

**COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
JUNE 11, 2009**

**INTRODUCTORY:**

The Columbia/Boone County Board of Health met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 2009, in the Department of Public Health and Human Services, at 1005 West Worley. Gerry Worley (Environmental Health Manager) and Molly Aust (Senior Animal Control Officer) represented the Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services staff. Presiding Commissioner Ken Pearson represented the Boone County Commission. Bret Loudermilk recorded the minutes of the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Harry Feirman  
Dana Hughes  
Dr. Sally Lyon  
Dr. Colin Malaker  
Lynelle Phillips  
Jean Sax  
David Sohl  
Dr. Michael Szewczyk  
Dr. Nathan Voris

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Dr. Colin Malaker  
Ilalyn Irwin

**MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED:**

Darren Hellwege

**NOTES:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Chair, David Sohl.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes from the May 14, 2009, Board of Health meeting were approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**WEBSITE DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE:**

Mr. Feirman, Mr. Sohl, and Dr. Szewczyk had a meeting on May 27 at the Health Department. They discussed finalizing the web page creation, talked about format and placing articles on the page. They thought the best option was to create a template guide so someone from the Board assigned an article would be using a standard format so the web page would be consistent. It was decided the Chair or Vice Chair would proofread all articles so there would be some consistency in the writing. They also said it should be noted if information was pulled from another source.

Once the template is finalized, this is the list of assignments that were designated from a previous board meeting:

Mr. Sohl – West Nile  
Dr. Malaker – Dental  
Dr. Voris – Animal Control

Dr. Szewczyk – Swimming Pools  
Ms. Irwin – Food Code  
Ms. Phillips – HEPI (Healthy Environmental Policy Initiatives)  
Ms. Sax – Mental Health

## **ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE:**

### **(a) Tethered Animals:**

Mr. Sohl asked if there were any updates from the last meeting regarding tethered animals. Dr. Voris said he spoke to an animal behaviorist and his research pointed toward the tethering of animals not being a problem regarding behavior. Dr. Szewczyk said he thought there were two issues: Tethering makes them aggressive and it's just cruel and unusual punishment. He wondered if being on a chain was different than being in a small pen. He thought if an animal is being tethered, it's not being socialized and not being trained.

### **(b) Managing Feral vs. Owned Strays, Including Feral Cat Colonies:**

Mr. Feirman and Ms. Sax attended a Feral Cat Subcommittee Meeting on May 27 at the Health Department. Guests were Anita McIntyre (SNAP), Christina McCullen (SNAP), Gerry Worley (Environmental Health Manager), and Molly Aust (Animal Control Senior Officer).

Mr. Feirman and Ms. Sax reported that at the meeting, Ms. McIntyre and Ms. McCullen described SNAP activities, colony management and policy. They voiced concerns about euthanasia. They were open to regulations that would include: Registration fee and permit; Regulated perimeters for feeding, neutering, trapping, testing, vaccinating, ear clipping, and possibly using micro chips to identify cats. Mr. Worley and Ms. Aust explained the procedures involved in picking up feral cats and housing them. They explained that Animal Control houses the cats for five days and then turns custody over to the Humane Society. Ms. McIntyre and Ms. McCullen were under the impression Animal Control put the animals down after 24 hours, but it is the Humane Society that euthanizes in 24 hours. Mr. Worley presented a draft ordinance section concerning the regulation of feral cats and colonies. Ms. McIntyre and Ms. McCullen gave them copies of ordinances from other states and cities for review by Board members. After Ms. McCullen and Ms. McIntyre left, the others discussed Mr. Worley's draft, plus registration fees and micro chipping. Animal Control wants to micro chip any animal they pick up to check on vaccinations, neutering, and repeat offenders. They are able to buy the chips in bulk at a cost of \$6.00 per chip and the Animal Control Officers can insert them.

Ms. Sax reported to the Board that the meeting had been a good dialogue. There was a discussion involving permits. Mr. Feirman said they would have to get a permit to have a feral cat colony and neighbors would have to agree.

Ms. Hughes asked if there was a change in the feral cat population. Mr. Worley, from Environmental Health said Animal Control only gets involved if there is a complaint.

Dr. Szewczyk said we don't allow stray dogs to run around, but we apparently will allow cats. He asked how do you keep them out of the garbage, neighbors have to be able to give their opinions anonymously if neighbors have a colony in order to prevent bad relations between neighbors.

Dr. Voris said he will do more follow-up with other resources and report his findings back to the Board.

**(c) Mandatory Spay/Neuter, Fee for Intact vs. Licensing:**

Ms. Hughes and Dr. Voris agreed to be on a Mandatory Spay/Neuter Subcommittee. Dr. Voris said he would put something together on paper for the Board to review.

**(d) Chickens:**

The Chicken Subcommittee had a meeting at the Health Department on June 3. The Subcommittee consisted of David Sohl and Lynelle Phillips. The Subcommittee came to a consensus for what they plan to recommend to the full board, and after tweaking, send its recommendations to the Columbia City Council.

To have backyard chickens in city limits, it will be a permit-process only, with an application that lists the requirements for one to meet first before submitting.

They will be allowed only at 1- or 2-family dwellings (no apartment buildings). Landlord approval will be required.

Only chickens and hens will be allowed. No ducks or geese, etc.

Coop can be placed anywhere on a chicken owner's property

As part of the application, approval may be required from every other resident who has property within 100 feet of where the coop will reside. If it is a mobile coop, that must be taken into consideration. Chicken tractors are okay. This approval of one hundred percent of the neighbors will be required and they will be subject to their withdrawal, thus voiding the permit.

No free-ranging chickens, all chickens must be cooped up

Chicken owners will hold harmless any animal or car killing a chicken, whether the chicken was caged or got loose. Chicken owners need to build secure cages, but can report "roaming dogs" if they got into a coop. However, a dog killing a chicken will not be labeled as vicious.

There will be a limit of 6 chickens, whether it is a 1- or 2-family unit.

No indoor chickens will be allowed in the home of the family

Coops will be maintained and kept clean and free of disagreeable odors, and heated appropriately during the winter (with a light bulb/heat lamp or by other means)  
Definition of livestock will be changed to include chickens.

Coops and feed are to be secured to prevent mice

No selling of eggs or processed/cut-up chickens

Coop shall be of appropriate size relative to the number of chickens, and should have a place to let chickens get out of weather/rain/snow.

A sentence will be added to the section in the ordinance on the humane treatment of animals to include chickens

Disposal of manure will be weekly, in a manner approved by Animal Control

Coop must be disinfected every 6 months

A brochure will be developed for permits to explain rules.

The issue of whether a dog should be considered vicious if it killed a chicken came up. Dr. Voris said if a dog does something off it's property, it should be considered vicious. Mr. Worley said right now Animal Control would not consider a dog vicious.

Board members also agree that four chickens are a good number of chickens for a person to own. Mr. Feirman said if this goes forward, the Board has to have a reason it came up with four chickens.

Ms. Sax said when a chicken lays an egg; it makes a lot of noise, so the more chickens, the more the noise.

Mr. Sohl also thought that if people had a large number of chickens, they might try to sell the eggs, which could lead to other health issues.

Mr. Sohl said he would contact other communities who allow chickens in the city to see how they came up with the number of chickens allowed, as well as other issues pertaining to chickens in the city.

#### **(e) Micro chipping, City/County Registry, Tracking Lost/Abandoned Pets**

Ms. Aust from Animal Control said there was a software program they could use for micro chipping and it was relatively cheap. Presiding Commissioner Pearson asked if it was nationwide and Dr. Voris said there lots of chip makers and they normally have their own equipment and it differs from the others.

Mr. Worley said they could chip an animal for \$5.00. He said animals in their custody get chipped.

Ms. Hughes suggested having a "chip" day where it could be done possibly as a promotional program. She thought perhaps it should not be mandatory.

Mr. Worley said if they pick up an animal for a second time, they cannot prove it if the animal is not micro chipped, however, if the animal had a micro chip, they could prove they had already picked that particular animal up.

Ms. Hughes said maybe if they picked up an animal that was micro chipped and it was the first time, maybe they could get a "get out of jail free card" since they had gone through the trouble of having it micro chipped, thus making it easier to find out who the animal belonged to.

#### **(f) Limits on Number of Animals Owed/Cared For:**

No Discussion.

**(g) Veterinarian Involvement (Licensing/Spay/Neuter):**

No Discussion.

**(h) Barking Dog Ordinance:**

No Discussion.

**(i) Breeder Definition/Responsibilities:**

No Discussion.

**(j) Rabies Considerations:**

No Discussion.

**REPORTS:**

**HEALTH DIRECTOR:**

No Report.

**WATER SAFETY/SAFE KIDS:**

No Report.

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

No Report.

**DENTAL:**

No Report.

**ANIMAL CONTROL AND LICENSING:**

See Above.

**HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:**

No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Sohl introduced new Board of Health member, Dr. Sally Beth Lyon, to the Board of Health.

There being no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

