

Attended

Sarah Cohn- Community Empowerment Fund

Sarah Furman- Chapel Hill Police Department

Bob Marotto- Orange County Animal Services

Corey Root- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness

Molly Rowe- Orange County Department of Social Services

Sarah Schmidt- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness & IFC

Aviva Scully- Orange County Schools

The overall goals of the Pets and Homelessness Task Force are to:

- 1) Prevent people from having to surrender or neglect their pets when experiencing homelessness or crisis.
- 2) Increase the number of people returning to permanent housing quickly by reducing the barrier that finding housing with pets may present.

Mapping Subcommittee members reviewed the purpose of the Mapping group: to map paths of how people with companion animals transition from at risk or literally homeless including available resources for pets. The group will look to build pet screening into homeless services intake and housing crisis screening into pet relinquishing procedures at OC Animal Services.

Group members are working towards a two deliverables:

A public facing, easy to understand document outlining what happens if someone is at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness and has a companion animal. The document will direct individuals to animal services or a homeless hotline. This document will be made available to the public and to service providers.

Format:

- Info-graphic- maps out available services linking problems to solution
- FAQs sheet- question and answer format to explain rights and provide solutions

Information to be Included

Level of Need	Possible Services
At risk	Vet care Supplies Pet friendly, affordable housing Info on support animals and service animals Help with licensing Rabies Shots Free spay neuter Knowledge about rights Help with pet deposits Registration- establish ownership
Newly homeless	Temp care for pets Hotel rooms-fees etc 1-4 nights 1-2 weeks 2+weeks
Living Unsheltered	Housing for pets on white flag nights

Rights of Individuals with Service or Assistance Animals

- 1) An individual with a service animal has a physical disability and an animal officially trained to help with their disability. Service animal protections are governed by the ADA
- 2) An individual with an assistance animal may have an animal to help them cope with a mental health diagnosis. The animal does not need to be trained for the purpose. The individual needs a note from a provider stating that the animal is required.

Service animals can accompany an individual to any public place. Both types of animals must be permitted to live with their owners, even when company policy regulates against it. Owners cannot be required to pay a pet deposit.

Work that could come later

- 1) Reach out to the underserved
- 2) Translate document into languages other than English

For the Next Meeting: Corey will work with the Orange County graphic designer to create a mockup of the document for consideration by the subcommittee

Next Meeting: February 6, 3-4:15pm