



News Release

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Animal Control

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Animal Control to Mail Pet License Bills in June

FAYETTEVILLE - Cumberland County Animal Control will soon launch a new push to collect unpaid 2012 pet privilege license fees. The department plans to mail more than 20,000 bills in June to pet owners who failed to pay the fee last year through the Tax Administration office.

Animal Control took over the administration and collection of the pet license fees in January and is using rabies vaccination records to track down unlicensed ferrets, cats and dogs. Annual fees are \$7 for pets that have been spayed or neutered and \$25 for those not spayed or neutered.

Prior to Jan. 1, 2013, pet license fees were collected as part of the annual personal property tax listing process handled by the Tax Administration Office. Owners were responsible for listing their pets and the fee was included as part of their personal property tax bill.

The Animal Control code was revised and the pet privilege license fee is now due on the pet's annual rabies vaccination date. By connecting the licensing process with rabies vaccinations, Animal Control expects to 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," said Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby.

Once the 2012 notices have been sent, the department will begin mailing separate bills for 2013 based on the month rabies vaccinations are administered. For pets that receive three-year vaccinations, Animal Control will notify owners when fees are due in the second and third year of the vaccine.

Privilege 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.

Applications are available online at www.licensepet.com/CumberlandCountyNC. For more information, call 910-321-6852 or email petlicense@co.cumberland.nc.us. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be provided. North Carolina law requires all cats, dogs and ferrets four months of age and older be vaccinated against rabies.

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