

Animal Services News
September 16, 2015

RABIES UPDATE

- **Year-to-date there have been 7 laboratory confirmed rabies cases**
 - **Four (4) bats and three (3) raccoons**
- **In September 2014 and 2013, there were 20 and 7 confirmed rabies cases, respectively**
- **Monday, September 28 is World Rabies Day (<https://rabiesalliance.org/world-rabies-day/>)**
 - **Its theme is Lets End Rabies Together**
- **Remember: Laboratory tests are done only when a person may have been exposed and the animal is available for testing; and when an unvaccinated domestic animal may have been exposed and the animal is available for testing.**

FAMILY SUCCESS ALLIANCE (FSA)

- **Staff had a very successful meeting with the project coordinator and a number of area navigators**
- **One opportunity for collaboration is subsidized spay and neuter for pets in target areas**
 - **Navigators will be working with 70 families in the near future**
 - **They expect to have contact with more families as the project grows**
- **Another opportunity is to make target area residents aware of various animal services**
 - **Navigators appreciated knowing about basic animal control and protection services**
 - **They also appreciated knowing about our low cost rabies vaccination clinics**

SPAY NEUTER UPDATE

- **Regressive changes to the NC Spay and Neuter Reimbursement Program are pending**
- **Amended portion of NCGS 19A-63 is attached**
 - **Qualifications no longer include public assistance**
 - **Income qualifications have been decreased from 300 to 100 percent of federal poverty level guidelines**
 - **Non-profit clinic reimbursements depend upon involvement of a local veterinarian**
 - **Reimbursement requires that proof is provided that all local veterinarians have the opportunity to be involved**
- **Staff will be reviewing these amendments to assess how to best proceed with Orange County's Community Spay and Neuter Program.**

MISCELLANEOUS

- **More than 100 dogs and 200 people attended the 11th Annual Dog Swim**
- **October is Adopt A Shelter Dog Month and dog adoption fees will be discounted.**
- **Staff will be attending English as Second Language (ESL) Resource Night in September**
- **License fee exemptions for sterilized cats and dogs belonging to people on public assistance are in effect.**

1 "(b) Fee. – An application for an initial license or a renewed license as a wholesale
2 distributor shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of ~~five hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ one
3 thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a manufacturer or ~~three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00)~~ seven
4 hundred dollars (\$700.00) for any other person."
5

6 FOOD MANUFACTURER AND RETAILER INSPECTION FEES

7 SECTION 13.5. G.S. 106-254 reads as rewritten:

8 "§ 106-254. Inspection fees; wholesalers; retailers and cheese factories.

9 For the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred in the enforcement of this Article, the
10 owner, proprietor or operator of each ice cream factory where ice cream, milk shakes, milk
11 sherbet, sherbet, water ices, mixes for frozen or semifrozen desserts and other similar frozen or
12 semifrozen food products are made or stored, or any cheese factory or butter-processing plant
13 that disposes of its products at wholesale to retail dealers for resale in this State shall pay to the
14 Commissioner of Agriculture each year an inspection fee of ~~forty dollars (\$40.00)~~ one hundred
15 dollars (\$100.00). Each maker of ice cream, milk shakes, milk sherbet, sherbet, water ices
16 and/or other similar frozen or semifrozen food products who disposes of his product at retail
17 only, and cheese factories, shall pay to the Commissioner of Agriculture an inspection fee of
18 ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~ fifty dollars (\$50.00) each year. The inspection fee of ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~
19 fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall not apply to conventional spindle-type milk-shake mixers, but shall
20 apply to milk-shake dispensing and vending machines, which operate on a continuous or
21 automatic basis."
22

23 SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM REVISIONS

24 SECTION 13.7.(a) G.S. 19A-63 reads as rewritten:

25 "§ 19A-63. Eligibility for distributions from Spay/Neuter Account. Account; Definitions.

26 (a) A county or city is eligible for reimbursement from the Spay/Neuter Account if it
27 meets the following condition:

28 (1) The county or city offers one or more of the following programs to
29 low-income persons on a year-round basis for the purpose of reducing the
30 cost of spaying and neutering procedures for dogs and cats:

- 31 a. A spay/neuter clinic operated by the county or city.
- 32 b. A spay/neuter clinic operated by a ~~private~~ non-profit organization
33 under contract or other arrangement with the county or ~~city~~ city,
34 provided that the non-profit organization contracts with a local
35 veterinarian to perform the spay/neuter procedures.
- 36 c. A contract or contracts with one or more veterinarians, whether or
37 not located within the county, to provide reduced-cost spaying and
38 neutering procedures.
- 39 d. Subvention of the spaying and neutering costs incurred by
40 low-income pet owners through the use of vouchers or other
41 procedure that provides a discount of the cost of the spaying or
42 neutering procedure fixed by a participating ~~veterinarian or other~~
43 provider veterinarian.
- 44 e. Subvention of the spaying and neutering costs incurred by persons
45 who adopt a pet from an animal shelter operated by or under contract
46 with the county or city.

47 (2) Reserved for future codification purposes.

48 (b) ~~For purposes of this Article, the term "low income person" shall mean~~ The following
49 definitions apply in this Article:

50 (1) Local veterinarian. – A veterinarian licensed by the North Carolina
51 Veterinary Medical Board under Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General
52 Statutes and practicing within the county where the services are provided. If
53 no licensed veterinarian practices within that county, then a local
54 veterinarian is a licensed veterinarian practicing in a county adjacent to the
55 county where the services are provided. For purposes of this definition,
56 "practicing" means engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, as
57 defined in Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.

58 (2) Low-income person. – an ~~An individual who qualifies for one or more of the~~
59 programs of public assistance administered by the Department of Health and

Human Services pursuant to Chapter 108A of the General Statutes or whose annual household income is under three hundred percent (300%) lower than one hundred percent (100%) of the federal poverty level guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) Each county shall make rules or publish guidelines that designate what proof a low-income person must submit to establish that the person qualifies for public assistance under subsection (b) of this section or has an annual household income lower than three hundred percent (300%) one hundred percent (100%) of the federal poverty level guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) Each county shall provide the opportunity to participate in the program created by this Article to all local veterinarians. Proof of the provision of this opportunity shall be included in the first reimbursement request of each calendar year."

SECTION 13.7.(b) Chapter 19A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 5A.

"Animal Shelter Support Fund.

"§ 19A-67. Animal Shelter Support Fund.

(a) Creation. – The Animal Shelter Support Fund is established as a special fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Fund consists of appropriations by the General Assembly or contributions and grants from public or private sources.

(b) Use. – The Fund shall be used by the Animal Welfare Section of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to reimburse local governments for expenses related to their operation of a registered animal shelter due to any of the following:

(1) The denial, suspension, or revocation of the shelter's registration.

(2) An unforeseen catastrophic disaster at an animal shelter.

(c) Rules. – The Animal Welfare Section shall issue rules detailing eligible expenses and application guidelines that comply with the requirements of this Article.

(d) Reversion. – Any appropriated and unencumbered funds remaining at the end of each fiscal year in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall revert to the General Fund.

"§ 19A-68. Distributions to counties and cities from Animal Shelter Support Fund.

(a) Reimbursable Costs. – Local governments eligible for distributions from the Animal Shelter Support Fund may receive reimbursement only for the direct operational costs of the animal shelter following an event described in G.S. 19A-67(b). For purposes of this subsection, direct operational costs shall include veterinary services, sanitation services and needs, animal sustenance and supplies, and temporary housing and sheltering. Counties and cities shall not be reimbursed for administrative costs or capital expenditures for facilities and equipment.

(b) Cost-Share. – A local government requesting distributions from the Animal Shelter Support Fund must provide a local match based on their most recent development tier designation as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. Local governments located in development tier one counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every three dollars (\$3.00) distributed from the Fund. Local governments located in development tier two counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every two dollars (\$2.00) distributed from the Fund. Local governments located in development tier three counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) distributed from the Fund.

(c) Application. – A county or city eligible for reimbursement from the Animal Shelter Support Fund shall apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services within 60 days of when the reimbursable cost has been incurred. The application shall be submitted in the form required by the Department and shall include an itemized listing of the costs for which reimbursement is sought.

(d) Distribution. – The Department shall make payments from the Animal Shelter Support Fund to eligible counties and cities that have made timely application for reimbursement within 30 days of receipt of requests.

"§ 19A-69. Report.

The Department shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division no later than March 1. The report shall contain information regarding all revenues and expenditures of the Animal Shelter Support Fund."