

Outbreak nears NC

A rabies epidemic which began in 1965 in southern Georgia is creeping gradually toward North Carolina and is expected to reach this state within the next two to four years, according to Dr. John Freeman, head of the veterinary public health section of the Department of Human Resources' Division of Health Services.

Freeman urges all North Carolinians to have their dogs and cats immunized against rabies.

The epidemic, which is predominant among the raccoon population, hit South Carolina in 1977 with 17 identified cases involving four counties.

By 1978 there were 10 counties involved and 85 identified cases. By the end of this year, health officials expect to see over 100 cases.

Freeman pointed out that there are no natural barriers to prevent the spread of the fatal disease into North Carolina.

There has not been a case of rabies in dogs reported in this state in ten years. The disease can be controlled by animal immunization, Freeman said. Part of the reason for the reduction of rabies in dogs is North Carolina's law requiring dog owners to have their pets immunized. The vaccination is also recommended for cats, Freeman said, although the law does not require it.

Graduates

The following Hertford students are among degree candidates for the 1979 spring graduation at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Carolyn Shelton Covert, B.S. in Pharmacy, Rt. 1, Box 700; Eva Ruth Ward, B.S. in Zoology, 211 N. Church St.; and Roger Lewis White, B.S. in Pharmacy, P.O. Box 365.

Betty Jo Nowell of Greenville, N.C. has graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, Magna cum Laude. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nowell of Belvidere, N.C.

Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. has announced that James Randolph Phillips of Hertford has graduated with a bachelor's degree.

Cats are also susceptible to rabies as are all meat-eating animals and bats.

Rabies is a disease which affects the central nervous system of animals, Freeman said, and as such can produce a variety of symptoms in animals. The most common symptom is a sudden change in the attitude or behavior pattern of the animal.

"When a normally friendly or a normally friendly dog becomes mean or when an animal does something which is totally out of character, the owner needs to consider the possibility of a central nervous system disorder including rabies," Freeman said.

"It takes two doses of rabies vaccine to immunize a dog and these doses must be given one year apart. After that, the dog needs booster shots once every three years.

"All cats need to be vaccinated every year," he said.

Freeman said that all animal bites to humans should be of concern because no vaccine is 100 percent effective.

Patrol to increase

During Memorial Day weekend, the North Carolina Highway Patrol will join a nationwide effort to reduce accidents on interstate highways. Called "Operation CARE," Combined Accident Reduction Effort, the program will include strict enforcement of the national 55 mph speed limit and high visibility of troopers.

According to State Patrol Commander John T. Jenkins, troopers will heavily patrol interstate highways during the holiday weekend, which begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 25, and ends at midnight on Monday, May 28.

"In addition to being highly visible," Jenkins said, "troopers will take enforcement action against motorists who fail to voluntarily comply with the speed limit and other motor vehicle laws."

Twenty-three persons died on North Carolina's highways during Memorial Day weekend in 1978, according to Jenkins.



CEDAR CHESTS FOR GRADUATES — "Dill" Dillon stands in front of the Morgan Furniture Co. window display of cedar chests that will be presented to young ladies graduating from Perquimans County High School. Dillon says the chests have been presented as graduation gifts for over 40 years. The chests may be picked up at the store following graduation.

Elderhostels set for summer

Elderhostel, a program for persons over 60, will offer non-credit college level courses and other activities at nine campuses in North Carolina this summer. The hostels include: Appalachian State University, Mars Hill College, UNC-Asheville, UNC-Chapel

Hill, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Wilmington, Western Carolina University and Winston-Salem State University.

There are no exams, no grades, and no required homework. Courses are for one week and hostellers may choose from at least three courses each week. In addition, the campuses offer recreational activities such as swimming, golf, tennis, nature walks, and tours to interesting places near campus. Social and cultural events will include performances by artists in drama, music, and dance. There will also be cookouts, wine and cheese parties and other social activities.

Registration is limited to 35-40 persons per week at each campus. Hostellers will live in the dormitories and most meals will be in the college dining halls.

Additional information may be obtained by writing to: Bob Wagoner, 204 Abernethy Hall 002A, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

Feed lab no. 1

North Carolina's feed laboratory has been rated number one in the United States. The lab operates under the Food and Drug Protection Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture. It has ranked in the top five for the past three months.

Commenting on the achievement, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham said, "I am very proud of Dr. William Y. Cobb, division director, and his staff for their efforts in making our feed laboratory the best in the country. This should give our farmers, feed dealers and consumers a high degree of confidence in the job we are doing."

State and participating private industry feed lab rankings are determined through a check sample service conducted by the American Association of Feed Control Officials. One hundred-thirty labs across the nation are evaluated each month.

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State seeks nominees

North Carolina citizens are being asked to submit nominations for recipients of the 16th N.C. Awards, to be presented by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. this fall.

The annual awards are presented in four categories — the arts, literature, science and public service — and are considered the highest awards given by the state.

Nominations will be considered by a five-member citizens' committee, which will recommend recipients to the Governor and to Sara W. Hodgkins, secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Nominations should be sent to Dr. Lawrence Wheeler, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

The deadline for nomination is June 1.

Older citizens warned

It has been brought to the attention of the North Carolina Senior Citizens Association that certain individuals may be falsely representing themselves as representatives of the association and National Savings and Life Insurance Co. in marketing a Medicare Supplement Insurance program endorsed by the association. In some instances, older persons have been defrauded of substantial amounts of money by these persons.

Recreation Happenings

By BILLY WOOTEN



The ages on girls' softball were wrong in my article last week. The teams will be 10-13 and 14-16. The sign-ups will be next Wednesday, May 30. Call the Recreation Department if you need more information.

I have some more brochures on the Hawaii trip. Those of you who came

for the information while we were out can stop back by. Anyone who is interested in the trip should contact me as soon as possible.

Men's softball is being played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights at the Union field. Games begin at 7. Make your plans to take in the action.

Autos kill animals

It is estimated that autos kill millions of wild animals on U.S. roads each year.

Much of the damage occurs during the spring and summer, when rural roads are jammed with holiday-bound motorists.

If you are about to go on vacation, the National Wildlife Federation urges you to observe these humanitarian rules:

Remember to look out for animals, both wild and domestic, along the highways. By driving alertly, especially at night, you can help spare the lives of creatures who normally panic when confronted with a speeding auto.

Dr. Fred R. Scroggin, president of the NWF, issued the appeal. "We can't assume that wildlife will act rationally when they see your car," he said. "The driver must be rational. You may have to stop completely to avoid a collision that could kill you as well as that roadside animal."

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FIESTA TIME — Learning about other life styles is fun, as these students discovered recently during International Week at Central School. Marcus Hinton, Melissa Ward, Windy Colson, Brad Hurdle, and Donna Winslow, in bright Latin costumes, almost upstage their instructors, Shelton Davis, Mary Foskey, and Janie Foster.



PERQUIMANS UNION SCHOOL — Students join in International Week Festivities with their own colorful costumes.

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