

Jackson County Animal Control Task Force

1. **Purpose:**

Jackson County recognizes the need to provide a safe, clean, and adequately sized facility to house the animals in Jackson County that have been voluntarily or in-voluntarily assigned to the animal shelter. A building must be multi-faceted serving as a holding facility, a hospital, and a placement center. The animal shelter should be a place of pride for the citizens of Jackson County. In addition, the programs, polices, and communication strategies are critical for a successful animal control program.

2. **Objective:**

The Jackson County Animal Control Task Force is created to develop ideas and strategies to improve the facilities, programs, and public perception of animal welfare in our county.

Objectives of the Task Force include:

- Develop an existing conditions report for the current animal shelter. Identify necessary and preferred improvements and additions to enhance the current facility;
- Develop a list of preferred components if a new shelter is constructed. If a new shelter is recommended, evaluate whether the current shelter can be utilized in some capacity as part of the animal control program or is it should be de-commissioned;
- Identify models of excellence for a new shelter facility. Transylvania County has recently completed construction of a new shelter and Haywood County is planning for a new shelter;
- Develop a best practices report consisting of recommendations related to adoptions, fees, spay-neuter services, pet-retention, and responsible pet ownership.
- Develop recommendations for a comprehensive public relations campaign to encourage animal rescue, adoption, spay/neuter programs, and responsible pet ownership. Evaluate the current web-site and identify opportunities for improvement;
- Identify areas of current animal control ordinance that should be considered for modifications to better serve the citizens of Jackson County;
- Develop recommendations for improving the overall operations of the animal shelter by strengthening potential partnerships with private organizations as well as other local governments;

The work of the Jackson County Animal Shelter Task Force should be completed by November 1, 2015. The Health Director, Paula Carden, will serve as an ex-officio member of the task force and her staff will provide administrative support. A final report and recommendations should be presented to both the Jackson County Commissioners and to the Jackson County Health Board of Directors.