



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-
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September 1, 2010

Confirmed Distemper Case in Hoke County

Raeford – Scurlock School Road Area

On the above listed date the Hoke County Animal Control Department received written notification from Dr. Kelli M. Wofford, VMD, of Raeford Animal Clinic that she had a confirmed case of Canine Distemper in the Raeford Area. The animal in question was brought in by the owner and tested for the Distemper Virus. The positive Distemper PCR results were received on 8/31/2010. The patient (dog) is being treated at the home of the owner through prescribed medications. The patient is being checked on regularly by Dr. Wofford or her staff.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the importance of vaccinating their animals. The virus is preventable with proper vaccinations. Distemper is a highly contagious disease of carnivores caused by a paramyxovirus. The virus is widespread and mortality in juveniles is higher than in adults. The canine distemper virus is very resistant to cold and the majority of distemper cases in domestic dogs are seen in fall and winter. Transmission can occur by airborne, direct contact, or possibly contact of a contaminated object. Dr. Wofford has advised that the Distemper Virus is not transferrable to humans.

Dog owners are urged to take the following steps to protect their dogs from this deadly disease:

- Make sure your dog or puppy is current on all vaccinations, including the vaccination for distemper.
- Keep your pet away from the feces of other dogs.
- Remove animal feces from your yard frequently.
- Keep food bowls and animal bedding clean.
- Do not take unvaccinated animals to public areas such as parks or pet stores

Dog owners should watch their dogs carefully for symptoms of distemper, which include diarrhea, loss of appetite and upper respiratory symptoms often associated with kennel cough, such as nasal/eye discharge. See veterinary care as soon as symptoms appear.