



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Animal Control

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## **County Adopts Shortened Time For Rabies Quarantine**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Board of Health has adopted new rules shortening the required quarantine time from six to four months for animals that are not current on their rabies vaccinations. The rules were adopted by the board Oct. 18 based on a recommendation from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians.

An unvaccinated pet suspected of contact with a rabid animal is required by law to either be euthanized or undergo a quarantine period at a veterinarian's office for four months. An animal in quarantine is observed for symptoms of the rabies virus infection.

The new rules are expected to result in fewer animals being euthanized and reduced financial burdens for pet owners whose animals are kept in quarantine.

“This rule change is better for Animal Control because it allows people to keep their animals instead of facing the difficult decision of euthanizing their pets because the rabies vaccination was a few weeks out of date,” Cumberland County Animal Control Director Dr. John Lauby said. “The shortened quarantine period, from six to four months, creates significant savings for pet owners who have to quarantine their animal at a veterinarian's office.”

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