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## **Animal Control Update on Dog Packs**

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Animal Control reports that six pack dogs were captured during the weekend as the County stepped up its efforts to reduce dog packs roaming the city.

The County has hired Fayetteville-based Mims Wildlife Damage Control to assist with the efforts. Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby said the company started Friday and is working in two 2-man teams from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. for 30 days straight, including weekends.

To assist in the effort, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and Fayetteville Police Department officers will be reporting pack dog sightings directly to Mims Wildlife during the 12-hour evening shifts. During other hours, the officers will contact Animal Control dispatch.

"The Sheriff's Office and the Fayetteville Police Department have agreed to give any support required to protect the citizens of Cumberland County," Lauby said.

Citizens are also asked to be on alert and report pack dog sightings by calling a direct line Animal Control has established to handle such calls quickly. If you see a pack of dogs, 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.

While Lauby encourages citizens to call, he cautions against approaching the dogs.

"They should not be dealing with the dogs at all," he said, adding that pet owners should make sure their dogs and cats are vaccinated for rabies. To date, the county has reported 10 confirmed or suspected cases of rabies in bats, raccoons and a fox. Last week, groups of dogs were observed attacking a fox and two raccoons in two areas of the city. State Lab results were inconclusive for rabies in the fox and raccoons, but the results must be treated as positive.

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

- Village Drive, McPherson Church Road and Cliffdale Road areas
- Haymount

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- Kingsford
- VanStory Hills
- Glendale Acres
- Murray Hills
- Downtown near Hillsboro Street and Murchison Road
- Raeford Road, near Robeson Street
- Ramsey Street
- Shaw Road
- Scotty Hills, off of Bragg Blvd.

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