

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for the 1st Quarter Cabarrus Summit at the Cabarrus Areana and Events Center, Concord, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026.

Present - Chairwoman: Laura Lindsey
Vice Chairman: Ian Patrick
Commissioner: Jeff Jones

Also present were Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager; Aalece Pugh, Assistant County Manager; Douglas Hall, County Attorney and General Counsel; and Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board.

Municipal representatives from Kannapolis, Harrisburg, Mount Pleasant, Midland, Concord, and Locust were also present.

State Legislators, House Representatives and school board members were also present.

Chairwoman Laura Lindsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Chairwoman Laura Lindsey welcomed municipal elected officials, city managers and other guests.

Introductions / Updates

Each mayor/municipal representative provides an update on current and future projects.

Dinner & Networking/General Discussion

The Board took a dinner break around 6:30 p.m. During dinner Jonathan Almond, Chris Measmer and Sara Newell from Kannapolis City Schools gave a brief update. The meeting resumed shortly afterward.

Presentations

Local Government Professionals Panel

The panel included Dominique Clark, Communications Manager; Jonathan Weaver, Communications and Outreach Director; Kacey Nestor, Communications Director for the Town of Harrisburg; and Lindsey Manson Communications Director for the City of Concord.

A Panel discussion was presented, which included the following:

- Introduction from the Communications Directors from Cabarrus County, The City of Harrisburg and The City of Concord.
- Priorities
- Collaboration Over the Years with Municipalities
 - o Quarterly Meetings with municipalities
 - o Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office
- Newly Elected Officials and collaboration with Communications
- Impactful Stories in the media

Following the panel discussion, the panel opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Cabarrus County Animal Shelter

Julianne Vetere, Animal Shelter Manager gave a presentation about the animal shelter that included:

- **About the Shelter**
 - o Cabarrus County Animal Shelter is the only open intake facility servicing Cabarrus County. The Animal Shelter operates hand in hand with the Animal Control Unit of the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office and is one of the responsibilities of the Governmental Services Division.

The CCSO Animal Shelter is tasked with providing temporary refuge and care to any animal in need, regardless of age, health, medical needs, temperament, or shelter capacity. Our service area is limited to Cabarrus County, meaning we do only accept lost pets that were found within county limits, or surrendered pets owned by county residents.

In addition to found and surrendered pets, we also take in animals from various circumstances including pets left behind after an eviction, abandonments of pets with temporary caretakers or other establishments, if someone is arrested or hospitalized while in possession of their pet, pets found with deceased owners, bite quarantines, and other various situations. We also provide housing and care for animals seized from various cruelty or neglect situations, and for the duration of court proceedings of such.

- **More About Our Shelter**

- **Housing:**

- 38 dog kennels - 20 adoption kennels, 12 stray kennels, 6 bite quarantine kennels

- 3 cat rooms - 1 gen. pop. room (24 cages), 1 holding/medical observation room (16 cages), 1 iso room (15 cages)

- flex spaces - small dog/puppy housing up to 10 crates, dog iso up to 6 in crates.

- **Staffing:**

- shelter manager

- shelter supervisor

- receptionist

- adoption counselor

- placement coordinator

- vet tech

- full time kennel tech (2)

- part time kennel tech (5)

- the animal shelter is staffed for animal care 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

- open hours:

- monday through friday 12-4:30pm, thursdays until 6:30, 1st saturdays 12-3.

- **"Kill Shelter" or "No-kill Shelter"?**

- **Open Intake Shelters:**

- typically operated/funded by city or county gov't.

- animal control responsibilities - rabies concerns, ordinance enforcement, animal cruelty, etc.

- responsibility to service residents (constituents), can't turn away people/animals in need

- regardless of an animal's health, temperament, space available, or resources to care for

- attempts to find all possible placement options available, responsibly.

- ethical decisions will not intentionally put the community in danger or further spread illness into the community

- forced into making impossible decisions to create space for the next emergency

- villainized by the terminology and public perception for often doing the right thing, or the extremely difficult thing

- **Closed Intake Shelters:**

- typically refers to a private organization- nonprofit rescue groups, humane societies, unaffiliated with local gov't.

- has the ability to refuse intakes if the animal does not meet their adoptability criteria based on medical needs or behavioral issues, or if they do not have space available

- refers those they deny intake to the local open intake shelter however, will often partner with the open intake shelters to provide placement when space allows

- can still euthanize up to 10% of annual intake and be considered "no-kill".

- o susceptible to succumbing to the pressures of meeting the no-kill status- can result in inhumane housing conditions, warehousing, irresponsible placement of dangerous animals.

- **2025 Statistics**

- o **Total Intakes:** 2,967 1531dogs, 1435 cats
- o **Average Monthly Intake:**
127 dogs - no longer see significant "slow season", peak in summer months peak season for cats may - oct: avg 164 cats monthly
slow season for cats nov - april: avg 68 cats monthly
- o **Total Positive Outcomes:** 1,778
Adoptions: 654 **Transfers:** 644 **RTO:** 480
- o **Total Euthanasia: 876 ***

Dogs: 331 **Cats:** 545
*total euthanasia excludes owner requested euthanasia intakes (112)
- o **Live Release Rate:** 67%
dogs: 77% **cats:** 55%

- **Our Programs**

- o **Adoptions**
Direct resource for our community to find and adopt healthy, happy pets.
- o **Rescue Partners**
Partnerships with other rescue and animal welfare organizations to maximize animal placement efforts.
- o **Volunteers**
Thriving volunteer program welcomes community members to help our mission. volunteers provide animal enrichment, help with daily care, cleaning, and laundry, and help promote positive feedback within the community.
- o **Vaccine Clinics**
Provide access to low cost vaccines to promote compliance in Rabies Vaccination and encourage basic pet health in the community. Microchips available at the clinics to help identify pets in case of loss or escape.
- o **Partnerships**
We have various community partnerships with veterinarians, rescue organizations, food stores and other government entities to increase public exposure, promote positive image, obtain resources available to us and that we are able to provide to those in need.

- **Current Challenges & Future Goals**

- o **Space vs. Expectations**
 - Current facility was built in 1996
 - Human population has more than doubled
 - Increase in household pets
 - Higher standards and increased expectations of animal shelters
- o **Resource Limitations**
 - Space
 - Funding
 - Staffing
 - Medical capabilities
 - Rescue Partner network is overwhelmed
- o **Be a True Community Resource**
 - Go-to resource for pet needs
 - Offer safety net programs, pet retention programs, help owners keep their pets
 - Reliable pet food pantry
 - Educational programs
 - More adoptions
- o **Make more of an impact**
 - Housing flexibility to allow Animal Control to pursue more cruelty situations
 - Provide higher level of medical care in house- treat illnesses and injuries, spay/neuter prior to adoption

- Program growth to include more avenues to improve the quality of life of shelter animals
- Rely less on over-saturated animal rescue organizations

Closing

Chairwoman Laura Lindsey thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Ariane Chua
Clerk to the Board