

Please remind everyone that all dogs and cats must be vaccinated for rabies. The law states, "Any owner of a dog, cat, or ferret shall have their animal vaccinated by four months of age and keep the animal currently vaccinated against rabies." This means that after the initial rabies vaccination, which is given before the pet is four months old, the animal will require a rabies booster slightly before or exactly a year later, which can last for three years if the owner chooses a three-year rabies vaccine to be used for the booster vaccination. Please be aware that when an animal receives its first vaccination against rabies, the animal is not considered currently vaccinated and protected against rabies exposure until 28 days after the initial vaccination. During that period, owners should keep their animals under close supervision at all times in order to prevent exposure to wildlife or other animals that could transmit rabies. Our pets and families will be safer with everyone abiding by this law, and we will be much less affected by exposure to wildlife or stray pets that do not have a current rabies vaccination. Pets exposed to rabies that are not currently vaccinated or are unvaccinated can require euthanasia or a six-month quarantine at the owner's expense. Your pet's exposure to wildlife or to stray animals that cannot be caught to determine if they are rabies free or vaccinated can be problematic. It can be dangerous for your pet if it is not currently vaccinated. The easy solution is for you to have your pet up to date on their rabies vaccine, because then with any exposure – confirmed, suspected or unknown - your pet is only required to get a booster vaccine within five days of exposure. In addition, it is recommended that your pet be observed and confined by you for 45 days to watch for any signs of rabies. A major reason for bringing up the topic of rabies vaccinations is to ensure that you understand that if you decide to adopt a stray or care for a stray, even if you are not planning to keep it long term, you are assuming the ownership of the animal and must be aware that you are required to have it vaccinated immediately to ensure safety for all. This responsibility extends to you with any dog, cat, or ferret living at your home whether it belongs to you, another family member, or a friend.

In the last three years, there have been a number of instances where dogs in Springdale have attacked and injured other dogs and people. Animal Control has been involved in many of these incidents. Ensuring that a pet never runs free is the first way to help prevent an animal from being a nuisance or dangerous. Dogs off their property, running free is against the law in Wake County, and Animal Control will be called. Animal Control giving an owner a fine for their pet running free is not as much a concern as when an animal is aggressive and attacks other animals and people. As pet owners, we would like to know when and where these incidents happen in Springdale so that we are warned and educated. There have been requests that the HOA/email service send out notices informing the neighborhood about aggressive dogs and incidents that required Animal Control to give the owners a citation. Apparently, these requests have been declined. Animal Control said that the names of individuals involved in citations cannot be released by them, but the address of the aggressive pet and minimal facts about the citation can be shared. Quite honestly when notifying the neighborhood and parents about children's misbehavior, the HOA email often gives many facts – including nearly complete descriptions! They always give notice of robberies and break-ins, including the make of the car, and the exact address and location on the property where the car or house was entered. We appreciate the concern and information about these events, which is very helpful, but we deserve to know when similar incidents happen with aggressive animals so that we can be aware to better protect

our family and pets. We may choose to walk on a different street or be more cautious in a certain area while walking with our dogs and children. We know that everyone loves their pets, but as with children doing misdeeds, pets and their owners should be accountable and understand why it is good for everyone to be educated about their pet's past behavior. Individuals are not judged; it is for notification only. Quite frankly, a notice could be what prevents a tragic incident! **Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that the HOA email be used to notify the neighborhood of incidents, in the very least, of aggression by animals that get a citation from Animal Control.** Thank you for your time and consideration.