



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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Animal Services

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## **Pet Adoptions Still on Hold at Animal Services**

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Animal Services will continue to halt pet adoptions from its shelter until further notice. The department stopped the adoption program Feb. 17 after distemper cases were reported.

Animal Services is still seeing sick dogs at the shelter and in the community, according to Director Scottie Harris. The department has continued to pick up animals in the community and accept those that are dropped off at the shelter.

Harris is sending two dogs to a state lab in Raleigh today to confirm if they had distemper. One was picked up by Spring Lake Animal Control as a stray. It was euthanized prior to entering the shelter due to its health conditions. The other was an older dog turned over to Animal Services by his owner to be euthanized.

Animal Services has started vaccinating upon arrival all animals that appear healthy and adoptable. It has also met with the county's contract vet and revised the cleaning protocols. Harris has consulted with Pitt County's Animal Control. Pitt County has been fighting distemper since November.

Dog owners are urged to take the following steps to protect their dogs from this deadly disease:

- 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

**-more-**

Dog owners should watch their dogs carefully for symptoms of distemper, which include diarrhea, loss of appetite, and upper respiratory symptoms often associated with kennel cough, such as nasal/eye discharge. Seek veterinary care as soon as symptoms appear.

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