



**Forsyth County Animal Control
Advisory Board
Annual Report
2015**

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I. Animal Control Advisory Board

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.

II. Advisory Board Membership & Representation

Mitch Cromer	<i>Member at Large</i>	Sandra Averitt	<i>Purebred Animals</i>
Tina Sanderford	<i>Member at Large</i>	Robert Lakey	<i>Non-Pet Owner</i>
Dr. Molly Douglass	<i>Veterinarian</i>	Koy Kincaid	<i>Animals other than dog or cat</i>
Jennifer Tierney	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	Sandra Clodfelter	<i>Public Health Department</i>
Chad Griffin	<i>Animal Welfare</i>	Tracey Shifflette	<i>Municipality receiving Animal Control services</i>
Thurman Dillon	<i>Hunting Dogs</i>		

III. Work Plan

The Advisory Board adopted a multi-track work plan to provide organization and focus to its meetings in addition to its mandate to act as a Hearing Tribunal. The work plan focused implementing several of the recommendations regarding program development in the 2013 Strategic Plan for Animal Services.

- **Hearing Tribunal**

During 2014, the Advisory Board Hearing Tribunal conducted ninety-seven (97) hearings regarding appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations. An additional 192 appeals of violations of FCC 6-10 - Registration of Dogs and Cats Required - were processed administratively pursuant to FCC 6-55 - Violations and Penalties. The board reviewed the Hearing Tribunal Process and Liability with the County Attorney's office and adopted process revisions that expedite the process for the appellants and tribunal volunteers.

- **Program Development**

Spay Day Coalition - A coalition of eight (8) local organizations working cooperatively to provide access to low-cost pet altering services to qualified low-income households. *Spay Day 2014* provided over 422 spay/neuter procedures from donated funding. It is estimated these procedures may have prevented the birth of as many as 2,010 unwanted dogs and cats.

Low-Cost Rabies Clinics - Due to the increase in privately-funded rabies clinics the departments of Animal Control and Public Health determined to suspend the large annual spring and fall rabies clinics typically conducted at the Fairgrounds in favor of holding several mini-clinics at the Animal Shelter and conducting outreach to identify and actively promote low-cost rabies vaccination clinics. In 2014 four (4) clinics were conducted at the shelter and an additional fifty-four (54) clinics within Forsyth County were publicized by the County.

Stay Together Program - The *Stay Together Program* is a free program, conducted and coordinated by volunteers. It is offered monthly to people who have adopted a dog or cat from the Forsyth County Animal Shelter, as well as the general public. The goals of this program include helping pet owners with the transition and responsibility of bringing a new pet into their home. The STP program also wishes to help owners deal with behavior issues that may lead them to consider giving up their beloved pet. The number of shelter pets returned to the shelter after their adoption was reduced 29% since the inception of the program.

Preventive Measures - A review of potential measures to either increase liability of the owners of potentially dangerous dogs, or enhance the education of owners (or potential owners) of dog breeds often perceived as threatening.

IV. Performance Measures - Forsyth County Animal Control Department

- **Administration Division**

Spay /Neuter Rate – Registered Pets

Year	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Cats S/N	94%	97%	97%	98%	98%	98%
Dogs S/N	78%	87%	83%	86%	88%	89%
% Total	80%	87%	87%	90%	92%	92%

- **Patrol Division**

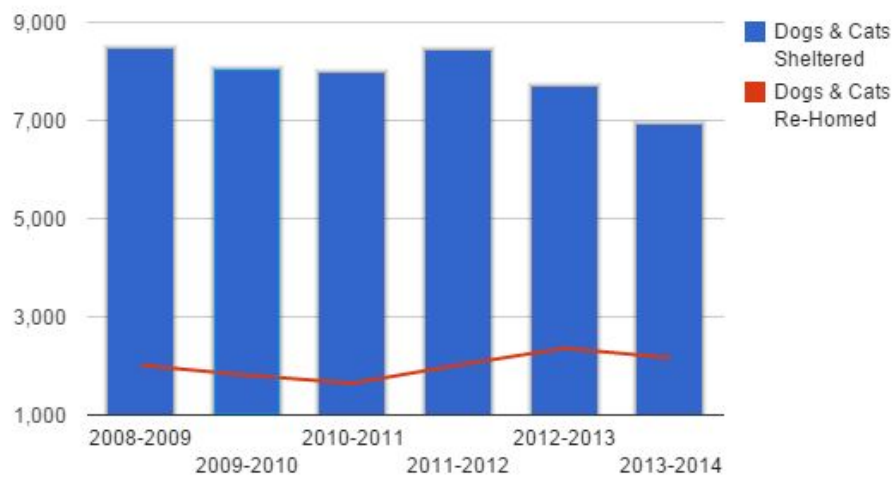
Priority Response – Time of Response

Priority Code	Examples	Response Goal	2012	2014
1 Imminent Danger	Attack in-progress Animal Rescue – life threatening	30 minutes 1 hr EDO shift (3:00 pm – 11:00 pm on call to 8:00 am)	32 min	31 min
2 Urgent	Animal Bites Rabies Exposures Injury Assist Police	ASAP 2 - 3 hours	8 hr 50 min	16 hr 37 min
3 Today	Witnessed cruelty-neglect Vicious behavior Animals in traps	8 – 10 hours	2 days 2 hrs	5 days 5 hrs 28min
4 Normal	Investigative follow-up Neglect Stray animals Nuisance animals Service of Citations	48 hrs	6 days 18 hrs 25 min	7days 13 hours 55 min
5 General	Check for License Trap Route Special Program Mailed Warning letters	5 – 7 days	3 days 8 hrs 21 min	10 hr 13 min

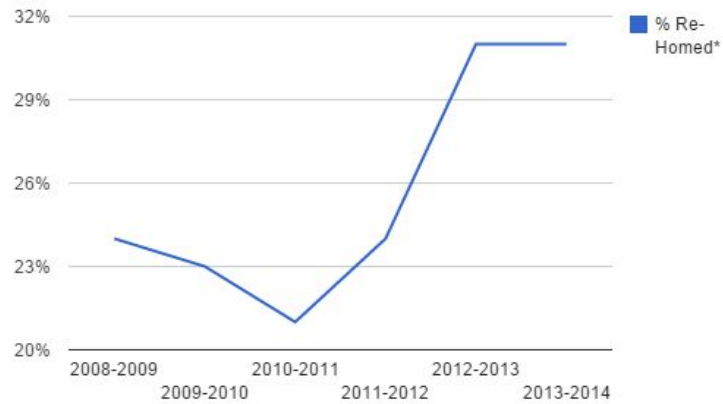
● **Custody & Care Division**

Fiscal Year	Dogs & Cats Sheltered	Dogs & Cats Re-Homed	% Re-Homed *
2008-2009	8481	2012	24%
2009-2010	8051	1812	23%
2010-2011	7978	1646	21%
2011-2012	8452	2019	24%
2012-2013	7685	2359	31%
2013-2014	6922	2164	31%

Dogs & Cats Sheltered & Re-Homed



% Re-Homed



*Re-Homing includes new adoptions, transfers to Community Care Program partner organizations, who guarantee adoptions to FCAC standards, or redemption of the pet by its owner.

V. Work Load Statistics -

Monthly Report

December 2014

Animal Control

Departmental	Dec 2014	Dec 2013	% Change	2014-2015 Year-to-Date	2013-2014 Year-to-Date	% Change
Animal Bite/Quarantine	62	43	+44.2%	396	462	-14.3%
Animals Adopted	155	139	11.5%	836	794	5.3%
Animals Euthanized	265	309	-14.2%	2,310	2,982	-22.5%
Animals Impounded	514	545	-5.7%	3,572	4,176	-14.5%
Animals Redeemed	66	57	15.8%	301	297	1.3%
Calls Received	808	939	-14.0%	5,644	6,686	-15.6%
License Transactions	3,238	1,186	173.0%	18,230	12,435	46.6%
Monthly Revenue	38,545	25,210	52.9%	191,914	162,231	18.3%
Citations Issued	98	100	-2.0%	434	441	-1.6%
Number Violations Issued	216	176	22.7%	951	768	23.8%

Monthly Report

February 2015

Animal Control

Departmental	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	% Change	2014-2015 Year-to-Date	2013-2014 Year-to-Date	% Change
Calls Received	888	863	2.9%	7,473	8,544	-12.5%
Animals Impounded	376	418	-10.0%	4,425	5,091	-13.1%
Animals Adopted	147	125	17.6%	1,153	1,053	9.5%
Monthly Revenue	31,015	21,689	43.0%	262,364	210,113	24.9%
Animals Redeemed	42	52	-19.2%	411	390	5.4%
Animals Euthanized	183	250	-26.8%	2,732	3,544	-22.9%
Citations Issued	93	65	43.1%	586	565	3.7%
Number Violations Issued	232	124	87.1%	1,335	978	36.5%
Animal Bite/Quarantine	49	55	-10.9%	505	577	-12.5%
License Transactions	2,721	882	208.5%	22,646	15,625	44.9%

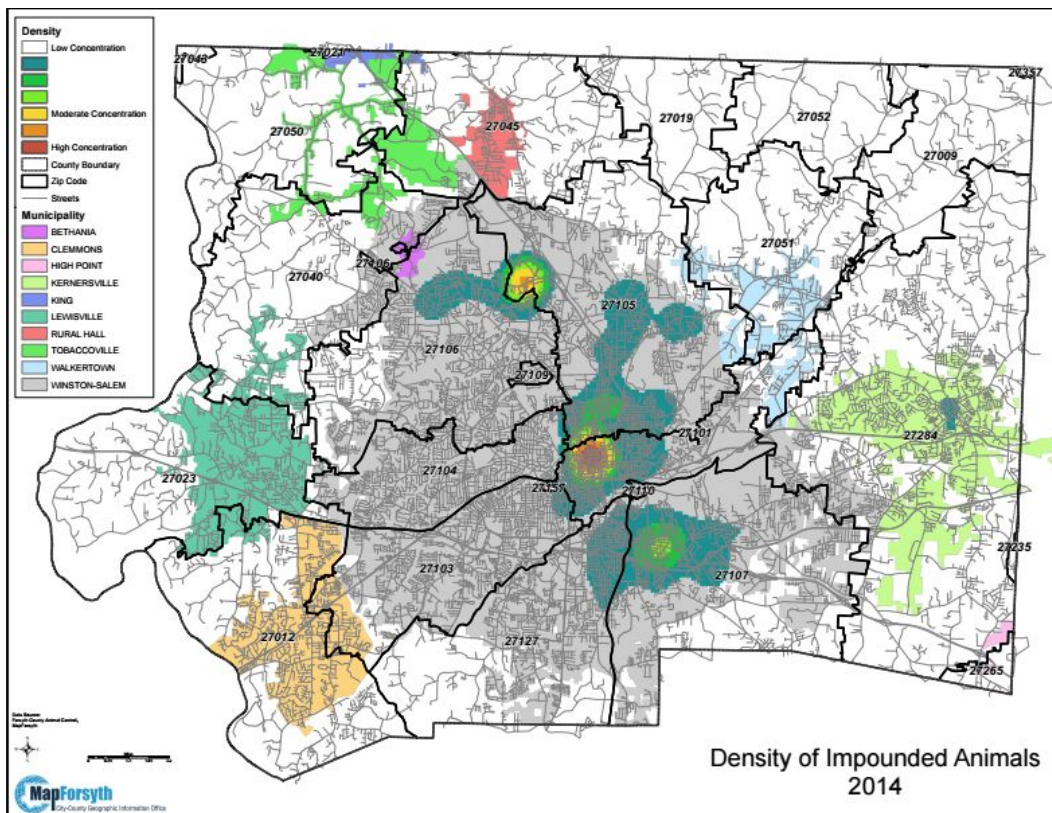
VI. Recommendations

The Animal Control Advisory Board recommends the Forsyth County Commissioners continue their support for proactive public and private partnership programs. These recommendations are consistent with the strategies identified within the Five-Year Plan for Animal Services.

Partnership Programs

The Board recommends the continued growth and development of the partnership programs. These cost sharing programs, targeting lower-income households, have demonstrated significant results in lowering the number of sheltered animals and increasing the retention of family pets in their homes.

Expansion into the neighborhoods where the service demand and public education needs are the highest is the next step.



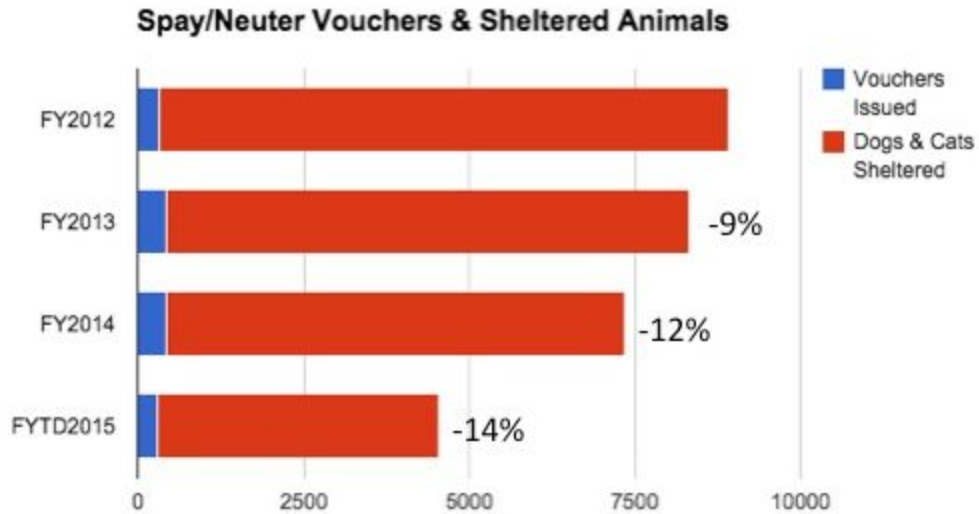
Spay/Neuter Assistance

The Forsyth Spay Day Coalition provides Spay/Neuter vouchers to low-income households for a cost of \$10 per pet.

- 1,473 spay/neuter surgeries have been conducted in the first 4 years of the program .
- Dogs and cats sheltered by the County have been reduced by 2,169 pets. A reduction of 26%.

Low-Cost Rabies Clinics

- Staffed by volunteers from the Coalition partners.
- Rabies Vaccinations are provided for \$5 per pet.
- Revenues from the clinics support Spay/Neuter Assistance.
- 528 vaccinations provided.

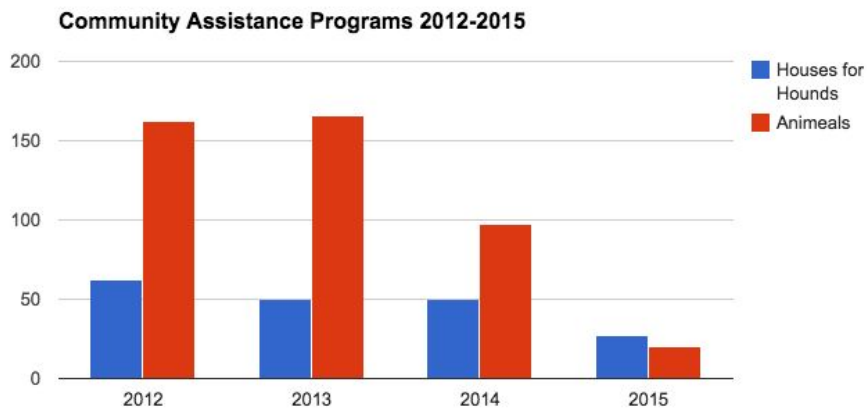


AniMeals

This program offers donated pet food for the dogs and cats of elderly, disabled or lower-income residents of Forsyth County.

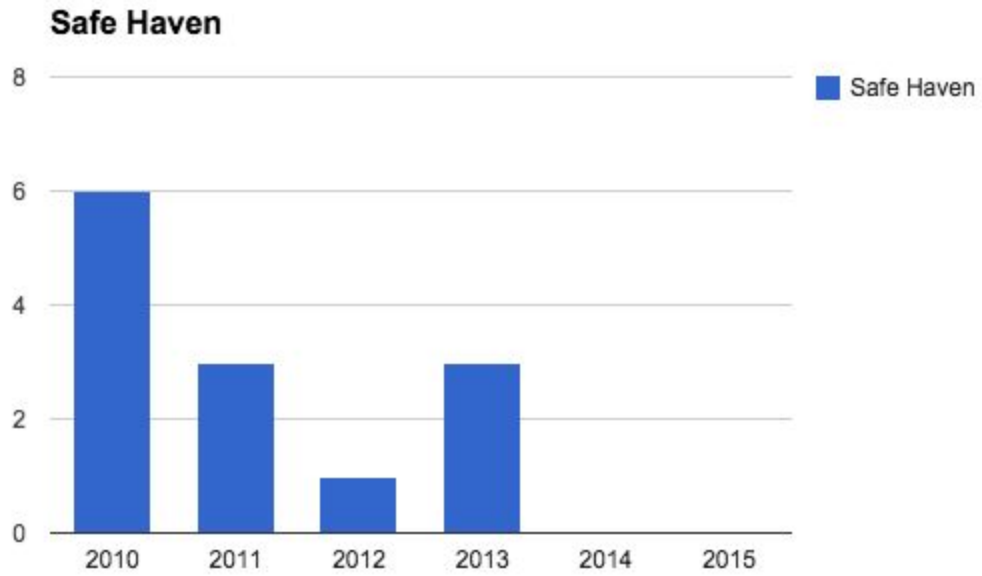
Houses For Hounds

Provides free dog houses to lower-income Forsyth County residents. The *Houses for Hounds* program was developed through the coordinated efforts of the WS/FC Career Center Carpentry Program, Forsyth County Animal Control, FurEver Friends, and the Forsyth Humane Society.



Safe Haven

A collaborative effort between Animal Control, Family Services and the Domestic Violence Community Council. Safe Haven provides free and secure foster care for the pets of women requiring shelter at the Family Services shelters.



Time of Response

It is recommended consideration be given to additional staff to support the Patrol Division. The lack of timely response was consistently voiced as a public concern in the analysis of community feedback for the Five-Year Plan along with the consistently high demand for field services. Forsyth County currently has fewer officers per population than comparative jurisdictions in North Carolina.

Code Amendment:

Hearing Tribunal FCC 6-57

Amendment of code and Advisory Board by-laws to allow former, experienced, members of the Animal Control Advisory Board to serve as tribunal members for appeals of civil citations and Dangerous Dog Declarations. This action would allow for an increased scheduling of hearing tribunals and reduction of the often 4-6 month waiting time between the filing of an appeal and the actual hearing.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY CODE
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD HEARINGS
TRIBUNAL.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Forsyth County that Chapter 6 of the Forsyth County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

That Section 6-56 is hereby amended by adding the following definition:
The following actions may be appealed under this Article: the entry of a preventive measures order by the Animal Control Department under Section 6-18 of this Chapter, the issuance of a citation by the Animal Control Department under Section 6-55(c) of this Chapter and/or the imposition of a fine, fee or penalty by the Animal Control Department under Section 6-55 of this Chapter or a dangerous dog declaration under Section 6-59 of this Chapter. The Advisory Board is authorized to act as an appeal hearing tribunal on the conditions, measures, fines, fees, or penalties imposed by the Animal Control Department pursuant to Section 6-18 and/or 6-55 and/or 6-58 of the Forsyth County Code provided it will do so only according to procedures established by Article VII of the Forsyth County Code. ~~This hearing function may be delegated to a subcommittee of the Advisory Board composed of not less than three (3) of its voting members.~~ **This hearing function may be delegated to a subcommittee of the Advisory Board composed of not less than three (3) people. The subcommittee may be composed of voting members of the Advisory Board or former Advisory Board members, whose appointments have expired, provided that said former Advisory Board members have experience serving on the hearing tribunal as determined by the Director of the Animal Control Department, or any combination of current voting members and former members.**