



## Buncombe County Health and Human Services

Aging and Veteran's Services ~ Social Work Services  
Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies ~ Public Health

Amanda Stone, MSW  
Health and Human Services Director

July 16, 2015

Mr. John Haas, Chair  
Mr. Tracy Elliott, CEO  
Asheville Humane Society  
Forever Friend Lane  
Asheville, NC 28806

Dear John and Tracy,

The recent tragic event of the death of a six year old caused by a pit bull adopted from Asheville Humane's Adoption Center has grieved the community and caused us to review the current processes in place within the Shelter. As the provider of this service for the county, Asheville Humane is charged with assuring that all services provided comply with all applicable laws. We further contract with Asheville Humane with the full assurance that all policies and procedures for animal sheltering utilize recognized, best-practice models to assure good outcomes for the animal and for the community.

In order to provide the proper opportunity to assure that Asheville Humane's processes for temperament analysis are following national, best practice guidelines and, specifically, that transferring of pit bulls to adoption agencies aligns with the County's animal services goals, we are requesting the following:


1. An immediate moratorium on the transfer of any pit bull or pit bull mix from the Shelter to an Adoption Agency.
2. A thorough documentation delivered to the County of the temperament testing procedures in place. This includes the specific steps involved, citation of the best-practice model used, the "individual(s)" employed by Asheville Humane conducting the testing, the credentials of the testing individual(s), and the individual(s) charged with approving the transfer of these specific animals.
3. A detailed process used in the specific pit bull transfer that resulted in the death of the child in Henderson County.
4. The definition that Asheville Humane uses for determining the health of an animal suitable for transfer to an adoption agency.
5. A summary of any related internal reviews Asheville Humane has conducted and the resulting process changes/system improvement.

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HHHS Administration p. 828.250.5700 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Aging & Veteran's Services p. 828.250.5726 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Social Work Services p. 828.250.5500 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Public Assistance p. 828.250.5500 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Public Health p. 828.250.5000 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7407 Asheville, NC 28802
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We are requesting this information no later than two weeks from the date of this letter. Once the county reviews the information, we will decide next steps as to the moratorium on transfer of pit bulls and pit bull mixes.

We know that we are both dedicated to assuring that healthy animals find their forever home and we appreciate the efforts that Asheville Humane has taken to work with the community to reduce the number of unwanted pets in the community. If you have questions regarding this request please reach out to Jim Holland at [jim.holland@buncombecounty.org](mailto:jim.holland@buncombecounty.org) to ensure we provide the clarity you need.

Sincerely,  
  
Amanda L. Stone, MSW  
Assistant County Manager

CC: Wanda Greene, County Manager  
Jim Holland, HSST Director

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