

**HENDERSON COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
October 13, 2022**

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Lauren Hathaway
Jack Walsh, Chair
Teri Bentcover
James Lyon
Angela Prodrick
John Lynn, Vice Chair
Paul Blackwell

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Gaby Johnsen
Caroline Gunther

Staff Present:

Brad Rayfield, Animal Services Center Director
Joy Edwards, Animal Services Center Supervisor
Vince Griggs, Henderson County Sheriff's Office

Meeting called to order: Chairman Walsh called meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Informal Public Comment: There was no public comment.

July 14, 2022 Meeting Summary: Meeting notes were approved as written.

Discussion

Chapter 16 Citations:

- **Animals Running at Large-**
Sgt. Blackwell and Cpl. Griggs introduced the idea of a graduated scale of fees under 16-24. Restraint/confinement of domestic animals required. Currently the schedule gives deputies the option of issuing a warning or a fifty-dollar citation to address both non-aggressive and aggressive animals running at large. A graduated schedule would provide the deputy an opportunity to match the civil penalty to the circumstance. The committee voted to propose a graduated fee schedule under 16-24, that would increase citations in fifty dollar increments for restraint violations of non-aggressive animals and increase citations in one hundred dollar increments for restraint violations of aggressive animals.

- **Failure to submit pre-home confinement and post-confinement paperwork to Henderson County Department of Public Health (HCDHP)-**
When a dog, cat, or ferret bites a person, it's required that the animal is observed for 10 days following the bite. This is to ensure that the animal was not shedding the rabies virus when the bite occurred. According to State Law and Chapter 16 under Henderson County Code, the animal can be kept at the animal shelter, or with the approval from HCDPH, at the owner's home for observation. If home confinement is allowed, there is criteria that the owner must satisfy during the observation period. Cpl. Griggs and Sgt. Blackwell explained that HCDPH staff are spend excessive time making sure citizens follow criteria for home bite confinements. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) wants to be able to assist HCDPH in motivating owners to satisfy these requirements. Currently their only options are to act on seizure orders issued by HCDPH or issuing a \$500 citation under an interference violation. They would like to have an avenue to encourage citizens to comply without seizing their animal or giving them a \$500 citation. Cpl. Griggs would like a new ordinance developed to include penalties more specific to home confinement violations. Along with a new ordinance, Cpl. Griggs explained a new system that they are developing that will also make it easier for animal owners to comply by completing required paperwork online.
HCSO is asking that ASAC support a new ordinance in Chapter 16 to include a penalty of \$100 per day that can be levied against any person that is noncompliant with a home confinement agreement with HCDPH. The ASAC voted to go forward with a new ordinance as outlined by Cpl. Griggs.
- **Feeding Stray Animals-**
Cpl. Griggs and Sgt. Blackwell talked briefly about what they would like to have in the ordinance and why. The ASAC voted to table the discussion for another meeting.

Scheduling of Dangerous Dog Hearings through January 12, 2023: Committee members decided what dates they could participate in Dangerous Dog Hearings through January 12, 2023.

Motion was made to adjourn.