

Commissioners sink teeth in animal collar, tag rules

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke commissioners are "sinking their teeth" into proposed changes in the Hoke animal tag and collar ordinance, protecting individual pet owners, hunters, potential bite victims, and dogs and cats, according to Commission Chairman Bobby Wright.

"I think we need to approve it," Wright said. "However, we need to fine tune it and put some teeth in it."

The board will likely take action on adopting changes in the current animal control ordinance at their meeting on Monday night. They will also decide whether to make it a felony if someone removes or steals the electronic collars off hunting dogs. These popular devices enable Hoke hunters to track their dogs if they become separated during hunting season.

"Lots of dogs have vanished around the county, and the owners find the collars thrown away," Commission Vice Chairman Charles V. Daniels, who proposed the additional change in the ordinance, said. "Most of them have never recovered their dogs once they were stolen."

A public hearing was initially held on May 2 over recommendations for changes in the ordinance. The board unanimously voted to postpone a decision until they could discuss it further.

In the new, proposed tag and collar ordinance, pet owners would be required to keep collars with rabies tag on their pets at all times. The ordinance would also require pet owners

to only use a licensed veterinarian for obtaining rabies vaccinations. If an animal control officer observes a dog or cat without a tag, he could request the owner to show proof of a rabies vaccination, or issue a warning. Otherwise, he could eventually fine the pet owner.

"We have a concern about rabies," Wright said. "We want to make sure pets have received their shots."

The board decided to take action to include stricter regulations in the ordinance after county residents complained of animals not having rabies tags displayed on their collars. A number of hunters at the May 2 meeting also alleged it is no accident that their dogs are missing and electronic collars found thrown away.

The electronic collars may cost from \$175 to \$500, plus the tracking devices to locate hunting dogs that are lost may cost up to \$1,200 or more.

Daniels said he thinks pet owners should definitely be fined if their pets are not wearing a collar with a rabies tag. He also called for requiring that a violator who removes a hunting dog's electronic collar should be fined \$1,000. Because of not being able to frequently locate their dogs, and the expense of replacing the tracking collars, Daniels said it is a "large investment" for hunters.

"I think it ought to be a felony charge to remove an electronic collar," Daniels said.

One hunter agreed with Daniels, saying it was "pure stealing" to take

an electronic collar off a dog.

"A man can take a dog's collar and it seems like there ain't nothing we can do about it," Hoke hunter Ronald Gordon said. "They are throwing the collars in the ponds and the river."

"I think it is wrong and something ought to be done about it."

Brian Daniels, son of Commissioner Daniels, is upset because he said four of his beagles, Lucie, Daisy, Mutt, and Lady, have never been found during the past two hunting seasons. He filed a Sheriff's report, but he said there was no trail to follow any leads since they disappeared.

"You have to physically remove those collars so it wasn't done by chance," Brian Daniels said. "I lost about \$800 invested in my dogs for collars and the dogs were also worth about \$200 each."

"We think it is people from out-of-county taking our dogs because all the people in our hunt clubs are very close and would never do something like that."

Brian Daniels said he found the discarded collars of his dogs barely one hour after he realized they were gone. Without them wearing the tracking collars, he could not locate them. He said one of the suspects appeared to be from the Maxton area, but without definite proof there was nothing he could do.

"What is also bad about this is: People outside Hoke will steal our dogs during hunting season because it saves them the time and expense of training or buying their own dogs," Brian Daniels said. "Then, the poor dogs are not cared for after the hunting season."

"The people that steal them just dump them after they have no use for them anymore."

Commissioner Jean Powell, a lawyer, pointed out to Daniels that a fine for a rabies tag had nothing to do with removal of electronic collars from hunting dogs. She said they were separate issues that needed to be discussed. At the request of the board, Powell said she would review the state statutes to see if the county's ordinance would comply with fines or penalties on the state level.

Most favor change A packed commissioners room of dog owners last week voiced opposition to the commissioners' plans to improve the current animal ordinance. Rockfish resident Renate Dahlin said she was also in favor of it.

"I have no problems with it," Dahlin said. "Collars (regular) and tags have disappeared on my dogs. The collars get hung up in the woods."

"I just go back to the vet and ask him to give me a duplicate tag if the first one gets lost. Bite cases"

Commissioner Bill Cameron, whose daughter Candace is co-owner of the Five Points Pet Resort, said he has been told of pit bulls attacking some people in the eastern part of the county.

"I think every dog should also have the name of the owner on its collar so people will know who actually owns the dog," Cameron said. "We need more than just a tag number."

Habitat's third home underway

More volunteers are needed for project on Balfour Road

Habitat for Humanity has been working again for the last couple of months at Hoke County's new family home site on Balfour Road.

The Ricky and Monica Locklear family is working with Habitat to bring their dream of a home of their own to reality. Their new home will be an older home donated to Habitat that is being renovated.

So far, according to the Rev. Ian Rankin, volunteer coordinator, workdays have been well attended by volunteers but more help is needed from the community.

"Even if you have no building or construction experience, please come and help to fulfill the mandate of Habitat — to provide quality low cost housing," says the Rev. Rankin.

May 21 and 28 and June 11, 18 and 25 have been set aside as workdays.

The Rev. Rankin may be reached at 843-4398 for more information regarding volunteering.

The house will not be free for the Locklears, who have two children, a son and a daughter. They will invest "sweat equity" work on their own home and will be paying a mortgage.

Habitat is also preparing to host the third annual fried chicken plate sale Thursday, May 26 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale will take place outside the Hoke County Courthouse. Tickets are \$7 and available from the offices of Wilcox, McFadyen, Fields and Sutherland, and from Daphne Dudley in the county offices on Main Street.



The Ricky and Monica Locklear family outside the house that is being renovated to be their new home.



Habitat for Humanity's groundbreaking for the third house in the Raeford area was held on Balfour Road in March.

'Brighter Day' continues until May 27

Hoke County has been federally declared eligible for recovery funds for the 2004 hurricane season. This means any property loss that occurred during Hurricanes Frances and Ivan are possibly eligible for reimbursement. If you have any questions about any of the programs, contact Hoke County Emergency Management at 910-875-4126. You are urged to take full advantage of this opportunity for reimbursement of the expenses you incurred from the hurricanes. If you have questions about the application process, the Hoke County Recovery

Application Center (RAC) is open to provide one-stop application service. The RAC are taking applications by appointment only. Hoke County's RAC is located at the N.C. Cooperative Extension — Hoke County Center located at 116 W. Prospect Ave. in Raeford. Appointments are every Wednesday and Thursday through May 27 from 5-8pm. The remaining dates are: May 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, and 26. Call 910-875-3461 if you have any application questions and to schedule your appointment.

To expedite your application process, have the following items with you at your appointment: mortgage lender name, address, phone number, monthly payment, and remaining balance on your loan. Also, have the full names and social security numbers of all the people living at the resident being claimed.

Additional program information is available online at OperationBrighterDay.org.

Turkey Talk

Enter turkey cooking contest

The North Carolina Turkey Festival and the North Carolina Poultry Federation are once again sponsoring the North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest as part of the 21st annual NCTF.

Five finalists will be competing for the top award-winning recipe of \$1,000 with the total prize money at \$2,400.

Here's how you enter. Recipes should be typed or handwritten on 8 1/2 X 11 inch paper; include name, address, and phone number on front of each recipe you enter. Send a recipe using at least one pound of turkey meat. Recipe may be marinated, baked, broiled, barbecued, grilled, stir-fried, etc.; it should serve 4 or more people.

The entrant must be a resident of North Carolina and living in the state at the time of the cook-off, which will be held in the grounds of the Hoke County Public Library on September 17.

For more information on the NC Turkey Cooking Contest or the NCTF, contact William Daniels at (910) 904-2424 or NCTF@aol.com. See you in September and remember, think turkey!

The News-Journal

The News-Journal is sold at these locations:

Bolton's	Central Ave.	McNeill's Grocery	Antioch
Barbee Pharmacy	Harris Ave.	McPhatter's Grocery	401 Bus/Vass Rd.
Bo's	S. Main St.	Miller's Cash & Carry	Dunbar Rd.
CVS Pharmacy	401 Bypass	O & J Conv. Mart	Old Maxton Rd.
Carthens Grocery	Centre Grove Church Rd.	Papa's Pizza	Harris Ave.
Community Grocery	Five Points	Parks Grocery	McCain
Daniels' Exxon	E. Central Ave.	Poco	N. Main St.
Daniels' Quick Stop	Bus. 401 North	R&R Grocery	Hwy. 211 East
David's #5	Hwy 20 & Central	Robbins Hgts Grocery	E. 7th Ave.
Edinborough Restaurant	S. Main St.	Sandy's	Rockfish Rd. at King Rd.
Fast Shop	W. Prospect Ave.	Short Stop #14	401 & Palmer
Food Stop	W. Prospect Ave.	Short Stop #23	Rockfish Rd. & 401
401 Express Stop	E. Central & 401 N.	Short Stop #54	Hwy. 401 Bypass
401 Shop & Save #1	Harris and 401	Short Stop #64	Hwy. 211 West
401 Shop & Save #2	E. Central Ave.	Short Stop #68	N. Fulton St.
Hardin's	Rockfish Rd., Rockfish	The News-Journal	119 W. Elwood
Home Food Supermarket	Main St.	Tri-Star	Fayetteville Rd.
Howell Drug	Teal Dr.	Wagon Wheel Restaurant	509 Harris
J&L Clover	Scurlock School Rd.	Warm Fuzzie Cafe	106 E. Central Ave.
Lucky Stop	401 and Palmer	Zip N Mart	401 N.
MP Mart	Hwy. 211 South	Zip N Mart #2	Arabia

Subscription Form

New subscription
 Renewal
 Newcomer (3 free months)
 Gift (We'll notify recipient)

Clip, mail with payment to:
 The News-Journal
 P.O. Box 550
 Raeford, N.C. 28376
 (910)875-2121 for more information

Rates (including N.C. tax)
In Hoke:
 One year \$20
 Senior Citizen \$18
Outside Hoke:
 One year \$30
Outside N.C.:
 One year \$30

Subscriber information:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Your name, address (if different from above)
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Pamela Clark Scott
 Happy Birthday
 Love, Your Mother & the "Whole" Family

Lordy, Lordy She is 40

Daddy's Girl "OOPS"

Great Coverage Starts with Blue

Blue ADVANTAGE
 Affordable, Quality Health Insurance

If you don't have access to health coverage through an employer, or if you just need health coverage for family members, Blue Advantage is the program that gives you flexibility, convenience and options to fit your budget and your lifestyle.

Plan A:
 • \$15 doctor visits
 • \$10 generic prescriptions
 • No lifetime maximum on benefits

Plan B:
 • \$25 doctor visits
 • \$10 generic prescriptions
 • \$5 million maximum in lifetime benefits

Hoke County Farm Bureau
 520 Harris Avenue
 Raeford, NC 875-4091
 an Authorized Agency for

BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

DOT seeks input on roads

Hearing is May 20 at Raeford Civic Center

The state Dept. of Transportation is seeking public comment on the 2006-2012 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the department's seven-year blueprint for transportation projects across the state.

A public meeting will be held at Raeford Civic Center, 200 South College Drive on Friday, May 20 at 2-4 p.m. Registration to speak will begin one hour prior to the meeting.

The meeting is an opportunity for citizens to talk with department staff about the Draft STIP and the transportation projects it details for their area. It will also give citizens a chance

to provide input for the 2007-2013 Draft STIP, which will be released late this fall. Citizens may also submit feedback via mail and email.

The final 2006-2012 STIP will be presented to the Board of Transportation for approval at their monthly meeting on July 7, 2005, following the completion of the public comment period.

The Draft STIP is available online at www.ncdot.org/~tip. Email comments may be submitted from this site. Also, you may mail comments to: NCDOT TIP Development Unit, 1534 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1534.

Something's Growning On At
The Plantry Greenhouses
 Drop By To Visit Spring Beauty No Matter What The Weather

Bedding Plants
Geraniums
Herbs
Boston Ferns
Perennials

4900 Arabia Road (behind Arabia Golf Course)
 1 block from the Zip-N-Mart
 Monday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm • 875-8629