

Orange County Animal Services
1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-942-PETS (7387)
ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (ASAB)
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Meeting Summary

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maureane Hoffman (Chair), Molly Mullin (Vice-Chair), Evelyn Daniel, Lee Pickett, Amanda Schwoerke (Secretary), Edmund Tiryakian, Lucia Welborne
MEMBERS ABSENT: Casey Ferrell, Beth Grooms, Diane Obeid, Bryan Stuart, Lisa Wells
STAFF PRESENT: Bob Marotto (Animal Services Director), Rachel Plast (Administrative Assistant)

Call to order: 6:34 p.m.

Review and adoption of the Agenda: approved, after adding an additional agenda item (Rabies and Lyme Disease in Orange County)

Summary of August 2019 meeting: approved

Review of public participation guidelines: Not reviewed

General Public Comments on items not on agenda: None

Animal Services Advisory Board Updates:

Old Business

- **Succession Planning for ASAB representative to the Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool**
 - Evelyn Daniel and Casey Ferrell went to the latest appeal hearing. Evelyn spoke about her experience.
 - Briefly discussed possible changes that panel chairs might make in running hearings in light of Evelyn's experience
 - Continued to talk about possible panel chairs
- **ASAB Recruitment**
 - Lee Pickett was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to serve out Susan Elmore's term as the ASAB representative to the Orange County Board of Health
 - However, that vacates Lee's position on the ASAB as a community veterinarian
 - The hearing panel pool also has a vacancy for a veterinarian, so there will be joint recruitment for the positions
 - Members discussed possible candidates
- **Progress Report of the Wild and Dangerous Animal Task Force**

- Bryan Stuart (task force chair) prepared a summary of the Task Force’s current work and future plans, which was distributed to the ASAB members in his absence. See Attached.
- **Procedural Note on ASAB Task Forces**
 - Bob Marotto explained that if an ASAB task force has a majority of ASAB members on it, then the same procedural rules apply to the task force as to the ASAB as a whole.
 - This means that such Task Force meeting must be noticed, open to the public, and minutes must be published.

New Business

- **Veterinary Practices Act**
 - Lee Pickett summarized the Act
 - Bob Marotto and others discussed the impact of the Act on Animal Services’ programs
 - ASAB members agreed that they would like to see repealed the prohibitions on shelters providing low-cost spay/neuter and similar services
 - Members also discussed the procedural routes for seeking repeal
 - The Board agreed on the following next steps:
 - Read the new model Veterinary Practices Act promulgated by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to compare to North Carolina’s Act
 - Find out what other states do for comparison
 - Animal Services, Lee Pickett, and Amanda Schwoerke are to research this issue and report at the next ASAB meeting
 - Make an inventory of the Act’s negative impacts on Animal Service’s work to present to the BOCC to demonstrate why changing the law is in the County’s interest
 - Begin introducing the issue to the BOCC and the County Manager
- **Rabies & Lyme Disease in Orange County**
 - Ed Tiryakian presented on his view that the public health approach to Rabies is seriously flawed since Rabies purportedly has been virtually eradicated as a threat to humans in the U.S. Ed’s objection centered around what he considers the unnecessary euthanasia of numerous animals for testing purposes, etc.
 - Ed provided data on Rabies, as well as comparison data to other diseases and causes of mortality
 - Ed argued that public health authorities should be moving their focus to diseases transmitted from mosquito, tick, and flea bites—whereas we are, in fact, killing the fauna that feeds on these insects
 - ASAB members discussed Ed’s presentation, and asked questions
 - Ed’s immediate suggestions included:
 - Orange County should publish the number of animals testing negative for Rabies (currently the County only publishes data on animals testing positive)
 - The County should publish the incidences of Lyme Disease
 - The County should publish what it’s trying to do to eradicate Rabies

Animal Services Updates

- **Dog-Fighting Case**
 - The State came to a rest in the dog-fighting trial
- **Upcoming Events**
 - 15th Annual Dog Swim (Sept. 22, 12-3 p.m. @ Heritage Hills Pool)
 - Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination & Microchip clinics (Sept. 26, 5-7 p.m. @ Eno River Farmer's Market, and Sept. 28, 1-4 p.m. @ Efland-Cheeks Community Park; Oct. 24, 5-7 p.m. @ Eno River Farmer's Market)
 - October is Dog Adoption Month: all dogs and puppies will be nearly half price for the entire month
- **Grants**
 - Animal Services received another grant from the Margaret T. Petrie Spaying & Neutering Foundation to help residents with a higher income (up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) spay and neuter their pets
 - Animal Services also received a \$40,000 grant from PetCo for its barn-cat program (a central part of its free-roaming cat strategic plan)
- **Community Spay-Neuter Program**
 - Bob Marotto provided updates on this year's numbers.
 - Two grant applications submitted by Animal Services are currently under consideration.
 - Animal Services is working to obtain sufficient surgical capacity for barn-cat sterilization.
- **Shelter Statistics**
 - Bob Marotto presented on the August sheltering statistics, which were extremely encouraging

Adjournment and next meeting:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. The next meeting is October 16, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., Orange County Animal Services Center.