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

**MINUTES OF A
PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 17, 2007**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on September 17, 2007, 5:00 p.m, Room A201, Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
Joe Cowan, Vice Chair
Tom Massie, Commissioner
William Shelton, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
W. Paul Holt, Jr., County Attorney
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Chairman McMahan called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose is to receive public input on a proposed Animal Control Ordinance.

Public Comments:

(1) Lynn Franz of Whittier stated she supports the ordinance, but recommended that it also address “nuisance animals”, i.e., barking dogs.

(2) Annie Christie of Whittier stated she supports the ordinance and suggested that “nuisance animals” be addressed, i.e., dogs roaming at will and attacking other domestic animals and excessive major barking. The ordinance should address nuisance issues and not just damages.

(3) Mary Adams of Webster stated she is a certified pet dog trainer and works with the Humane Society (ARF). She suggested that every animal be spayed or neutered unless there is a good reason not to do so, such as, AKC show dogs or dogs used for breeding. Prohibit the sale of animals in stores, public spaces or parking lots unless the owner can furnish proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies and other communicable diseases. She requested clarification in the proposed ordinance as follows: Section 3 – who is responsible for animals injured on the roads after hours. Section 5A – change the definition of “shelter” as a “covered dog house, building or other waterproof structure designed to accommodate animals”. Section 8B – clarify “all unvaccinated animals will be euthanized”. Section 9 – mandate spay/neuter before animals are released to a new home. Section 13 – if animals do not wear identification tag, then mandate microchipping. Section 15A – distinguish between dangerous dogs and potentially dangerous breeds. Section 15G – dogs used in lawful hunts should have exceptions, but should not be excepted from the dangerous dog section.

(4) Jane Finneran of Sylva stated she works with ARF, helps at the animal shelter and has 15 years dog training experience. She requested the following changes in the proposed ordinance: Section 4C - if hunters feel that their dogs cannot work with a collar or tag, then microchipping should be required. Section 9A- a \$50.00 deposit is required along with the adoption fee which would be refunded upon presentation of proof of spay/neuter. Section 12A – require an owner must show proof of rabies before a dog/cat is returned to them and possibly show certificate of spay/neuter.

There being no further business, Commissioner Shelton moved to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the public hearing adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman