



Jones County Health Department
418 Hwy 58 North, Unit C
Trenton, NC 28585

Phone: (252) 448-9111

Wesley P. Smith
Health Director

Fax: (252) 448-1670

Jones County Animal Control Subcommittee
Tuesday September 18, 2019

Members: April Aycock; Rev. Charlie Dunn Jr; Wayne Hurley; Patricia Roddy-Jones; Tom Labuda; Wesley P. Smith, Dr. Steve Stelma

Staff: Melissa Lamb, Accounting Technician III; Ann Pike, Nursing Supervisor I

Others: Tremayne Brown; James Hill; Stephanie Mills

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Wesley P. Smith, Health Director

Old Business

The minutes from August 14, 2019 were approved by the Subcommittee with a correction from Tom Labuda, clarifying that the Jones County Sherriff's Office responds to calls regarding potential animal cruelty.

New Business

Smith passed out the survey form for review by the Subcommittee and to see if any changes needed to be made before disseminating the survey. He stated ferrets were included on the survey since they were included in the NC General Statutes along with dogs and cats requiring the rabies vaccination. Jones mentioned adding a voucher program question to the survey. After much discussion the Subcommittee approved adding the question "If available, would you utilize a low-cost spay and neuter voucher program?" to the survey. Smith informed the Subcommittee he would have Diana Craft, Health Educator, set the survey up on Survey Monkey and begin disseminating the survey electronically through Social media. Hard copies would be distributed to the Water Department and other places where the general public frequent, and would be provided to each member of the Subcommittee for them to hand out to the public as well.

Smith passed around sample animal control ordinances from other counties for the Subcommittee to review. The goal is for the Subcommittee to come up with their own ordinance that would meet the needs of Jones County. It was recommended that the Jones County animal control ordinance would need to have an exception for hunters during hunting season. The exemption would not cover a hunter hunting on property

he/she does not have permission to hunt on. The exemption would also not cover hunters removing their dogs' collar and dumping/killing them.

Hurley inquired if there was something official to be done in order to decide if an ordinance was even needed in Jones County. Smith informed Hurley the process the Subcommittee would follow. Should the Subcommittee decide an ordinance is needed, the Subcommittee would draft an ordinance to take before the Board of Health for approval. If the Board of Health approved the draft ordinance, the ordinance would be presented to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. After much discussion, Hurley made the motion that the Subcommittee proceed with drafting an animal control ordinance, to be presented to the Board of Health for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Hurley informed the Subcommittee he did agree on a license fee. Rev. Dunn stated a couple of hunters (Tremayne Brown and James Hill) were present to hear what the Subcommittee had to present thus far and give their opinions on whether or not they and other hunters would be in favor of a county ordinance. Labuda proposed a licensure fee in the amount of \$10 per dog/cat/ferret every two (2) years; should a family have more than one dog/cat/ferret, a discount would be provided for each additional animal at a fee of \$5 every two (2) years. After discussion the proposed ordinance and licensure fee, both Brown and Hill stated they could be in favor of a licensure fee and an animal control ordinance. Brown also stated there are hunters in the county that will not be in favor of the licensure fee or the ordinance.

Aycock stated it was not a good time to consider a tax increase to establish animal control services in the county, as the Board of Commissioners would not be in support of it. Smith reminded Subcommittee members that the county already covers the expense of quarantining dogs and cats when the owner cannot be identified. It was also stated there was an expense to the Sheriff's Department for responding to calls, including calls Labuda responds to for animal cruelty. Aycock asked Smith to pull figures together to determine how much it is already costing the county, including time, with not having an ordinance in place. Hurley and Rev. Dunn asked who would be in charge of collecting the licensure fee. Aycock stated Smith and the Health Department would be a great place for the fees to be collected.

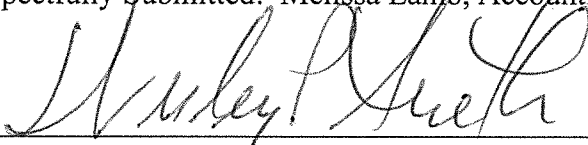
Smith informed the Subcommittee there is no need for full time animal control in Jones County. He stated he would contract with someone like Top RJ's to have animals picked up and boarded/quarantined. He also addressed whether or not there was a need for a leash law in Jones County. Per Smith, a leash law is not necessary, since language in the ordinance would require the owner to keep the animal confined to their property, or be charged with violating the ordinance.

Aycock stated the next step is to draft up an ordinance similar to those from Greene and Lenoir Counties. Smith was directed to provide David Baxter, the County Attorney, with the ordinances from Green and Lenoir, and ask him to draft an animal control ordinance for Jones County. It was decided by the Subcommittee not to schedule another meeting until a sufficient number of surveys were turned in, and a sample ordinance has been drafted up by the County Attorney.

Next Meeting

To Be Determined

Respectfully Submitted: Melissa Lamb, Accounting Technician III



Wesley P. Smith, Health Director

10/30/19

Date