



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
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## **Animal Control Update on Rabies Threat & Dog Packs**

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Animal Control is increasing its efforts to trap and remove packs of dogs following reports this week of dogs attacking a fox and two raccoons in the Raeford Road area, near Perdue Drive and Forsythe Street. The dead fox was tested for rabies and the State Public Health Lab reported an “unsatisfactory result” for the disease. For public safety reasons, it is being treated as a positive case although test results were inconclusive.

The fox was the eighth case of rabies reported in the county in 2011. Four have been raccoons, three bats and one fox. In four cases, the results were unsatisfactory; but as with the fox, they must be treated as positive.

Animal Control Director John Lauby estimates there are about 10 packs of dogs running wild in various areas of the city, and they have killed other small pets and animals.

With the reports of pack dogs coming in contact with animals suspected of having rabies, Health Director Buck Wilson said an outbreak of rabies among these pack dogs would likely create an imminent public health hazard and he advised Animal Control that it should take “extraordinary measures authorized under Section 3-23 of the Cumberland County Code to apprehend and eradicate the pack dogs.” The code authorizes deadly force to humanely euthanize dogs running wild.

Wilson is not declaring a quarantine or rabies emergency at this time.

“But I am very concerned that we be proactive in our approach to this potentially serious public health risk,” he said.

In efforts to remove the pack dogs, Animal Control has:

- Hired Mims Wildlife Damage Control of Fayetteville to provide assistance.
- Ordered additional traps.

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- Requested assistance from local law enforcement agencies.
- Advised the public to:
  - Call Animal Control dispatch at 321-6861 to report sightings of dog packs.
  - Not tamper with the traps nor feed the dogs.
  - Have their pets vaccinated against rabies.

Animal Control has received reports of dog packs in the following neighborhoods:

- Village Drive, McPherson Church Road and Cliffdale Road areas
- Haymount
- Kingsford
- VanStory Hills
- Glendale Acres
- Murray Hills
- Downtown near Hillsboro Street and Murchison Road
- Raeford Road, near Robeson Street

If you see a pack of dogs, please call Animal Control at 321-6861 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After 5 p.m. and on weekends or holidays, call the Sheriff's Office at 323-1500.

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