

Profile

Beverly _____ J _____ Levine _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

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Wake Forest University School of Medicine _____ research faculty _____
Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Guilford County Animal Services Board: Submitted

County Commissioner District *

District 3

Interests & Experiences

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

Much of my answer here, in this reapplication, remains the same as in my initial application! I'd like to serve on this board because I think I will be better able to see one of my main goals--a significant and sustained drop in euthanasia of healthy animals (and now particularly cats, as they currently pose a larger challenge than dogs)--achieved if I am able to participate on the board! I continue to serve as a regular cat volunteer (and am now a mentor volunteer) at GCAS, and also remain connected to different animal welfare/rescue groups, including cat spay/neuter initiatives, that have greatly increased the strength of their partnerships with GCAS under Jorge Ortega's leadership. I believe that my years of volunteering at the animal shelter and within animal rescue in Guilford make me of practical benefit to the county and that my goal is a realistic one. I believe our government--at all levels--functions best when knowledgeable citizens participate, and when that participation means more than just moving a lever on election day. Additionally, I believe I have a unique professional skill set--academic faculty member/statistician with a track record of obtaining private and federal government grants and writing numerous articles and book chapters--that can help serve the cause of improving animal welfare here in Guilford County as we Animal Services moves forward in its ongoing commitment to transparency and shared examination of data with the goal of troubleshooting problems. Finally, I believe my knowledge, skills, experience, and personal commitment to the practices of dispute resolution and professional cooperation and courtesy will be an asset to the animal services board. Thank you for your consideration.

Question applies to multiple boards

Briefly list your professional, educational and volunteer experiences that are most relevant to the mission and duties of this board:

Since the mid 1980s I have volunteered in county and municipal animal shelters, beginning in Palo Alto, CA, and continuing up through the present, where I have been a regular volunteer at the Guilford County Animal Shelter for almost 15 years. Most of my professional work as a cancer researcher/biostatistician is relatively abstract intellectual work done in front of screens.. For this reason, among others, I consider it a great privilege and source of happiness to be able to volunteer in my spare time and connect people to new potential pets or to animal resources that they need. I have also volunteered with other animal-related groups besides shelters, and have used my scientific grantwriting skills, including knowledge of how to prepare a multi-year budget and timeline, how to analyze and summarize quantitative data, and how to devise measurable outcomes, to help nonprofits obtain grants for animal needs. From 2011 until early 2019, I facilitated a regular, unofficial gathering of animal volunteers and animal welfare professionals in the Triad--we call ourselves HOPE (Halting Overpopulation and Preventing Euthanasia). One of our main goals was to connect ourselves with each other and as a unified group, to educate ourselves about "best practices" of other communities in the southeast and across the country with respect to animal care. In 2019, as it became wonderfully apparent that Guilford County Animal Services, under Jorge Ortega's excellent leadership, was taking on some of the functions that HOPE had served, we stopped meeting as a separate external group. As a final note, I participate in a weekly meditation group in Greensboro focused on improving communication and conflict resolution around difficult topics. I try to bring what I learn through this weekly gathering—which has nothing to do with animals specifically-- to my participation in animal volunteer work and to the advisory board. I have learned through my volunteer work, through organizational work in HOPE, and through this regular weekly "practice" of conflict discussion, that having good ideas and good intentions is only part of the answer; honest, respectful, kind communication and a willingness to try to see others' perspectives is also key. I would bring this perspective to this board as well.

Question applies to Guilford County Animal Services Board

Please list your experiences with animal services, animal control, and animal rescues; and discuss your ideas for improving the well-being of pets and the animal population, in general, within Guilford County.

Over the past couple of years I have been privileged to meet, and work in depth with, the amazing, hard-working Animal Services team that Mr. Ortega has put together, and have also been privileged to serve on this board since its inception. I joke (though it may not actually be a joke) that I probably know the current "old" shelter better than anyone, having started volunteering there--in the cat rooms--in early 2006. The difference between that time--really, any time prior to 2018 and now--is as night and day. I am so grateful to the leaders and commissioners of Guilford County for recruiting someone of Mr. Ortega's knowledge and experience--thank you. And I am thrilled to know that within the next couple of years we will have a new shelter in the county, and would be honored by the privilege of remaining on this board at least until that shift happens. As a numbers- and data-oriented person, my primary interest in the realm of animal welfare is in spay/neuter and on studying systemic ways to "incentivize" and assist citizens with spay/neuter of their pets. It is this area—community spay/neuter promotion and education, and specifically a focus on feral cat spay/neuter, a cause near and dear to my own heart--that I feel most strongly must be represented on the animal services advisory board. We have made important strides in this area in Guilford, and if we can continue and build upon the progress we've already made, we will see even more decreases in the number of homeless animals, and in euthanasia, in the future. Thank you for considering my application and for your commitment to ongoing progress in Guilford County animal welfare.

Demographics

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Female

11/25/1963

Date of Birth