

# No More Free Ride For Cats On Rabies Vaccination Shots

Dr. John Freeman, head of the Health Department's Environmental Epidemiology Branch, has announced that his office has redrafted the State's rabies statute to include the compulsory vaccination of cats against rabies. It will be introduced in the next session of the General Assembly.

"The bill simply says that cats as well as dogs four months of age and older will be immunized against rabies," Dr. Freeman explained. "I think chances of its passage will be better this time because people are beginning to see the wisdom of including cats in such regulations."

They recognize the potential danger of a rabies epidemic—especially since the spread of rabies in wildlife has now reached South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia—namely in the skunk, raccoon and fox populations.

"The whole mission of rabies control," Dr. Freeman pointed out, "is to protect people. The only way we have of doing that is through the protection of those animals most likely to bite man—dogs and cats."

The problem now is in the wildlife species, but it can (and usually does) go from wildlife to man. Very few people are bitten by wildlife and those that are get immediate medical help. On the other hand, many people are bitten by their pets," the Veterinarian added.

Dr. Freeman notes that the problem now is with cats—they are not included in the current rabies

statute. Although seven counties and two cities have seen fit to pass their own ordinances requiring that cats be immunized against rabies, his mission is to get the whole state covered.

"My feeling is that if we are serious about protecting people against rabies, we have to extend our law to include cats as well as dogs," Dr. Freeman reasoned. "We are doing a fairly good job of protecting the dog population against rabies. But there are just about as many cats as there are dogs and the frequency of bites is approximately the same. And we know that cats can transmit rabies." Dr. Freeman said most of the flack against including cats in a rabies immunization bill came last session from members of the Agriculture Committee. Their argument was that most farmers have a big population of cats around the barnyard and that they would be hard to catch.

But the public health specialist feels the real argument is that the legislators are hesitant to impose an additional regulation on their constituents.

"I do not buy that argument at all," Dr. Freeman bristled. "We are about the business of protecting people against a horrible, deadly disease and, in that regard, I do not think that kind of thinking is in the best interest of the people legislators represent. One cat with rabies can infect a whole herd of dairy cattle—causing thousands of dollars in damage to one farmer. It has happened in other states and it

can happen in North Carolina. But, aside from that, it is the probable danger to people that worries me.

"If I did not think the inclusion of cats in the rabies control law of this state was in the best interest of the farmer, his family, livestock and the people who live in the area, I would not be promoting it," Dr. Freeman said. "And, I repeat, the only way we have of doing an effective job of that is to protect the domestic animals with which people most often come in contact—and that includes cats."

## Snead Grandson Inducted As Eagle Scout

Scott L. Goller, 16, of Greensboro, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Younger Snead, Sr., of Raeford, was one of the five Boy Scouts of Troop 109 invested as Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor held November 22.

This was reported in the December 12 editions of the Greensboro Daily News & Record.

Goller is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Goller. Goller has been senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, junior assistant Scoutmaster, patrol leader, quartermaster, and a member of the Leadership Corps and was Order of the Arrow vice chief of administration.



**PARTY IN SOUTH HOKE**—Children of the South Hoke Day Care Center are shown at the Christmas party for them Dec. 20 by the Seventh Special Forces Group of Ft. Bragg. The woman seated in the chair is Mrs. Doris Henderson, who helps at the center, the baby she is feeding is David Jacobs, who is 4 months old. The Seventh Group gives the party each year at this time.

## Cubs Receive Awards

Awards were given to members of Cub Pack 404 at the pack meeting for December held recently.

The Cubs and the awards follow.

Allen Hendrix—Wolf, one gold arrow point, one silver arrow point; Matthew Warren—Wolf; Kevin Lippard and Michael Rogers—Wolf, one gold arrow point; Josh Witherspoon—one silver arrow point; Alton Godwin, Larry McGuire, Alex Schwarchber, John Irion, Jeff McGougan, Telly Stephens, Greg Johnson, and Keith Massey—Bobcat; and Todd Branch—One Year Pin.

Den 1 was named Den of the Month. Mrs. Jane McGougan is the leader.

Den 7 won the Attendance Award.



Cub Scouts in a Christmas play scene.

## Civic League Workshop Features Food Stamps

The Hoke County Civic League will sponsor a workshop explaining the Food Stamp program at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 3, at 7 p.m.

The meeting will be hosted at the Laurel Hill Baptist Church, Rev. Theodore Patterson, pastor.

The workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Deloris McLeod, Food Stamp Supervisor and Mrs. Charlotte Kelly, Eligibility Specialist No. 1 of the Hoke County Department of Social Services.

Those persons who may be seeking information on how to apply for stamps, or eligibility requirements and general information on the food stamps are welcome to attend this workshop says J.W. Gorham, Civic League President.



On stage for the Christmas program at the Cub Pack 404 meeting.

## Coffee Won't Help Drinker 'Sober Up'

One of the most common myths about drinking alcohol is that coffee, a cold shower, or exercise will help a drinker "sober up."

The North Carolina Medical Society says black coffee, cold showers, and exercise do not erase the bio-chemical effects of alcohol. Approximately 85-90 of the alcohol a drinker consumes is oxidized by the liver.

Only time and the action of the liver will burn off the alcohol and render the drinker reasonably sober.

Never drink and drive. It is a deadly misconception to think that you have to be "drunk" before you become a dangerous driver.

Even at a level of .05 percent blood alcohol content (half the legal limit in N.C.), a driver is twice as likely to have an accident then if driving sober.

If you plan to drink, make arrangements to have a sober person drive you home, or plan to spend the night where you are.

If you plan to drink during or after the holidays, keep these points in mind:

—Know your limit and stick to it. If two drinks is your limit, stick to that.

—Eat something before, during and after drinking. This slows the

rate at which alcohol is absorbed into the blood stream, and it will slow the alcohol's effect on the drinker.

—Beware of unfamiliar drinks. You may not know the potency or proof of the alcoholic beverage.

—And again, never drink and drive. Alcohol does impair your judgement and coordination.

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