Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-52.1, the Henderson County welcomes public comment at its meetings. Please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes, unless a different time limit is announced. Also, the Board may adopt rules limiting the number of persons speaking taking the same position on a given issue, and other rules regarding the maintenance of good order.

Each speaker should be aware and by their signatures hereto they agree that their comments may be recorded (by audio-visual recordings, photography or other means), and may be (but are not required to be) broadcast by the County as a part of the broadcast of this meeting, or as a part of the County’s programming on its local video channel(s). By their signature they further agree that Henderson County is and will be the sole owner of all rights in and to such programming. The undersigned hereby indemnifies Henderson County, its employees and agents, against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses arising out of the use of the undersigned's images and words in connection therewith.

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<td>Dr. George Jones</td>
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** Topic:** Good News - Pardee - Only stroke capable Hosp in Henderson County - Jan 2012 ISO

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**Topic:** Good News - Pardee - AHC Accreditation

**Topic:** Good News - Pardee - Accreditation
11. Mike Cervini  
12 Founder Dr, Flat Rock 28731  
**PRINTED NAME**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SIGNATURE**  
**Topic**  
**Spay-Neuter**  
**Co-founder & Treasurer**

12. Liz Kendall  
536 Hagen Dr.  
Hendersonville NC 28791  
**PRINTED NAME**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SIGNATURE**  
**NEED FOR SPAY NEUTER IN H C**  
**Topic**  
**From Blue Ridge Humane Society**

13. Beverly Hargus, DVM  
141 Mayan Way  
Zirconia, NC 28790  
**PRINTED NAME**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SIGNATURE**  
**NEED FOR SPAY & NEUTER**  
**Topic**  
**Ultraviolet - for the Spray and neuter**

14. Tony Youngblood  
3 Country Garden Dr  
Flora Harbor, N.C. 28732  
**PRINTED NAME**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SIGNATURE**  
**Spay / Neuter H C**  
**Topic**  
**Business Mgr. for Animals R Us**  
**CPPI - Cooperation & Easy to work with**

15. Tom Sanders  
Blue Ridge Pizza Co.  
P.O. Box 516  
**PRINTED NAME**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SIGNATURE**  
**ABC Permit**  
**Topic**  
**Owner Blue Ridge Pizza Co. in Town**

16. Patrick Ryan  
193 Duncan Creek Rd.  
Fletcher, NC 28732  
**PRINTED NAME**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SIGNATURE**  
**Spay Neuter**  
**Topic**
17. **PRINTED NAME**
   Eleanor VanSant
   17 Sajo Dr H'rve NC

   **SIGNATURE**
   Independent Resource Seeks Co. Money

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18. **PRINTED NAME**
   Pat de Leon

   **SIGNATURE**
   Critical of All creatures great and small
   legibly blind - Commands Resp.

   **MAILING ADDRESS**

19. **PRINTED NAME**
   Helen Banks
   1016 Carousel Ln.
   H'ville NC

   **SIGNATURE**
   Money for CPPI+needs?

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20. **PRINTED NAME**

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HENDERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING

June 4, 2012

I am here on behalf of the Blue Ridge Humane Society to speak in support of public access and financial assistance for low cost spaying/neutering for companion animals to address the pet overpopulation in Henderson County.

I would like to read a value statement of the Blue Ridge Humane Society. “We recognize that pet overpopulation is the Number One cause of needless euthanasia that claims more than 50% of the lives of animals taken into shelters across the US. Furthermore, we believe that spaying/neutering is the only responsible solution. To that end, we dedicate education, advocacy, and public awareness within Henderson County.”

It is estimated that our county has over 59,000 companion animals (AMVA, 2010). Imposing national statistics on Henderson County, approximately 20% of these remain unaltered. Eighty percent of animals taken in by shelters have NOT been spayed or neutered (Humane Society of the US, 2011).

Think about this: It is estimated that there are up to 70 million UNALTERED animals in the US and 3-4 million animals are euthanized annually.

A poor economic climate and joblessness continue to plague Henderson County. This economic stress compels households to direct their care and money to family needs and expenses rather than the care of their pets; thus, exacerbating the homelessness and abandonment of animals. Henderson County’s 12% population resting below the national poverty level, low per capita income of $22,000 (US Census, 2010), and lack of a mandated spay/neuter ordinance further heighten the risk for neglected and unaltered animals.
According to the American Pet Products Manufacturer’s Association (APPMA) analysis of companion animal statistics, the annual cat or dog expense may reach $1600. Low cost spay neutering averages $45. Private veterinary costs for spay/neutering range from $250-$400. The lifetime average expense of owning an animal is $6000-9000. In recognition of households owning an average of 1.7 dogs and 2.2 cats in this economic climate, these expenses present an untenable burden to families who limit medical attention and often spay/neuter of their pets.

Here in HC, we are remarkably lucky to have Humane Alliance in Asheville, a national model of low cost spay/neutering. This enables our community close access for spay/neuter procedure at a reasonable cost, in a convenient time frame, and in a safe environment. However, many pet owners cannot afford even this minimal expense.

In 2011 the county shelter took into custody over 3799 cats and dogs. A stunning 57% (2178) were euthanized. (Henderson County Animal Shelter Report, 2010). Most of these are put down for lack of space. The Blue Ridge Humane Society works in close collaboration with the county shelter by rescuing and adopting animals at risk for euthanasia, almost 450 in 2011. These intake and euthanasia rates DO represent a decrease from 2010. We believe these to be the results of the collaborative work among the animal welfare groups in Henderson County through education, advocacy, aggressive spay/neuter programs, and financial support for the public to spay and neuter their animals. And so our efforts ARE paying off and saving the county thousands of dollars by the adoptions of county dogs by BRHS and the spay neutering efforts by BRHS, Community Partnerships for Pets, and the county shelter.

Public assistance for spay neuter programs are essential to continue on course in reducing the euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals who lose their lives due to lack of space. If ignored and
unsupported, the county will doubtless face escalating costs to keep pace with the increasing overpopulation. Clearly, Henderson County has a compelling financial need and moral responsibility to reduce these burgeoning rates of euthanasia and the dramatic growth in our domestic animal population. Increasing the access and availability of low-cost spay/neuter service is the only humane alternative.
Blue Ridge Humane Society Value Statements

1. We acknowledge and honor the fundamental value and dignity of companion animals.

2. We believe that the well-being of an animal includes not only the basic requirements of adequate shelter, clean water, food and humane treatment, but also veterinary care, adequate exercise, and the experience of consistent positive human contact. BHRS is committed to the best practices and facilities know to us from the animal welfare industry, so that we may offer the best of care to our charges.

3. We recognize that pet overpopulation is the Number One cause of needless euthanasia that claims more than 50% of the lives of animals taken into shelters across the US. Furthermore, we believe that spaying/neutering is the only responsible solution. To that end, we dedicate education, advocacy, and public awareness within Henderson County.

4. We regard humane euthanasia to be acceptable when an animal is deemed either to be experiencing extreme pain and/or suffering or to be incapable of rehabilitation.

5. We recognize that knowledge is power. To that end, BRHS is committed to obtain and disseminate current research-based education and information regarding animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

6. We respect the synergistic bond between man and animal - a mutually beneficial effect that is research-based. We believe that animal well-being is necessary to the physical and mental health of our community. We, therefore, commit to the education and counseling that generates the most successful matches for animal adoptions and other programs and activities that nurture animal and human well-being.

7. BRHS is dedicated to responsible, relevant, articulate, and informative communication internally and externally to maximize informed animal welfare decisions, programs, and activities.

8. As a nonprofit we accept our obligation to transparency - accountability to the public, our animals, donors, volunteers, employees and Board of Directors. We hold ourselves responsible for the judicial oversight of our assets and are vested in the best ethical standards and practice.

9. As a nonprofit we believe that one organization cannot address or fulfill all the animal welfare needs within Henderson County. As part of a larger community, we commit to collaboration and cooperation to share and delegate responsibilities across capable and willing organizations within the county and across the region, as appropriate.