



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Animal Control Mails Licensing Citations

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Animal Control mailed more than 3,000 citation letters this week reminding county residents to license their pets. The county's Animal Control Ordinance requires pet owners to purchase pet privilege licenses for their dogs and cats annually.

The citation letters give pet owners 30 days from the letter date to comply with the licensing ordinance or they could face a \$100 fine. The yearly license fee is due on the pet's annual rabies vaccination date. For animals that receive three-year vaccinations, Animal Control will notify owners when fees are due in the second and third years of the vaccine.

Licenses can be purchased online at [www.licensepet.com/cumberlandcountync](http://www.licensepet.com/cumberlandcountync); in person or by mail at Animal Control, 4704 Corporation Dr., Fayetteville, N.C., 28306 or by calling 910-321-6852.

The pet licensing fees are \$7 for spayed/neutered pets and \$25 for unaltered pets. There is no cost for certified service animals. Pet owners who are 65 years old or older may license up to three pets for free.

The fees help thousands of animals in Cumberland County by supporting Animal Control programs and services such as providing safe shelter, veterinary care, adoption services, and rabies prevention.

North Carolina state law requires dogs, cats and ferrets have a current rabies vaccination. An unvaccinated pet suspected of contact with a rabid animal is required by law to either be euthanized or to undergo a quarantine period of four months at a veterinarian's office while it is observed for symptoms of the rabies virus infection.

In North Carolina, the most common type of rabies is raccoon-variant rabies, which is found commonly in raccoons, skunks, red and grey foxes, coyotes, wolves, groundhogs and beavers. Bats can also transmit rabies but have their own bat variant rabies virus. Any mammal can become infected with rabies. The virus can infect domestic pets, agricultural animals such as cows and horses and humans when they are exposed to rabid wildlife.

Cats are the most commonly rabies-infected domestic animal. Felines kept outside unsupervised may prey on wildlife that are infected with rabies.

For more information about pet privilege licenses, visit [www.co.cumberland.nc.us/animal\\_control.aspx](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/animal_control.aspx) or call 910-321-6945.

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