

# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** May 19, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Animal Ordinance Amendment

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) Recommended Restraint/Confinement Section of the County Animal Ordinance
- 2) Presentation Slides

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Pursuant to the Board of Commissioner's discussion on March 30th, the Animal Services Committee has changed the recommended Restraint/Confinement Section of the Animal Ordinance. The recommended Section now excludes the method by which an animal owner shall confine a domestic animal to their property. A summary of calls from the past 12 months will be presented by staff as well as a brief discussion on the Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dog Ordinance and newly established customer service initiatives.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend Board either adopt the Recommended Restraint/Confinement Section of the County Animal Ordinance or set a date for second public hearing.

**RECOMMENDED DRAFT**

**SECTION 66A- Restraint / Confinement of Dogs and Cats Required**

Definition- Domestic Animal- Any dog or cat which can be vaccinated against rabies with an approved rabies vaccine, and which has an established rabies quarantine observation period.

- A. This section is intended to reduce the number of stray animals that are allowed to run at large.
- B. No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any domestic animal shall cause, permit or allow the same to be or to run at large except while on the private property or premises of the person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of such domestic animal.
- C. When not on the owner's property, the domestic animal shall be under the control of a competent person and restrained by a leash, harness or other similar means of physical control.
- D. This ordinance pertains to all domestic animals with the following exceptions:
  - 1. Dogs used for control of livestock as long as said animal is in the process of controlling livestock.
  - 2. Dogs used or trained for hunting as long as said animal is in the process of being trained by a trainer and/or owner or on a legal hunt in the presence of the owner.
  - 3. Dogs or Cats while being exhibited or trained at a kennel club, or similar event, as long as said animal is in the process of participating in a kennel club, field trial or similar event.
  - 4. Dogs used for Law Enforcement while training and/or acting in the line of duty.

# **Henderson County Animal Services**

May 19, 2006 Presentation to Board of Commissioners



## **Presentation Overview**

- I. Proposed Restraint/Confinement Ordinance
- II. Animal Services Call Summaries
- III. Dangerous Dog and Rabies Regulations
- IV. Operational Enhancements

## **Proposed Restraint/Confinement Ordinance**

Based on the Board's discussion on March 30<sup>th</sup> and comments from the public, the Animal Services Committee and staff have developed a proposed Restraint/Confinement Ordinance.

## **Proposed Section 66A – Restraint/Confinement of Dogs and Cats Required**

Domestic Animal (Definition): Any dog or cat which can be vaccinated against rabies with an approved rabies vaccine, and which has an established rabies quarantine period.

**Proposed Section 66A –  
Restraint/Confinement of Dogs  
and Cats Required (continued)**

- A. This section is intended to reduce the number of stray animals that are allowed to run at large.
- B. No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any domestic animal shall cause, permit or allow the same to be or to run at large except while on the private property or premises of the person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of such domestic animal.

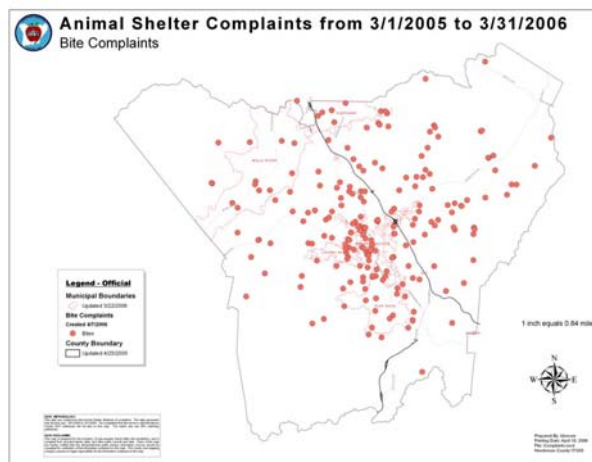
**Proposed Section 66A –  
Restraint/Confinement of Dogs  
and Cats Required (continued)**

- C. When not on the owner's property, the domestic animal shall be under the control of a competent person and restrained by a leash, harness or other similar means of physical control.

## Proposed Section 66A – Restraint/Confinement of Dogs and Cats Required (continued)

- D. This ordinance pertains to all domestic animals with the following exceptions:
1. Dogs used for control of livestock as long as said animal is in the process of controlling livestock.
  2. Dogs used or trained for hunting as long as said animal is in the process of being trained by a trainer and/or owner or on a legal hunt in the presence of the owner.
  3. Dogs or cats while being exhibited or trained at a kennel club, or similar event, as long as said animal is in the process of participating in a kennel club, field training or similar event.
  4. Dogs used for law enforcement while training and/or acting in the line of duty.

## Animal Service Calls - Bites



# Animal Service Calls – Bites

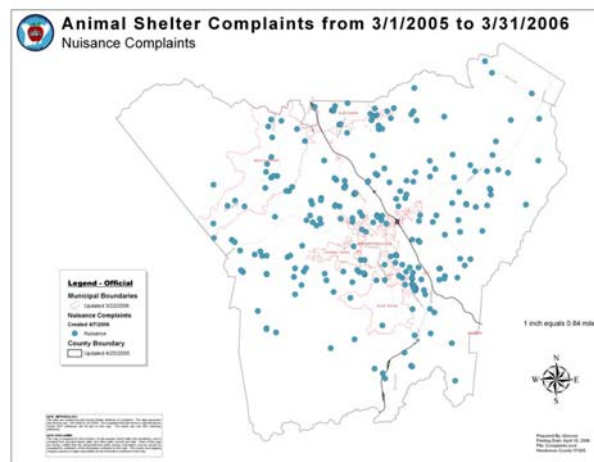
March 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Total Bite Calls = 306

## Breakdown by Jurisdiction

Henderson County	240
Hendersonville	26
Flat Rock	12
Fletcher	9
Mills River	9
Laurel Park	0

# Animal Service Calls - Nuisance



# Animal Service Calls – Nuisance

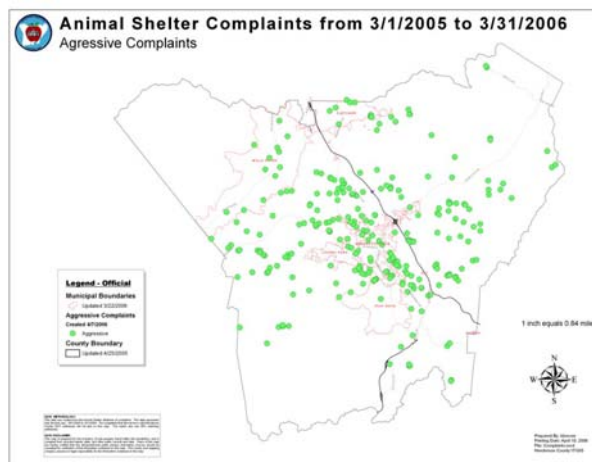
March 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Total Nuisance Calls = 304

## Breakdown by Jurisdiction

Henderson County	255
Mills River	22
Fletcher	17
Hendersonville	7
Flat Rock	3
Laurel Park	0

# Animal Service Calls - Aggressive





# Animal Service Calls – Aggressive

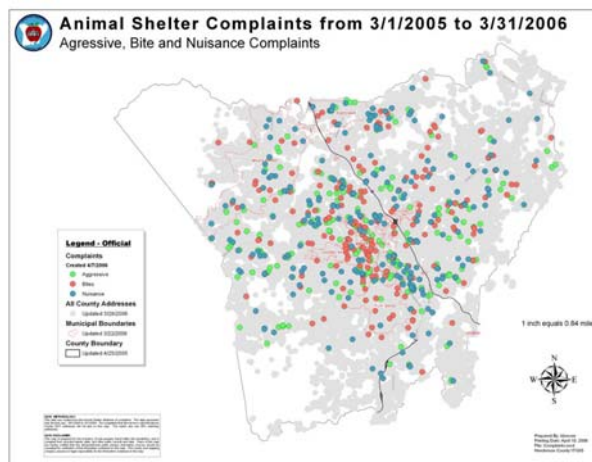
March 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Total Aggressive Calls = 340

## Breakdown by Jurisdiction

Henderson County	290
Hendersonville	15
Mills River	14
Flat Rock	10
Fletcher	9
Laurel Park	2

# Animal Service Calls - Total



# Animal Service Calls – Total

March 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Total Calls = 950

## Breakdown by Jurisdiction

Henderson County	785
Hendersonville	48
Mills River	45
Fletcher	35
Flat Rock	25
Laurel Park	12

# Dangerous Dog Regulations

DANGEROUS DOG REGULATIONS  
COMPARISON CHART  
HENDERSON COUNTY CODE VS. NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE

SECTION	HENDERSON COUNTY CODE	NC GENERAL STATUTE
1. Definitions – Potentially Dangerous Dog	(c.1) Surgery (c.3) apparent attitude	(2.a) Cosmetic Surgery (2.c) vicious or terrorizing
2. Definitions – Owner	includes provisions for sheltering, feeding or caring for and persons under 18	Person or legal entity
3. Definitions – Severe Injury	Lacerations	Disfiguring lacerations
4. Control Measures / Enclosures	Securely enclosed, child resistant lock, concrete bottom and secure top	Securely enclosed and locked
5. Control Measures	Leashed and muzzled when off property	Leashed and muzzled or otherwise restrained when off property
6. Warning Sign	120 inches, visible from each exposure, include graphic representation for children	None
7. Identification	Tattoo or microchip required	None
8. Change of address or ownership	Notification required prior to transfer	Notification required
9. Immediate impoundment	For any owner violation	none

## **Civil Penalties for Violations of Dangerous Dog Regulations**

### Henderson County Code 66A-19

Keeping a dangerous/potentially dangerous dog:

\*unattended/loose/unrestrained - \$500 per day

\*without tattoo/microchip - \$500 per day

\*failing to notify of change of address or death - \$1,000 per day

\*failing to present proof of transferee responsibility - \$500 per day

[Possible additions: adequate enclosure; warning sign]

## **Rabies Regulations**

Part 6, Article 6 of NCGS Chapter 130A

- Requires the owner of every dog and cat over four months of age to have animal vaccinated against rabies.
- Provides that if a dog or cat is not wearing required vaccination tag and the ownership of the animal cannot be determined, the animal may be impounded.

## **Rabies Regulations (cont.)**

Part 6, Article 6 of NCGS Chapter 130A

- Duration of impoundment may not be less than 72 hours.
- During impoundment a reasonable effort must be made to locate animal's owner.
- Dogs or cats that are found not to have required rabies tags will be impounded if the owner is not located immediately.

## **Operational Enhancements**

- New Dispatch Policy
- Customer Service Training
- Customer Service Survey
- Customer Comments Via Web Site

[www.hcemergencyplan.org](http://www.hcemergencyplan.org)

- Updated Technology System

[animalshelternet.com](http://animalshelternet.com)

# Customer Service Survey

Henderson County  
Animal Services  
Customer Service Survey

*Providing Quality Animal Services in a Courteous, Professional and Timely Manner*

- |   |                  |             |             |             |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. I was treated courteously and professionally               | Yes              | No          |             |             |
| 2. The Animal Services Officer asked how he/she could help me | Yes              | No          |             |             |
| 3. Were your questions answered or problems resolved          | Yes              | No          |             |             |
| 4. If problem was not resolved, were you provided options     | Yes              | No          |             |             |
| 5. How would you rate our overall customer service            | <b>Excellent</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Poor</b> |

If a member of our staff provided outstanding service, please let us know his/her name and comments \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions and/or Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name and phone number if you would like to be contacted regarding this matter \_\_\_\_\_

You can also leave feedback at [www.hcemergencyplan.org](http://www.hcemergencyplan.org) by clicking on [give us your comments](#)

## [animalshelternet.com](http://animalshelternet.com)

Allows for better record keeping with less paper.

- Helps maintain animal service records.
- Assists with management of adoption program.
- Customizable searches.

Links directly to [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com) to aid citizens in locating lost pets or adoptable pets.

Links photos to pet profiles.

## Spay/Neuter Program

- Program established relationship between the County and the Humane Alliance.
- All animals will be transported from the Animal Services Center to the Humane Alliance and will stay the night.
- Cost:       Dogs and Female Cats = \$45  
                  Male Cats = \$30
- Additional Services (Rabies Vaccination, Other Vaccinations, Etc.)

## Questions?

