



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Animal Care and Control

FROM: Douglas W. Urland, Public Health Director

DATE: April 7, 2005

SUBJECT: Policy for Dealing with the Confinement of Dogs, Cats, or Ferrets After They Have Bitten a Human Being

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 130A-196 any person bitten by a dog, cat, or ferrets, and the owner of the biting animal, must immediately notify the local health director. This same statute provides the health director with the authority to designate a confinement place for dogs, cats, or ferrets that have bitten a person. Therefore, I direct that any dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a person shall be confined, for ten (10) days immediately following the biting incident, at the Catawba County Animal Shelter or at a licensed veterinarian in Catawba County. All expenses related to the confinement are the responsibility of the owner of the animal. The health director has the authority to exempt law enforcement dogs. The health director has the authority to permit the confinement at the owner of the biting animal's home under the following limited circumstances: a fee may be charged for the quarantine period when a dog, cat, or ferret bites a person living at the same residence, **and** the animal's rabies vaccinations are current, **and** the bite occurs on the owner's property.

In those circumstances where there is conflicting evidence as to the residence of the animal or the location that the bite occurred, the animal shall be quarantined at the Catawba County Animal Shelter.

Anyone failing to follow the order of the Health Director shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. In addition, any animal not confined as ordered shall be seized by Catawba County Animal Care and Control and confined for ten (10) days at the expense of the owner.

DWU:mjk