

# Garrett County Animal Issues Advisory Committee

September 27, 2006  
Minutes

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ATTENDEES:      Bernadine Friend      Edgar Harman      Randy Resh  
                         Gary Mullich            Brad Frantz        Dona Alvarez  
                         James Yoder         Bonnie Zimmerman

ABSENT:            Steve Anderson      Joyce Moyer  
                         Rodney Glotfelty

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## Call to Order

**Approval of Minutes-** The minutes of the July 26, 2006 were approved on a motion made by Gary Mullich, which was seconded by Brad Frantz, and made unanimous by Bernadine Friend. Mr. Mullich requested that minutes, once approved, be placed on the Garrett County website. The approved minutes can be viewed under the Emergency Management/Animal Shelter tab at [www.garrettcountry.org](http://www.garrettcountry.org).

## Old Business:

### 1. Issue: Breeders/Puppy Mills

Bernadine Friend gave an update on the puppy mill situation in Garrett County and the steps that need to be taken to bring all these businesses up to standard according to the Garrett County Animal Control Ordinance.

As of this date, the Humane Society has pressed charges against one of the kennel violators and will seek advice from the State's Attorneys office concerning other possible charges. The U.S. Humane Society on their surprise kennel inspection made in August 2006 documented these violations. Ms. Friend expressed the importance of receiving a guilty ruling in this case which would discourage other kennel operators from violating the ordinance. As of this time, the kennel operator in question still has not been issued a Garrett County Kennel License due to the violations.

A copy of a newspaper listing of animals for sale and the prices they were charging per dog was distributed. Ms. Friend feels if they can charge that much than the price of a kennel license needs to be raised to a more appropriate level. Ms. Friend also feels the Ordinance needs to be revised to limit the number of dogs and the number of pregnancies.

## New Business:

### 1. Issue: Discussion of New Officers

Bernadine Friend has unofficially been the Chair of the Animal Issues Advisory Board since its conception. The Board felt it needed to have a formal vote to choose the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Edgar Harman stated he felt Brad Frantz would do a good job in this capacity. Brad Frantz suggested having a nominating committee to meet and bring names of possible Chair and Vice-Chair to the next meeting. Mr. Frantz feels the committee should follow Robert's Rules when conducting all meetings. Brad Frantz made the motion to select a nominating committee to choose candidates for the committee to vote on at the next meeting; this was seconded by Edgar Harman. The motion did not carry.

James Yoder asked that the decision be made on this date instead of going through a long, drawn out process. Bernadine Friend made a motion to appoint Brad Frantz as Chair, and Gary Mullich as Vice-Chair. This motion was seconded by James Yoder and carried by a unanimous decision. Their term will be for 2 years.

2. Proposed New Animal Shelter Facility – This subject was tabled due to time constraints

3. Legal Issues with Animal Ordinance

There was much discussion on the Maryland law for humane treatment of animals and also the legal authority the Animal Control Officer vs. the Humane Society. As of this time, the Garrett County Animal Control Officer cannot regulate humane treatment of dogs and cats. If there is a problem, the Garrett County Humane Society can press charges and the County Animal Shelter can assist/support as long as it is within their scope of their duties.

Gary Mullich will be drafting legislation to add Garrett County to Article 24 Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions/ Title 11 Licenses/Subtitle 5. Regulation of Animals/§ 11-504 in the 2007 Legislative Session giving the Board of Garrett County Commissioners the authority to include Humane Treatment as one of the items they can regulate with dogs and cats.

4. Miscellaneous Issues

Ms. Friend suggested that all members write down what they would like to have revised in the Ordinance for discussion at the next meeting.

**Scheduling of Next Meeting:** October 25, 2006 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

## Adjournment

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Attest

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J. Bradley Frantz,  
Chair

Date\_\_\_\_\_