

County Officials Treat Fewer Pets Than Expected as Rabies Spreads

BY KERRY OSSI
STAFF WRITER

Pet owners waited in line for more than an hour Friday to have their dogs or cats vaccinated at a reduced-rate rabies clinic sponsored by Orange County animal control.

The clinic, held at three sites, treated 576 pets, more than 200 more than the previous year. In Chapel Hill alone, 171 vaccinations were administered at the Animal Shelter of Orange County.

Although this number exceeded past totals, in light of the state's growing rabies epidemic, it did not exceed the expectations of Orange County officials.

"We were expecting a big clinic mostly because of the rabies scare and because of more media exposure than in the past," said John Sauls, director of Orange County animal control.

Since April 1, there have been six additional cases of rabies reported in North Carolina, raising the statewide total to 117 cases for 1995. Seven cases were reported in Wake County this year, which is a factor

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Orange County animal control director

that Sauls said greatly contributed to the larger number of vaccinations given in Orange County this year.

"The increases in Wake County really caught people's attention around here," he said.

A seven-night clinic held in Wake County had an even greater response than Orange County clinics, with 5,775 pets vaccinated, a 78 percent increase from the previous year.

Dicke Sloop, Wake County animal control program manager said greater media exposure of the recent increase in rabies

had helped with the success of local clinics. Both Sloop and Sauls agreed that the timing of clinics with the growing awareness of the threat rabies posed led to the treatment of many pets that normally would not have been taken to a veterinarian.

"The awareness level was up and, as a result, I think, there were more pet owners (at the clinics) with animals that had never been vaccinated," Sloop said.

Although these vaccination clinics will not slow the rabies epidemic that is spreading unchecked through wild animals, public health veterinarian Lee Hunter said the vaccinations were still beneficial.

"In most cases, the disease is spread to humans by dogs or cats rather than wild animals," Hunter said. "By vaccinating, we put a barrier of protection between us and rabies in wild animals."

At the animal shelter, the large number of pet owners attending caused a backup of work for the lone veterinarian administering vaccinations at the clinic.

Sauls said, "There were long waits, tremendous lines, and people waited for up to an hour."

Aldermen and Residents Resurrect Talk of Historic District in Carrboro

BY SARAH SHOWFETY
STAFF WRITER

Residents living on historical property met with Carrboro aldermen at an informal "kitchen table discussion" Monday night to discuss their opinions about preservation of historical property in Carrboro.

The discussion was held to express concerns about the resurrection of the "historic district concept," originally introduced in 1989 and adamantly opposed by residents, that would impose guidelines on what modifications could be made to the facades of historic homes.

"We are trying to preserve the integrity and character of these neighborhoods," Alderman Mike Nelson said. "Maintaining the history is important for our community," he said.

The proposal for a historic district and a historic district commission was met by fervent opposition from the community and was tabled when it was first presented in 1989.

The Carrboro town attorney and planning staff then prepared a revised ordinance providing only for a neighborhood

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Carrboro alderman

preservation commission and a neighborhood preservation district.

Senior planner for Carrboro Lisa Pruitt said the historic district concept was being reintroduced to see whether public sentiment was the same as in 1989. She said people were opposed to it because they did not like being obligated to go in front of a commission whenever they wanted to make an improvement to their houses.

Carley Pardington, a third-generation resident of a renovated millhouse on Oak Avenue, said she was opposed to the historic district concept because of the inaccuracy and costliness of the idea.

To preserve the houses as they are is a mistake because they have been modified many times since they were built, Pardington said. She said the provisions proposed were based on romanticized views of what the houses used to look like.

The guidelines proposed call for retaining the size and shape of traditional mill windows, preserving roof lines, and having outside lighting and decorative features. Pardington said there was no outside lighting, wooden fences or brick walkways in Carrboro during the time the proposal was trying to recapture.

She emphasized that Carrboro had been a stark, bare mill town without any frills or landscaping. She said she was sensitive to the wishes of the historic district commission to preserve authentic historic homes, but she said most of them had been altered significantly since they were built.

Many of the homes in question are more than 100 years old and were the foundation of the first neighborhoods in Carrboro. Some of the homes are "millhouses," which were built by the old Carrboro hosiery mill at the turn of the century to house workers, that have been renovated.



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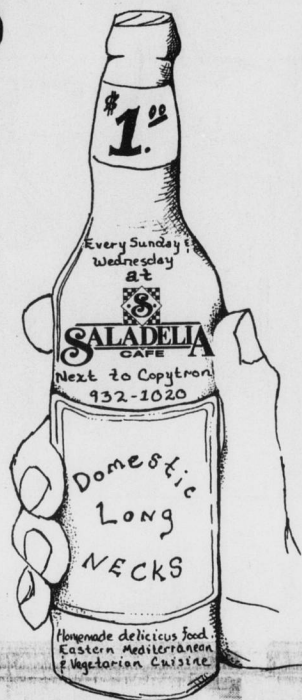
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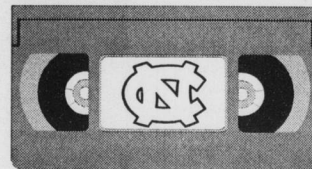
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