

**Lincoln County Animal Services**  
**Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 3rd, 2019**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Ashley Oliphant, Chairman  
Hannah Beaver, Animal Services Director  
Dr. Karen Miller  
Robin Franklin  
Diane Leatherman  
Doug Woods  
Rick Lynn  
Mark Connolly  
Michael Hull, Senior Animal Services Officer  
Lindsey Houser, Animal Control Administrative Secretary

**Guest Attendees:**

None

**Opening:**

After the board received their meeting materials, Chairman Oliphant opened the meeting at 6:32 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Oliphant asked the board if there were any suggestions or changes required for the minutes from the last advisory board meeting on July 2nd, 2019. The minutes were approved with a motion from Dr. Karen Miller and a second by Mark Connolly.

## **Exotic Summary:**

Director Beaver began the exotic summary discussion by presenting a summary format of the proposed exotic ordinance. In this summary, Director Beaver included a new definition for the term “exotic”. Unlike the older definition, this new definition doesn’t over complicate things. This proposal involves a 30 day waiting period upon application of legal ownership, giving LCAS time to get the applicant approved and the correct documents in order for the new exotic owner.

Diane Leatherman asked if the proposed exotic fee would be per animal. Director Beaver stated that the licensing fee would be per owner rather than per animal.

Referencing the document, Director Beaver stated that the items that were underlined are things the ASAB would have to research to create documents and forms- note that these points are additions to the current ordinance.

Doug Woods asked if an on-site home visit would be required. Director Beaver stated that a home visit would be performed upon application and also on annual visits.

Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked how the new proposed “exotic” definition would affect rattlesnakes and copperheads that are owned by county residents. Director Beaver stated that this would have to be researched further with the NC Wildlife Department as they may have regulations as well since they are both native to NC.

Rick Lynn suggested requiring liability insurance for potentially deadly animals and venomous reptiles. Director Beaver replied, stating that this may be a good baby step to banning venomous snakes completely since it would be difficult to do at the moment.

Dr. Ashley Oliphant suggested providing proof upon application that the applicant’s homeowners insurance acknowledges the potential presence of exotic animals.

Doug Woods asked what would happen to residents who don’t register their exotic animals. Director Beaver stated that upon LCAS learning of unregistered exotics, the owner would have a certain period of time to meet LCAS requirements or face a penalty.

Rick Lynn suggested requiring proof of deceased exotics to ensure that people are not just releasing venomous snakes into the wild.

Director Beaver suggested pro-rating the license fee for those we apply for ownership throughout the year. This would give LCAS the option to send out licensing bills once a year in order to keep up with records easier.

Dr. Ashley Oliphant asked for thoughts on the wording of endangered species. Director Beaver stated that she would look into this with the NC Wildlife Commission.

Director Beaver stated that she was still working with the county attorney on the impoundment/disposition of illegally owned exotics.

Mark Connolly mentioned that some exotics may be required to register with the Department of Agriculture.

Director Beaver also stated that she was considering adding the USDA to the definition of “exotic”.

Dr. Ashley Oliphant then asked for the board's opinion on a \$100 or \$250 licensing fee. Director Beaver, Dr. Karen Miller and Mark Connolly were all in support of a \$250 licensing fee.

### **Leash Law Language Revision:**

Director Beaver stated that a recent situation caused her to look back over the language used in the leash law section of the ordinance- is a dog on its own property unrestrained a leash law violation? She suggested adding the definition of "restrained" into the revised ordinance. One of the issues in the current ordinance that affects this issue is that the definitions of "stray" and "at large" are the same.

Director Beaver then asked for the board's opinion on the statement "secured by a leash or is otherwise under control of a responsible person".

Mark Connolly asked if the proposed definition of "restraint" goes against what people who were in favor of becoming a leash law area voted for. In response to this, both Mark Connolly and Dr. Ashley Oliphant were in agreement that changing "or" to "and" and removing "is otherwise" from the proposed definition would be a good idea.

Rick Lynn asked if the proposed definition of "at large" should use "curtilage of owner's property" rather than "real property".

Director Beaver stated that she did not feel the need to define "responsible person".

### **ASAB Structure Revision:**

Dr. Ashley Oliphant gave the board a description and summary of the ADHOC No-Kill Committee's formation and purpose. Director Beaver stated that once LCAS reached NO-Kill status, they agreed only to meet when the live release rate dips below 90%. Since this agreement, the ASAB has become more active than the ADHOC committee and their membership has dwindled. She suggested adding two positions to the ASAB- one no kill rep and one community animal group representative. The combination of the two boards would help maintain no kill culture in Lincoln County. Dr. Ashley Oliphant stated that she was supportive of the combination.

Mark Connolly stated that he supported it as well. He also asked what qualified a person as a no kill representative. Director Beaver and Dr. Oliphant agreed that it would be a person who has attended the No-Kill conference in Austin, TX or someone who resides in Lincoln County that has worked at a No-Kill shelter.

Director Beaver stated that there may need to be a revision to the terms if 2 members were added to the ASAB, but Dr. Oliphant and Doug Woods were in agreement that the current language may suffice.

Director Beaver advised the board that this change would only occur once the new ordinance is voted on.

### **Rescue / Adoption Policy Discussion:**

Director Beaver mentioned two recent cases that made her aware that LCAS could benefit from a rescue/adoption policy.

The first case involved an owner surrender labradoodle that was surrendered by an elderly person who could no longer care for it. The dog was sent to the vet to be spayed before being made available. A rescue showed up prior to LCAS opening to the public and expressed interest in pulling her. Director Beaver said no, because the public hadn't been given the same opportunity to adopt. The rescue representative then offered to adopt the dog. Director Beaver also said no to this because the dog had not been marked as available for adoption at the time. It was made known that the dog would be made available the following day and it would be first come, first serve once made available. Ultimately, the dog was made available and was adopted by a member of the public who had waited at the shelter since 5 AM. The rescue stated that they would no longer pull any dogs from LCAS because of this incident.

The second case involved a grey Pitbull puppy that was brought in to LCAS. Once it was made available for adoption, it was on the adoption floor for a whole day with zero interest from the public. A rescue stated their interest in the puppy and a rescue hold sign was placed on the kennel door. A member of the public (potential adopter) saw the sign and wanted to adopt the puppy. Ultimately the rescue was told that they could not pull the puppy because of the issue it caused when the puppy was placed on rescue hold but not removed from the shelter immediately.

Dr. Miller suggested allowing a rescue to pull animals after the public has had a certain amount of time to adopt- such as a few days or 48 hours.

Mark Connolly stated that he thought it was wrong for out of county/state rescues to have priority over Lincoln County tax payers.

Rick Lynn was in agreement with a timeframe like Dr. Miller suggested.

Robin Franklin stated that in the past (prior to Director Beaver serving as director) she and her husband had fostered needy dogs. During this time, foster parents could tell an adopter 'no' to adopting the dog if they believed they were not a good fit. Robin asked if this was still something that happened at LCAS. Director Beaver stated that it was not- open adoptions are good, especially because it is easy to misjudge a person at first. People can be told no if they have previous issues that LCAS is aware of. Complicated situations/adoptions are always handled by Ashley Parsons who takes special care to makes sure the best thing happens to the animal.

### **Public Comments:**

None

**Next Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Motion to Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Doug Woods to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Mark Connolly.

The meeting ended at 7:54 PM.