

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LAW:

Requires owners of dogs, cats and ferrets to have their pets currently vaccinated against rabies, beginning at four months of age and wear a valid rabies tag at all times.

Rabies is a deadly virus that affects the central nervous system causing disease in the brain and death. In North Carolina, the most common type of rabies is raccoon-variant rabies. It is found commonly in raccoons, skunks, red and grey foxes, coyotes, wolves, groundhogs and beavers. Bats can also transmit rabies but have their own bat variant rabies virus.

Any mammal can become infected with rabies. The virus can infect domestic pets, agricultural animals such as cows and horses, and people when they are exposed to rabid wildlife. Rabies is transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal but also can be spread by the saliva coming into contact with an open wound or broken skin.

What You Can Do? Vaccinate your pets against rabies and keep the vaccinations current.

To find a list of upcoming Rabies Clinics,

- Go to www.ci.burlington.nc.us/pets
- Cost is \$5.00 per Pet for Rabies vaccination.
- Microchip your pet for \$20.00 and the Animal Services will register your pet for you.

WHY SPAY OR NEUTER?

Each year, thousands of animals come to the Burlington Animal Shelter as strays, abandoned, bite or cruelty cases, and owner surrenders. Unfortunately, there are not enough homes for all of these homeless animals. Much of this problem lies in pet ownership. Many unaltered pets are allowed to breed repeatedly, as well as roam free, leading to hundreds of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. The most effective means of preventing unwanted litters and pet overpopulation is to spay and neuter your pet.

Contrary to popular belief, spaying or neutering your pet will not lead to a fat, lazy pet. Only overfeeding and lack of exercise will do that. Removing the sex hormones will *not* cause your dog to lose its protective instinct, either. Animals that have been altered exhibit fewer problems with aggression, spraying and marking territory, roaming and fighting. Spayed female cats and dogs do not suffer from uterine disease and have a markedly reduced incidence of breast cancer. Neutered males eliminate testicular cancer and reduce the incidence of prostate cancer. Spaying/neutering will give you a much happier and healthier companion that will not be able to reproduce and add to the existing overpopulation problem. This benefits you, your pet and our community.

- Visit www.ci.burlington.nc.us/pets for additional information on Spay and Neuter Clinics in Alamance County.

Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get advice and information.

If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Find out where pet boarding facilities are located. Be sure to research some outside your local area in case local facilities close.

Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current. Include copies in your "pet survival" kit along with a photo of your pet.

Some animal shelters will provide temporary foster care for owned pets in times of disaster but this should be considered only as a last resort.

If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger! Confine your pet to a safe area inside.

NEVER leave your pet chained outside! Leave them loose inside your home with food and plenty of water. Remove the toilet tank lid, raise the seat and brace the bathroom door open so they can drink. Place a notice outside in a visible area, advising what pets are in the house and where they are located. Provide a phone number where you or a contact can be reached as well as the name of your vet.

PREPARING YOUR PETS FOR DISASTERS AND PROTECTING THEM FROM DISEASES.....



"Working together to prepare for and protect our animals"



**Alamance County
Emergency
Management
1950 Martin Street
Burlington, NC
27253**



**Burlington Animal
Services
221 Stone Quarry
Rd.
Haw River, NC
27258
Ph: 336-578-0343**



PET PREPAREDNESS

All responsible pet owners need to think about how they will take care of their animals when disaster strikes. The same advice for human preparedness goes for preparing for your pets. Be prepared to take care of yourself, your family (including pets) and your neighbors for a minimum of three days without any help from the County or City resources. For health and space reasons, pets are not allowed in most public emergency shelters. However, in most states, trained guide dogs for persons with disabilities will be allowed to stay in emergency shelters with their owners.

PETS ARE FAMILY TOO!

Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning. If you must evacuate your home, it's always best to take your pets with you. If, as a last resort, you have to leave your pets behind, make sure you have a plan to ensure their care.



BEFORE THE DISASTER

- Store enough food and water to last a minimum of three days, longer if possible.
- Prepare an evacuation kit for your pet
- The kit should include:
 - An unbreakable dish
 - Medications and instructions (enough for 7 to 10 days)
 - A leash & pet carrier
 - Your pet's veterinary records
- For housing purposes, cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably or stand to use the litter pan. Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold two non-spill bowls and still allow enough room for your dog to stand and turn around. For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information.
- Consider having a permanent microchip implanted in your pet; this ID cannot be lost or removed.
- Make arrangements with a neighbor or a relative that lives nearby to care for your pet in the event you are unable to return home immediately following a disaster. Identify hotels and motels nearby that allow pets.
- Make sure your pet's ID tag is up to date with accurate information.

TIPS FOR FINDING A LOST PET:

Check the shelter *frequently!* Call or visit Burlington Animal Services and report your missing pet. Check their website frequently, every pet received is listed and it is updated hourly.

Utilize social media: Posting information about your lost pet on sites such as Finding Rover, Facebook or Instagram. There are several local and regional Facebook pages dedicated to lost/found pets.

[Lost & Found Dogs - North Carolina](#) and [Lost and Found Pets of Alamance County and Surrounding Areas](#) are two great pages to start.

Post fliers in your community. Make a flier with a picture and full description of your pet, when and where it was last seen, and your contact information. Post fliers in your neighborhood, or where your pet went missing, as well as pet stores, veterinary offices, supermarkets, bulletin boards, gas and convenience stores, schools, etc.

Register your pet on the new cutting edge pet facial recognition app, [Finding Rover](#).

Prepare Shelter for Your Pet!

PET PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

- Assemble a kit that is easy to carry and easy to get to! Prepare to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days, longer if possible.
- Pet carrier or cage for each pet
- Food/water with non-spill bowls
- Manual can opener
- Medication and dosing
- Pet first-aid kit
- Vaccination, medical records, and current photo
- Your veterinarian's information
- Cat litter box and litter
- Newspaper
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant
- Leash and collar/harness
- Blankets
- Toys and treats

PET FIRST AID KIT

- Large and small bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Q-Tips
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Elastic tape
- Eye wash (saline)
- Ear cleaning solutions
- Neosporin