



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
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Animal Control Update on Pack Dogs

FAYETTEVILLE – With the help of tips from law enforcement and citizens, Animal Control has been able to remove 34 roaming pack dogs since July 29 when the department enlisted the services of a wildlife control contractor to assist with the public safety and health issue.

Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby thanked the law enforcement officers and citizens for calling in their sightings and asked that they continue in those efforts by calling a direct line established to handle 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.**

There have been 11 confirmed or suspected cases of rabies in bats, raccoons and a fox in Cumberland County. After reports of pack dogs killing small pets and coming in contact with wild animals suspected of having rabies in late July, Health Director Buck Wilson said an outbreak of rabies among these pack dogs would likely create an imminent public health hazard.

Wilson did not declare a quarantine or rabies emergency. However, he advised Animal Control on July 28 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.

Animal Control was already contracting with Mims Wildlife Damage Control to assist with trapping and picking up stray and nuisance dogs. In addition to assisting with pack dogs, the company is continuing to capture stray dogs that are not part of packs or considered wild. As in the past, those strays are being taken to the Animal Shelter and are not counted among the 34 pack dogs.

Captured dogs are taken to the Animal Shelter where they are evaluated. Those that are ill are euthanized immediately. All others must be held 72 hours per state law. During that time they are evaluated and any that show signs that they may be adoptable are held for further evaluation. Aggressive dogs are euthanized after the 72-hour period.

One captured pack dog was evaluated and determined to be safe to adopt out and now has a new home.

Lauby reminds citizens to make sure their pets are vaccinated against rabies. Pet owners are subject to a fine of \$100 for each unvaccinated dog or cat.

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