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## **CATAWBA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES SCHEDULES RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS**

Catawba County Animal Services will begin a new series of rabies vaccination clinics on Saturday, May 5, 2012. All clinics will again be held on Saturdays in 2012 and spread out over more of the year in hopes of making clinics convenient for more citizens. The Catawba County Animal Shelter also provides one year rabies vaccinations to pet owners year round, Monday through Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

"North Carolina law states that, in all counties where a campaign of vaccination such as our clinics is being conducted, it is the duty of the owner of every dog, cat and ferret over four months of age to have them vaccinated for rabies," said Mark Pettit, Interim Animal Services Manager. "Pet owners face a \$50 fine if they do not have pets vaccinated. Tags showing proof of the vaccination of dogs must be placed on the dog's collar. Cat and ferret owners must be able to show proof of a current vaccination in the form of a rabies certificate."

Rabies is a very dangerous disease that infects only mammals and is spread by infected animals through bites, saliva or cerebral spinal fluid. While it is mainly carried by wild animals, any pets that aren't vaccinated are at great risk if they come in contact with an infected animal. Rabies is a fatal virus which attacks the central nervous system. That's why it's so important for pet owners across Catawba County to take advantage of these clinics.

All pets brought to these clinics will receive a one-year rabies vaccination. A fee of \$5, which is unchanged from last year, will be charged for each vaccination. The fee is set to recoup the cost of the vaccine.

Here is the schedule for the clinics, all on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon

May 5	Banoak Elementary School, 7651 Highway 10 West, Vale
June 2	L P Frans Stadium, 2500 Clement Blvd NW, Hickory
July 7	Riverbend Dog Park, at Riverbend Park off Highway 16 North, Conover
August 4	Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue Base, 4011 Slanting Bridge Road, Sherrills Ford
September 1	St. Stephens Dog Park, 2247 36th Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601

"All dogs must be on a leash and under control of the dog owner, at all times, at the Rabies Clinic sites. All cats must be in a carrier for the safety and security of the cat," Pettit added.

For more information on the County's 2012 Rabies Vaccination Clinics, you may call the Catawba County Animal Shelter at 828-464-7686.

