



# Onslow County Animal Services

## New Animal Services Director: Howard Martin



- ***When did you first begin working with animals?***

“About 1987, I wanted to go into law enforcement for the specific reason of animals...After about a year-and-a-half

on the street, I had the opportunity to move to the K-9 unit. As a supervisor, I trained probably over 150 law enforcement teams. My last four-six years in, I moved to the animal welfare unit where we handled all cruelty investigations.”

- ***What led you to Onslow County Animal Services [OCAS]?***

“After retiring from law enforcement, I experienced the private sector and had been looking for an opportunity to get back in. I liked the availability [with OCAS] to work with the enforcement side and shelter side of it. [I liked] the opportunity to be hands-on with the entire department.”

- ***What changes or opportunities for OCAS do you bring?***

“I’m not here to be a tornado. My approach is to let’s watch and learn processes, then evaluate and start tweaking processes to make the flow more convenient and time-friendly. I value feedback from staff. They’re the foundation of OCAS. If they are not made an important part of what we do here, that foundation cracks.”

- ***What do you want Onslow County citizens to know about your new role?***

“I never like to make a spontaneous, emotional decision; I will have to make tough decisions. The safety of residents is important. I am always open to citizen information.”

- ***What are you looking forward to about living in Onslow County?***

“When I visited, the unique thing was the overall upbeat attitude of the people. The friendliness of everybody; that’s the biggest thing that stands out to me. Also, there is access to the beach, and more than one restaurant!”



**FROM:** Haines City, Florida  
**FAMILY:** Wife, Molly & a son attending Florida Southern College  
**PETS:** Five-month-old yellow lab & three cats  
**EXPERIENCE:** Polk Co. Sheriff’s Office (Deputy/Sergeant-Manager), Investigator Law Firm, Licensed Practical Nurse