

**Lincoln County Animal Services**

**Advisory Board Meeting**

**March 14, 2017**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Hannah Beaver, Animal Services Director

Josh Grant, Program Operations Manager

Dr. Ashley Oliphant, Chairman

Danielle Rudisill, Vice Chairman

Dr. Karen Miller, Secretary

Ms. Robin Franklin, Board Member

Diane Leatherman, Board Member

Mark Connolly, Board Member

Doug Woods, Board Member

Tyler Moore, Animal Services Caretaker

**Guest Attendees:**

Anita McCall, County Commissioner

**Opening:**

Director Beaver handed out the agenda, February 7, 2017 minutes, North Carolina Laws on dogs, Lincoln County Animal Ordinance on dangerous dogs, a draft ordinance on dangerous dogs, and a potentially. Dr. Oliphant began the meeting by welcoming everyone at 6:35pm.

**1) Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Oliphant asked if there were any suggestions or changes that were required of February 7<sup>th</sup> minutes. Diane Leatherman motioned to accept last month's minutes and Mark Connolly seconded.

**2) Animal Services Dangerous Dog Presentation**

### **a) *Dangerous Dog Law Review***

Director Beaver started by defining a dangerous dog by state law which can be found in the handout of North Carolina Laws. Beaver stated that the Lincoln County ordinance on dangerous dogs is fairly simple in regards that if a dog is declared dangerous by the county, then it must be removed from the county either by the owner to another county or by euthanasia. However, state laws states that the owner can have a dangerous dog after being declared dangerous. Her question to the board was, do we wish to allow owners to keep the dog, keep the ordinance, or make it extraordinarily hard for the owner to keep their dog?

### **3) Dangerous Dog Discussion**

**a)** Director Beaver states that she wants to be able to have the option for the owner to be able to keep their dog per certain guidelines that is created by the board. She told a hypothetical story to get the discussion started.

Mark Connolly stated that he would want certain provisions to which Doug Woods agreed. The suggestions by the board were:

- Annual registration fee of \$500.00 with annual, surprise inspections.
- Dog would be microchipped and spayed/neutered.
- There should be certain database for the dangerous dog's information to keep up with the animal, inspections, and fees.
- Dog would need to be muzzled and leashed when off property.
- Have a fenced in yard to which the dog would be kept in a kennel with a padlock.
  - o Fence requirements could be six feet or higher, to be bent over at the top (ex. Prison fences).
  - o Kennel requirements could be that the top is covered by some material (ex. Chain-link or plywood).
- If dog is inside, all windows must be shut no matter the weather. Some discussion as to whether the board would want the dog to be allowed loose inside the house due to being able to bolt out the door.

However, the board was in agreement, unanimously, that if the dog kills a person, then the owner should have no choice other than being euthanizing the animal.

Another question is does LCAS allow rescues to pull dangerous dogs? The board was in agreement that the release of the animal can only be to the owner and that a rescue should not be allowed to pull them. The reasoning is that the dog cannot be tracked as "dangerous" and that the rescue can put their funds toward another animal that is more in need in the shelter system.

**b)** The appeal process also poses a problem because there are different forms of contacting the owner; therefore, the start of the three-day process can be confusing to the signer and the director. The declaration has a few ways that it can be sent:

- Certified letter

- Officer
- Regular mail

So, when should the three-day period start? The board stated that it should start with the first signature that is received. Another question is how should the days be counted? The board suggested by business days.

- c) Director Beaver stated that she would draft a rewrite of the ordinance and requested the board send her suggestions by email.

**4) Animal Services Advisory Board Website Update**

The profiles are up and the agenda/minutes section is being created.

**5) Next Topic's Discussion**

Director Beaver suggested continuing the discussion with the proposed ordinance at the next meeting. Dr. Oliphant suggested inviting guests for the feral cat's discussion at the May 2017 meeting. Director Beaver also stated that they could do a discussion on operation hours and rabies compendium for future meetings.

**6) Next Meeting Date**

April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The board agreed upon the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month.

**7) Public Comments**

None.

**8) Motion to Adjourn**

Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked the board to end the meeting. Diane Leatherman motioned to adjourn with a second from Doug Woods. The board voted and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.