

## Profile

Beverly

First Name

JMiddle  
InitialLevine

Last Name

bjrockhill@outlook.com

Email Address

4117 Dogwood Drive

Street Address

  
Suite or AptGreensboro

City

NC

State

27410

Postal Code

Home: (336) 315-7524

Primary Phone

Mobile: (803) 413-2822

Alternate Phone

Wake Forest University School of  
Medicine

Employer

Research associate (cancer  
epidemiologist/biostatistician)

Job Title

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## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Guilford County Animal Services BoardDistrict 3

County Commissioner District

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## Interests & Experiences

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

A first answer to this question is that 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 in Guilford--achieved if I am on the board! But my hope is to convince you that I can be of practical benefit to the county and that my goal is a good 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. At the risk of sounding immodest, I believe I have a unique professional skill set--statistician with a track record of obtaining federal grants from NIH, perhaps the most difficult funding agency in the world from which to obtain grants--that can well serve the cause of improving animal welfare here in Guilford County as we move forward into a better future and commit to transparency, open examination of data, and consideration of county financial constraints. I also believe my own outreach into, and personal connection with, the impressive

community of animal welfare leaders across the state will be very helpful to the board. Working with others to lessen human suffering--through research in breast cancer--and working with others to lessen animal suffering--through my volunteer work--are two things that bring me great joy. I believe my knowledge, skills, experience, and personal commitment to the practice of dispute resolution and cooperation will be an asset to the animal services board. Thank you for your consideration.

[levine\\_cv\\_2016.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

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:**

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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 a decade now. Most of my professional work as a cancer researcher/biostatistician is relatively abstract, and I often work with a very small group of colleagues. For this reason 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. Most recently I wrote a successful large proposal, one of only 10-12 across the country awarded last year by PetSmart Charities for community cat spay/neuter (this grant was awarded to Project BARK in 2015.) For the past 4.5 years I've 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 purposes is to educate ourselves about "best practices" of other communities in the southeast and across the country. Later this spring we will have some speakers from Orange County's animal welfare advisory board join us; AC officers have regularly joined us in the past to educate us about their work and about certain ordinances; and in the recent past Mr. Rustan, Mr. Grier, and Mr. Casey Smith, deputy county manager in Davidson, have joined us. Anecdotally, I have been told by individuals in HOPE that I have somewhat of a talent for "herding cats"--i.e., getting all of us "animal people" to sit down and talk calmly together. As a side note, I participate in a weekly gathering in Greensboro focused on improving communication and conflict resolution around difficult topics. I try to bring what I learn through this gathering—which has nothing to do with animals specifically-- to my participation in animal volunteer work. 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.**

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Through my volunteering at GCAS over the past decade, and through 4+ years of facilitating HOPE meetings, I have been privileged to meet, and converse with in depth, many in our county who have worked in animal welfare, including numerous AC officers and managers (including most recently Mr. Rustan!), leaders of area rescue groups, administrators of low-cost clinics, and county leaders involved in helping to establish the first spay/neuter assistance fund in Guilford a few years ago. The types of interpersonal knowledge, social skills, and deep relationships I've gained through years of such volunteer work here complement well the scientific/analytic/writing skills I've obtained through years of research in academic medical schools. I would hope to use both skill sets as a member of the animal services board. 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—spay/neuter promotion--that I feel most strongly must be represented on the new animal 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 decreases in reducing animal intake and euthanasia in the future. It is unlikely that we will see future significant declines in intake and euthanasia without such ongoing dedication to spay/neuter promotion--no community, anywhere, ever, has adopted its way out of animal overpopulation and euthanasia of healthy animals. Certainly, without an important focus on spay/neuter, other work to reduce animal suffering and animal care costs will be far less effective. Over the past few years, I have been in touch with many leaders in this field in the southeast, including Dr. Bob Marrotto, director of Orange County Animal Services (I used to be a volunteer at the Orange County shelter when I lived in Chapel Hill) and Ms. Shelly Moore, executive director of the Humane Society of Charlotte. I am always trying to educate myself through my contact with such leaders and through attending regional and national conferences where leading thinkers and practitioners discuss areas of progress and grant funding initiatives. One of my roles as facilitator of HOPE is to share what I learn from such conferences/conversations with citizens here. The good news is that there is no need for Guilford to reinvent any proverbial wheels here. Other counties in NC (including Mecklenburg, Wake, Orange) have already learned some lessons--good and bad--related to spay/neuter promotion that we can benefit from and build upon. If selected to serve on this board my goal would be to bring a data-focused perspective on the topic of targeted spay/neuter as the most cost-effective, socially just, humane means of reducing animal overpopulation and euthanasia in Guilford, while at the same time benefitting (and not penalizing) low-income pet owners). I would hope to make the case using evidence and data, not emotion, that spay/neuter promotion makes sense from a financial as well as humane perspective. I would also hope to employ my knowledge of grantwriting to help Guilford obtain funds to make progress in reducing animal overpopulation. The good news is that there is much foundation money available right now targeted to government and nonprofits in the southeast, where animal overpopulation is the most pronounced in the US, and where human poverty in some large cities is unfortunately growing the most rapidly. This money is there for the intelligent asking in a good proposal. Right in our own county, we sadly have one of the "top ten" cities in the country--High Point--where poverty is growing the most rapidly. It makes sense to plan now to write good future grants requesting funds from the large charitable foundations to assist with animal welfare needs in Guilford. I hope we decide to follow the lead of Mecklenburg County here. Thank you for considering my application and for your commitment to ongoing progress in Guilford County animal welfare.

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Demographics

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Ethnicity

Female

Gender

11/25/1963

Date of Birth