

Posted: _____
Time Posted: _____
Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed: _____

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE
JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
NOVEMBER 8, 2007**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on November 8, 2007, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
Tom Massie, Commissioner
William Shelton, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board
Absent: Joe Cowan, Vice Chair

Paula Carden, Health Dept. Director
Chris Tyson, Animal Control Officer

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the work session is to discuss a proposed Animal Control Ordinance.

Public Comments: Veronica Nichols stated she served on the Animal Control Ordinance Task Force, works with ARF and the Humane Society. She stated the present regulations should be enforced rather than adding new regulations, but suggested that "nuisance animals" should be addressed. Further, any reference to breed specific dogs should be deleted. New state legislation will become effective in January 2008 that will assist with spay/neuter and education about spay/neutering. Mary Adams suggested that "obtaining an unaltered permit" as defined in the Buncombe County Ordinance should be considered.

The Board recommended the following changes:

(1) **"Dangerous Dog"** definition. Delete proposed definition and use verbatim definition from G. S. 67-4.1

(2) **"Potentially Dangerous Dog"** definition. Delete proposed definition and use verbatim definition from G. S. 67-4.1.

(3) **Nuisance animals** will not be addressed in the proposed ordinance; however, it was suggested that a definition and/or alternatives be researched and submitted for consideration at a future date.

(4) **Section 4. Vaccination for Rabies:** Paragraphs "C" and "D" - delete requirement that cats must wear a rabies tag/collar and add "encourage that cats be micro chipped".

(5) **Section 10. Immediate Placement for Adoption or Destruction of Owner-Surrender Dogs or Cats.** Clarify paragraph “B” because it appears to be redundant with reference to Section 7.

(6) **Section 11. Destruction of Wounded, Diseased, or Unweaned Dogs and Cats.** Revise paragraph “A” that animal control is not required to notify a humane organization if there is no identification.

(7) **Section 13. Collar and Identification.** Delete “or cat” is required to wear a collar. Add the following exceptions: “A dog used by a public law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes (G. S. 67-4.1(b)(1). A dog being used in a lawful hunt (G. S. 67-4.1(b)(2). Dogs without collars must be micro chipped”.

(8) **Section 15. Control of Dangerous Dogs.** Change title of section to “Control of Dangerous Dogs”. Delete “potentially” in first sentence and delete the last sentence of paragraph “A”.

(9) **Animals on County Property.** Draft regulation requiring all animals must be leashed when on county property and/or parks and owners must clean up animal litter

(10) **Disposal of Animals on Public Property.** Draft regulation concerning selling and/or giving away animals in public places.

The recommended changes will be incorporated into a revision of the ordinance and presented for further review. A Public Hearing will be scheduled prior to the Board consideration of the ordinance.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Massie moved that the work session be adjourned. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman