

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Control

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Animal Control Receives \$5,843 ASPCA Grant

FAYETTEVILLE – The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has awarded Cumberland County Animal Control a grant of \$5,843 to pay for the purchase of surveillance and safety equipment used in the investigation of animal cruelty investigations.

Animal Control investigated 28 cases of animal abuse or neglect that have resulted in criminal charges in 2015. The grant money will pay for five respirator masks with 10 cartridges; two ammonia readers; two video cameras; a surveillance pole camera and a laptop computer. This equipment will expand the ability of animal control officers to investigate, document and securely store evidence of animal abuse. It will also provide protection for officers to safely enter scenes with high ammonia levels.

The Cumberland County Sheriff's Office assisted Animal Control in the grant application request.

"Animal Control is thrilled to receive this ASPCA grant. With limited budgets it is very difficult to acquire all the necessary equipment to accomplish animal cruelty investigations," said Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby. "The new equipment will assist and better protect our officers while investigating these cases, allowing us to charge these individuals who treat animals cruelly. We appreciate the Sheriff's Office assisting in the grant writing project."

Animal Control encourages citizens who are considering adopting a pet to visit the Animal Shelter in person, or online at <u>co.cumberland.nc.us/animal control</u>. The shelter is at 4704 Corporation Dr., Fayetteville. Call 910-321-6852 for more information.