

Gwinnett County Animal Task Force Minutes  
February 7, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
884 Winder Highway  
Lawrenceville, Georgia

**Members Present:**

Kelly Alder, Vice Chair	Tatiana Romeo
Jane Stewart	Joel Taylor, Chairman
Dr. Wayne Wallis	Elizabeth Burgner
Dr. Solveig Evans	Wanda Johnson
Curtis Northrup	Dr. Cathy Fish
Jon Richards	Angie Peevy

**Members Absent:**

Donald Bush,  
James Freeman  
Suzanne Pruitt  
Pattie Szanti

**Staff Present:**

Lt. Mary Respass, Animal Welfare and Enforcement Unit  
Theresa Cox, Law Department  
Demetria Johnson, Law Department  
Shaunieka Taste, Public Relations Coordinator, Communications Division

- I. **Call to Order**  
Time: 7:01 p.m.
  
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
No changes were made to the agenda.  
Motion to Approve: Jon Richards  
Second: Dr. Wayne Wallis  
Vote: 10-0 (Members Stewart and Northrup absent)
  
- III. **Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes from 1/24/12**  
Motion to Approve: Jon Richards  
Second: Elizabeth Burgner  
Vote: 10-0 (Members Stewart and Northrup absent)
  
- IV. **No Kill Facilities**  
Guest Speaker – Ken Coor

Mr. Coor discussed problems concerning pet overpopulation, ways to solve the problem and how to generate money. He talked about what works and what does not work. It was his opinion that the Georgia license revenue program would not work because it is not targeted. He discussed directing resources to where the problems originate. Some suggestions included offering low income spay/neuter programs and placing a surcharge on rabies tags. He suggested reviewing New Hampshire's program, Nevada's plan, and Jacksonville, Florida's plan as well as reading the book Animal Control Management, which he left for review.

V. **Survey Discussion** – Finalize

Mr. Richards provided the proposed survey and explained in detail each question. There was discussion by the Task Force members to include a question regarding demographics, non-residents of Gwinnett County completing the survey and limiting the number of questions to 15. The survey will be posted on Gwinnett County's website, the County newsletter, TV Gwinnett, the Gwinnett Daily Post and the AJC. Mr. Richards estimated the survey would be ready on February 13, 2012.

Approval of survey with changes

Motion to approve: Elizabeth Burgner

Second: Dr. Fish

Vote: 12-0

Length of time survey will run: 10 days to two weeks.

VI. **Subcommittees**

**A. Committee overlap**

Chairman Taylor suggested committees work together with rather than combine.

Motion to keep subcommittees as is

Motion to approve: Elizabeth Burgner

Second: Jon Richards

Approved: 12-0

**B. Creation of Feral Cat Subcommittee**

Chairman Taylor suggested more of an ad hoc committee for feral cats rather than creating a new Subcommittee. No vote was taken to create subcommittee.

**C. Reports**

**i. Partnership**

Mr. Northrup provided the report for the Partnership Subcommittee. Sgt. Schiralli provided information to the Partnership Subcommittee about the volunteer program. The program started May 2011. The volunteer positions include cleaning the kennel, walking dogs, greeting customers, working in administration and adoption. There are currently 48 approved volunteers, 46 include shelter workers, and there were 25 volunteers in January. Volunteers

have to complete an application packet, background check, and submit to fingerprinting. Volunteer must be 18 years of age, not under sentence to volunteer. Commit to 24 hours a year.

**ii. Policy**

Dr. Fish provided the report for Policy Subcommittee. The Policy subcommittee is conducting research in other counties and municipal codes. Don Bush researched the Charlotte area, Jane researched Fulton County and Dr. Fish researched Cobb County. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2012.

**iii. Program**

Ms. Burgner provided the report for the Program Subcommittee. The Program Subcommittee will get clarification from Theresa Cox regarding the feral cat abandonment issues. The Subcommittee recommends that feral cats are excluded from abandonment issues. The subcommittee went through a book on all policies to avoid overlap. Shadowing, intake, working in the kennel and ride-alongs were discussed. Anyone interested should contact Ms. Johnson by February 9, 2012.

**iv. Structure**

Mr. Richards provided the report for the Structure Subcommittee. The Structure Subcommittee discussed the animal advisory council's current and new by-laws. The members of the subcommittee are awaiting consideration from the commissioner. The Structure Subcommittee will discuss further and consider.

**VII. Next ATF group meeting – February 28, 2012**

**VIII. Public Comment**

Three members of the public spoke: Dolores Williams, JP Manese, and Randy DeCarlo.

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Jon Richards

Second: Dr. Fish

Vote: 12-0

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.