



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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Animal Services

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Pet Adoptions Resume Today at Animal Services

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Animal Services will resume pet adoptions today after putting a stop to the program Feb. 17 in the wake of distemper cases.

Animal Services Director Scottie Harris told the Board of County Commissioners Monday night that the department was prepared to resume normal adoption operations.

Pet adoption hours are Tuesday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The shelter is located at 4704 Corporation Drive. The phone number is 321-6852.

Harris said the department had worked diligently to correct problems in shelter operations. Efforts have included decontaminating the building and vehicles; as well as revising intake operations for healthy and adoptable animals; and increasing the hours and shelter visits of the county's contract veterinarian.

Harris has also invited a team from the North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the shelter on March 24.

"We will use their recommendations to make additional improvements," he said.

Canine distemper was brought into Animal Services by a dog from the community, so all pet owners are urged to watch their dogs carefully for symptoms of the disease, which begin with gooe eye and nose discharge, fever, poor appetite and coughing. It then progresses to vomiting, diarrhea, and callusing of the nose and foot pads. The early symptoms appear similar to kennel cough, but distemper will advance into a neurologic phase with seizures, tremors of the jaws and imbalance problems. Seek veterinary care as soon as symptoms appear.

Dog owners should take the following steps to protect their dogs from distemper:

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- Make sure your dog or puppy is current on all vaccinations, including the vaccination for distemper.
- Keep your pet away from the feces of other dogs.
- Remove animal feces from your yard frequently.
- Keep food bowls and animal bedding clean.
- Do not take unvaccinated animals to public areas such as parks or pet stores.

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