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### **RABIES VACCINE CLINICS OFFERED THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

NEWTON, NC – The Humane Society of Catawba County-Newton, which is partnering with Catawba County Animal Services to operate the Animal Shelter in Newton, will host a series of rabies vaccination clinics throughout the county from May through September.

All pets brought to these clinics will receive a one-year rabies vaccination. A fee of \$7 will be charged for each vaccination. The fee is set to recoup the cost of the vaccine.

The Humane Society of Catawba County's Newton office also provides one-year rabies vaccinations to pet owners year round, Monday through Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the shelter at 201 Government Services Drive, Newton, NC 28658 (off Radio Station Road).

All clinics take place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. and are scheduled on different dates and at various locations, as follows:

May 6 – St. Stephens Dog Park, 2247 36th Ave NE, Hickory  
June 3 – Banoak Elementary School, 7651 Highway 10 West, Vale  
July 8 – Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue Base, 4011 Slanting Bridge Road, Sherrills Ford  
August 5 – Catawba Fire Department, 108 North Main Street, Catawba  
September 2 – Riverbend Dog Park, 6700 Highway 16 North, Conover

During clinic visits, all dogs must be on a leash and under the control of the dog owner at all times. All cats must be in a carrier for the safety and security of the cat.

North Carolina law states that it is the duty of the owner of every dog, cat and ferret over four months of age to have them vaccinated for rabies. 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 fatal virus that attacks the central nervous system. It infects only mammals and is spread by infected animals through bites, saliva or cerebral fluid. While it is mainly carried by wild animals, unvaccinated pets are at great risk if they come in contact with an infected animal.

For more information about this year's rabies vaccination clinics, call the Catawba County Animal Shelter at (828) 464-7686.

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