Massey stated that vets have to turn in rabies info.

Hood also asked if any other Rescue Groups had been approved to pull. Massey stated Brother Wolf had been approved; Mountain Pet had submitted; Red Barn Rescue needed further info before approval. Hood stated that the more rescues that the Burke County Animal Welfare Alliance could network with, the more animals can be placed. Some rescues are to capacity. Hood asked if the flyers for BCAWA were helping. Massey stated that they were being given out. Vouchers for s/n were going slow at this time.

Spay and Neuter


Keller stated that spay and neuter is still a common problem. In order to solve it, hunters and reputable breeders should be brought to the table to help find a solution. Lots of money is being spent on s/n, but it is still a problem that needs to be a priority.

Other Business

none

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Propst adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.



Donald Propst, Chair
Burke County Animal Advisory Board