



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Control

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## Animal Control Now Collects Pet Licensing Fees

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Effective Jan. 1, Cumberland County Animal Control began administering and collecting pet licensing fees.

The change means that dogs and cats will no longer be listed on the annual personal property tax listing forms submitted to the Tax Administration Office and the fee will no longer appear on tax office bills. Instead, the annual pet privilege license fee will become due on the pet's annual rabies vaccination date. North Carolina state law requires pets have a current rabies vaccination.

Licenses can be obtained from the veterinarian administering the rabies vaccination or directly from the Animal Control Department. Pet owners who do not pay through their veterinarians' offices may pay the fees online, via the mail or in person at the Animal Control shelter during regular business hours, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The shelter is located at 4704 Corporation Drive in Fayetteville.

Applications are available online at [www.co.cumberland.nc.us/animal\\_control](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/animal_control). For more information, call 910-321-6852. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be provided.

If you own a cat or dog in Cumberland County that is four months of age or older, the county requires you to obtain a pet license and pay an annual privilege license fee. Fees are \$7 for pets that have been spayed or neutered and \$25 for unaltered animals. The Board of Commissioners revised the county's Animal Control ordinance in May 2012 with the changes in pet licensing administration and collection going into effect Jan. 1, 2013.

### Pet Fees

Sterilized Dogs/Cats	\$7 each
Unsterilized Pets	\$25 each
Bona Fide Seeing Eye or Aid Dog	No cost
Residents 65 years or older	No cost for up to three dogs/cats per residence

For Breeders/Hunters:

Unsterilized Dogs/Cats                      \$100 for 5-15 dogs/cats; \$150 for 16 or more

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The annual privilege licenses are assigned the same number as the rabies vaccination certificate for each animal and they are registered with the Animal Control Department at the time of rabies vaccination. For pets that receive three-year vaccinations, Animal Control will notify owners that fees are due in the second and third year of the vaccine.

Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby estimates there are 200,000 to 225,000 pets in Cumberland County and only 7,000 to 8,000 of them are licensed.

“We have only one percent of cats licensed in Cumberland County and about 10 percent of dogs,” he said.

By changing the licensing process and connecting it with rabies vaccinations, Animal Control expects to greatly increase revenues and thereby help the county expand Animal Control services.

“These funds are used directly for Animal Control to help us better serve and protect the public,” Lauby said.

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