



Forsyth County Animal Control Advisory Board

Annual Report
April 2009

The Forsyth County Animal Control Advisory Board is an eleven (11)-member board identified in Forsyth County Code Chapter 6, Sec. 6-5 Animal Control Advisory Board. The Advisory Board makes recommendations on animal control codes, policies and programs related to animals. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to identified interest categories. The advisory board conducts regular public meetings and prepares an annual report for the Board of County Commissioners. Pursuant to FCC Chapter 6, Sec. 6-5 the Advisory Board has adopted By-Laws governing the purpose, duties, operations and membership subject to the approval of the County Manager.

Advisory Board Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Department of Animal Control. The public meeting alternates monthly with the Hearing Tribunal. The public meeting acts as a forum to solicit public opinion on ordinances, services, and policy. This function also provides information on services, other than those of the Animal Control Department, available within the community. Annual reports then provide a foundation for strategic planning through the creation of a series of Five Year Plans.

Advisory Board Membership & Representation

Franklin M. Cromer	Member at Large	Julie Magness	Purebred Animals
Joe Redman	Member at Large	Jerry Canady	Non-Pet Owner
Dr. Timothy Strickland	Veterinarians	Sandy Mayberry	Animals other than dog or cat
Jennifer Tierney	Animal Welfare	Charles Cahill	Public Health Department
Lori Sears	Animal Welfare	D. Ritchie Brooks	City of Winston-Salem
Thurman Dillon	Hunting Dogs	Tim Jennings	Animal Control Director

2008-2009 Work Plan

The Advisory Board adopted a multi-tracked work plan to provide organization and focus to its meetings. The work plan tracks are intended to support the identified goals and policies of Forsyth County government to help create a community which is a safe, healthy, convenient and pleasant to live in. Work Plan activities included:

A Safe Community

- FCC Article III Dangerous Dogs

An ordinance that addresses public safety concerns through specific restriction, and higher penalties, for owners of dogs that engage in aggressive behavior. Adopted by the Board of Commissioners September 22, 2008.

- The Advisory Board continues to monitor Forsyth County dog bite reports to analyze the impact of tethering as a primary form of confinement and its potential link to aggression in dogs.

A Healthy Community

- Sec. 6-46. Redemption by owner generally.

A code amendment altering the stray hold period to the state standard of 72 hours for unidentified, unregistered animals while maintaining a 120 hour hold for licensed animals. Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2008.

- Sec. 6-47. Destruction or adoption of unredeemed animal generally.

A code amendment providing for discretion to be utilized when evaluating biting animals for placement in the adoption program. Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2008.

- Sec. 6-50. Destruction of wounded or diseased animals.

A code amendment adding feral animals along with sick & injured animals as subject to euthanasia before stray hold period expires. Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2008.

- New Program Development

Feline - Assistance - Initiatives- Response (FAIR) A public/private partnership program to address community Feline issues related to the protection of the public and feline health and welfare throughout Forsyth County. Assistance is provided through the development of new Initiatives and methods of Response. This program advocates nonlethal methods to control and reduce the number of feral and stray cats in the community.

A Convenient & Pleasant Community

Sec. 6-55. Violations and penalties.

- A technical code amendment that provides for an administrative waiver of licensing civil penalties if compliance is gained within 30 days. Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2008.

- Hearing Tribunals have been moved to an evening rather than afternoon meeting schedule to provide a more accessible time for participants.

Hearing Tribunal

Pursuant to FCC 6-56 Appealable Actions A sub-committee of the Advisory Board hears appeals of civil citations and abatement orders, and provides a written recommendation regarding final disposition of the appeal to the department Director. The Director of Animal Control then issues a final determination letter.

- The hearing tribunal is held every two months at 6:00 PM at the Forsyth County Animal Shelter. In 2008 47 final determinations were issued on appeals of civil citations.

Community Involvement

Presentations received by the Advisory Board:

- Dogs Deserve Better

A presentation identifying the negative impacts of the permanent tethering of dogs on animal welfare and public safety.

- FurEver Friends

A presentation outlining the local organizations programs providing community support, volunteer coordination, community events and partnership programs to benefit animal welfare.

- Public Health Department Rabies Clinic Committee

The public outreach and volunteer coordination effort, for the 2008 April and October Rabies Clinics. The clinics set a record in 2008 for the highest number of vaccinations provided since the clinics inception in 1997.

- North Carolina Animal Federation

The workshops presented by Forsyth County Animal Control at the regional South Carolina/North Carolina Animal Care and Control Conference. The workshops were entitled: Preparing for Construction: Using the award winning Forsyth County Animal Shelter as a case study and Feral Cats in the Field: A multi-pronged Approach to Curbing Their Numbers and Related Complaints.

- Home for the Holidays

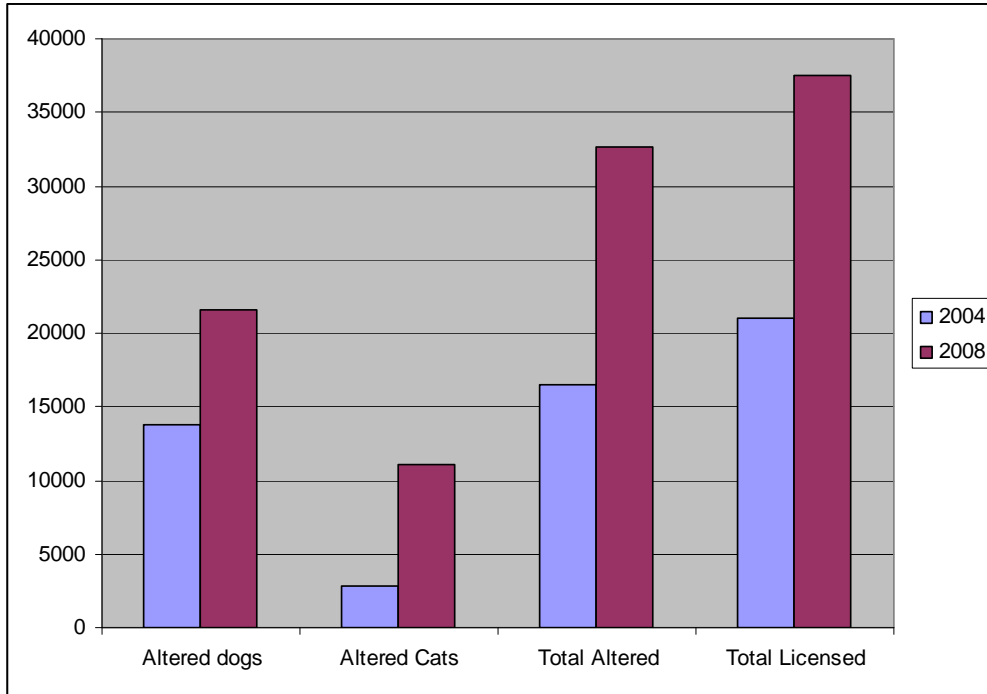
The department of Animal Control's annual pet adoption and volunteer outreach event. 2008 pet adoptions were the highest in number the department has recorded.

- North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance

A presentation outlining the mission of the NC RAOA and providing position statements on several Animal Control Advisory Board recommendations.

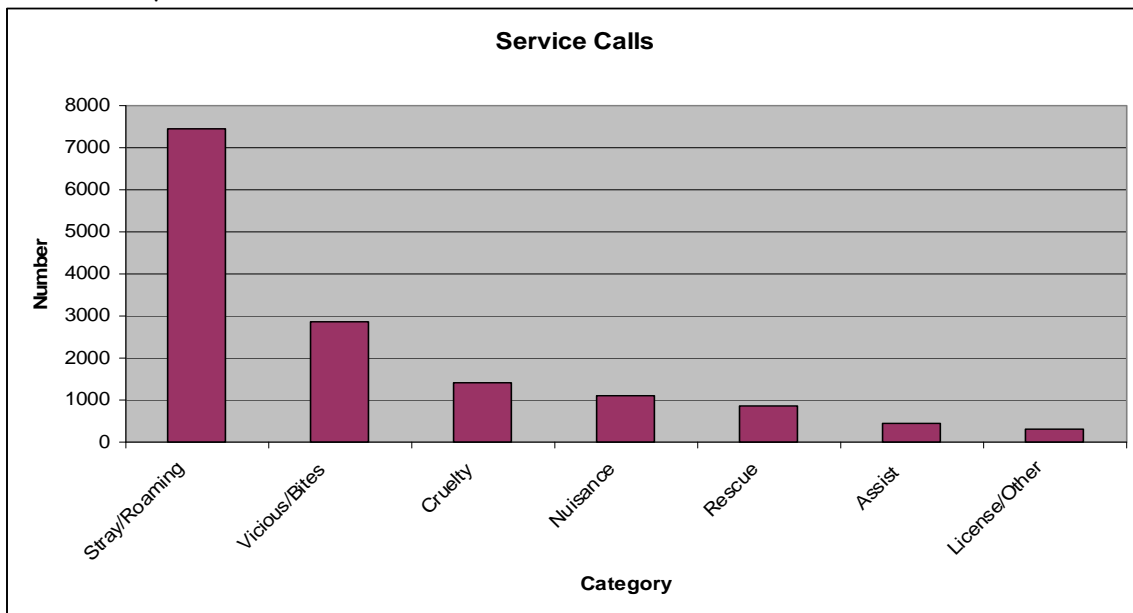
Administration Division

The County adopted a differential licensing program in 2004. The number of registered pets that are spayed or neutered has increased from 79% in 2004 to 87% in 2008.. The graph depicts 2004 and 2008 altered dog and cat registrations.



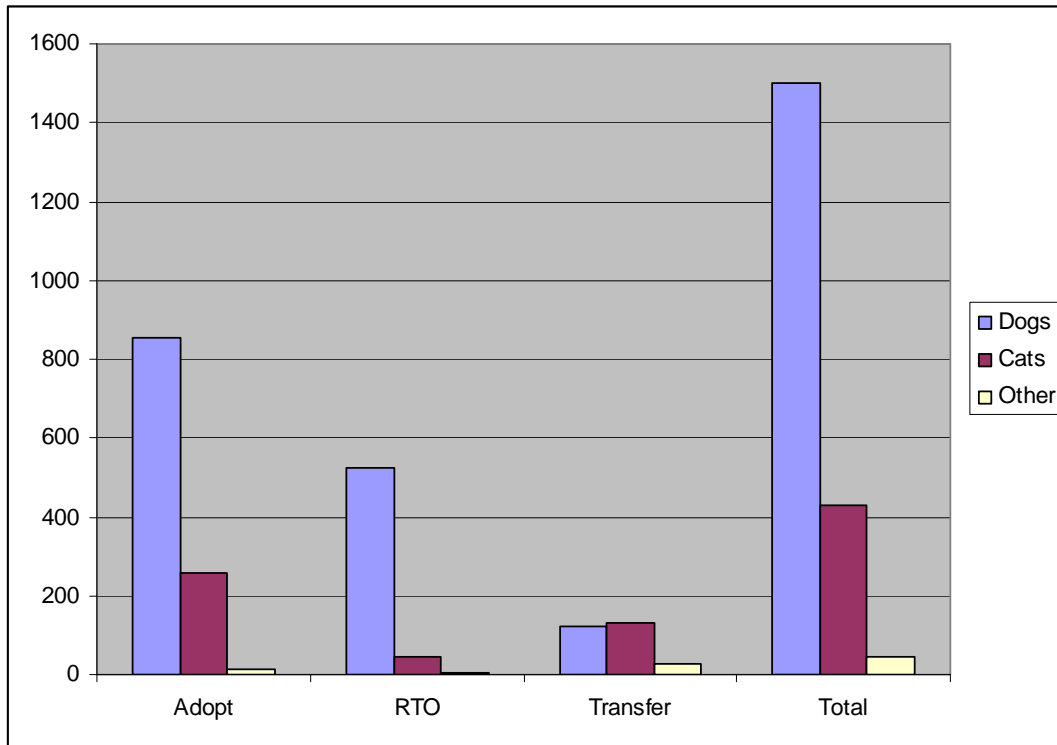
Patrol Division

In 2008 Animal Control responded to over 14,000 service calls and reports of violations. 23% of the reports became investigations requiring multiple contacts and follow ups. The chart below provides a breakdown of the division's activities:



Custody & Care Division

2008 was a record year for animals re-homed by the shelter through adoption, redemption and transfers. The chart depicts the 2008 re-homing success by animal type. The Other category includes livestock, rabbits, ferrets, birds and wildlife.



2008 ANIMAL CONTROL STATISTICS

Program	2008 YTD Jan. – Dec.		2007 YTD Jan. – Dec.		
<u>Custody & Care</u>					
Animals Received		% shelter pop.		% shelter pop.	% CHG 07-08
<i>Owner Release</i>	2,176		2,721		
<i>Citizen Strays</i>	2,545		1,847		
<i>ACO Impound</i>	<u>3,913</u>		<u>3,518</u>		
<i>Total Received</i>	8,634		8,086		+ 7%
Redemptions	569	7%	556	7%	+ 2%
Adoptions :					
<i>Shelter</i>	1,127		1,109		
<i>Transfers</i>	<u>282</u>		<u>217</u>		
<i>Total Adoptions</i>	1,409	16%	1,326	16%	+ 6%
Euthanasia					
<i>Space Need</i>	1,089		886		
<i>Health-Medical</i>	2,437		3,504		
<i>Behavioral</i>	<u>2,949</u>		<u>1,758</u>		
<i>Total Euthanasia</i>	6,475	75%	6,148	76%	+ 5%
<u>Patrol</u>					
Service Response/ Complaints	14,443		13,751		+ 5%
Investigations	3,264		3,038		+ 7%
Citations - <i>Individuals</i>	1,307		935		+ 40%
Cited Violations	1,806		1,472		+ 23%
<u>Administration</u>					
	YTD Jan-Dec 2008		YTD Jan-Dec 2007		
Pet Licenses	<u>Transactions</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Transactions</u>	<u>Fees</u>	
<i>Altered Dog</i>	21,359		20,544		
<i>Un-Altered Dog</i>	3,846		3,962		
<i>Hunting dogs</i>	506		537		
<i>Show</i>	8		5		
<i>Assistance</i>	4		0		
<i>Non-profit</i>	95		93		
Total Dog	25,818	\$202,546	25,236	\$197,687	# +2% \$ +2%
<i>Altered Cat</i>	10,963		10,188		
<i>Unaltered Cat</i>	397		336		
<i>Non-profit</i>	60		60		
Total Cat	11,420	\$62,849	10,584	\$56,582	# +8% \$ +11%
Total	37,238	\$265,395	35,820	\$254,269	
<i>Suspense Status</i>	300	\$2,138	300	\$2,130	
Total Transactions	37,538	\$267,533	36,120	\$256,399	# +4% \$ +4%

Recommendations:

- The Advisory Board recognizes the dire economic situation the community is facing and the difficult decisions before the Board of County Commissioners. With this in mind the Advisory Board recommends the County give future consideration to a County funded program to assist low income households with the cost of spaying and neutering pets. NCGS 19A-61 Spay/Neuter Program established provides for annual reimbursement to the County for the expense of such a program.
- Since 1995 the Forsyth County Animal Shelter has euthanized unwanted animals by injection given by certified technicians specially trained to administer sodium pentobarbital which is considered the most humane method of euthanasia of animals. Currently HB 6 and SB 199 Humane Euthanasia in Shelters Act would mandate euthanasia by injection as the solitary method of animal euthanasia in North Carolina. The Advisory Board recommends the Commissioners join with other North Carolina County Commissions and consider a resolution supporting these bills.