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CATAWBA COUNTY TO CONDUCT THOROUGH CLEANING AND SANITATION OF ANIMAL SHELTER, OFFER HALF-PRICE ADOPTIONS

Newton, NC—Catawba County Animal Services staff will conduct a thorough cleaning and sanitation of the Animal Shelter between May 7-11, 2012. The County is continuing a routine of sanitizing the shelter twice each year, as part of efforts to prevent a repeat of an outbreak of disease, such as occurred in the fall of 2010. There is no outbreak currently occurring at the shelter.

"Sanitizing the shelter is one of the measures we take to prevent the spread of disease or any future disease outbreaks," said Mark Pettit, Interim Animal Services Manager.

The routine and thorough process will encompass all areas and surfaces of the shelter, including the heating and air system. All animals that are in the Shelter at the time the cleaning begins will be moved to portable kennels outside.

In an effort to minimize the number of animals that will have to be housed outside in the tents during this time, Catawba County is offering half-price adoptions during the week prior to the cleaning. Between April 30 and May 11, 2012, adoption fees will be $25, instead of $50, for cats, and $37.50, instead of $75, for all dogs.

From May 7 through May 11, 2012, the public will not be allowed into the Animal Shelter building. Tents will be erected in the shelter's parking area to house adoptable animals. There will also be additional tents set-up in the fenced in area for incoming animals.

"During the sanitation period, all attempts will be made to continue normal operations at the shelter. However due to this process we are requesting that, unless absolutely necessary, citizens please refrain from bringing in owner surrendered animals during this time," Pettit said.

The shelter building will reopen on Friday, May 11, 2012.

To see currently available animals, you may visit the Catawba County Animal Shelter at 100 Southwest Blvd #C, Newton, NC 28658 or visit the County's animal adoption web page. Shelter hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Animal Services at (828) 465-8228 or mpettit@catawbacountync.gov