



## COUNTY OF DURHAM

### Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

March 26, 2013

In Attendance: Shafonda Davis, Josephine Kerr, Evelyn Nicholson, Brendan Hartigan, William Oakley, George Webb, Fran Foster, Joyce McKinney, and Jenny Campbell

January meeting notes approved upon amendment.

#### Animal Services Report:

- Sheriff appoints George Webb as their representative to the committee.
- 5 reported cases of rabies in Durham County since last meeting, all raccoons, no human exposure.

#### Shelter Report:

- Shafonda Davis reviewed January/February shelter statistics.

#### Old Business:

- Licensing fee review status
  - Discussed the following:
    - Fees should not increase - increased fees in other municipalities resulted in increased noncompliance
    - One option is removal of the 75\$ fee for non-sterilized animals
    - Emphasized the role of education in effective sterilization programs over fees
    - Little or no data on effectiveness of licensing fee on sterilization
    - Can we have an option to fine for intact, at large animals?
    - Durham Co. saw a decrease in rabies vaccinations 2003-2004
  - General consensus (not unanimous, Evelyn in dissent) of the committee is to support removal of tax if other means are in place to track animals residing in the county (example, rabies vaccinations). Main concern - how will this affect sterilization? Committee supports removal of licensing fee.
- TNR Sub-committee update
  - Committee discussed proposed changes to the county animal ordinance to support TNR.
  - Discussed the following:

- Legal definition of feral cats
- Permitting and private property issues
- Ownership - do colony caretakers want some ownership rights but not all?
- Comment from sub-committee: general goal of caretakers is to expand sterilization and vaccination of feral cats and generally increase welfare
- Keepers are concerned about the public record generated through the trap permitting process and suggest that required permitting will impede TNR
- Discussed the problem of rabies re-vaccination - once a feral cat is vaccinated, what is the feasibility of revaccination? Noted that one vaccine provides more protection than no vaccine even if cat is not revaccinated.

New Business:

- No new business

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting 7pm, May 28, 2013 at the Durham County Animal Shelter.