

The two paragraphs that define **adequate shelter and adequate space** are succinct, clear and understandable and are currently in force in Guilford County

## **GUILFORD COUNTY**

### • **Chapter 5 – ANIMALS** (please note items in **red**)

**Editor's note**— An ordinance adopted November 21, 2013, amended chapter 5 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former chapter 5, §§ 5-1—5-28, 5-30—5-38, 5-43, pertained to similar subject matter. See Code Comparative Table for complete derivation.

**Cross reference**— Motor vehicles and traffic, ch. 12; parks and recreation, ch. 13; animals running at large in parks, § 13-6; catching, killing, etc., animals in parks, § 13-7.

**State Law reference**— Livestock, G.S. 68-15 et seq.; animal diseases, G.S. 106-304 et seq.; authority of county to define and prohibit the abuse of animals, G.S. 153A-127; authority of county to levy taxes to support animal protection and control programs, G.S. 153A-149(c)(6); annual license tax on keeping dogs and other pets throughout county, G.S. 153A-153.

### • **ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL**

#### • **Sec. 5-1. - Definitions.**

In the construction of this article, the following definitions shall be observed:

**Adequate exercise or exercise:** The opportunity for the animal to move sufficiently to maintain normal muscle tone and mass for the age, species, size, and condition of the animal.

**Adequate shelter:** Provision of and access to shelter that is suitable for the species, age, condition, size and type of each animal; provides adequate space for each animal; is safe and protects each animal from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, direct sunlight, and the adverse effects of heat or cold, physical suffering, and impairment of health; is properly cleaned; enables each animal to be clean and dry, except when detrimental to the species; and for dogs and cats, provides a solid surface, resting platform, pad, floormat or similar devices that is large enough for the animal to lie on in a normal manner and can be maintained in a sanitary manner. Under this chapter, shelter whose wire grid, or slat floors which (i) permit the animals' feet to pass through the openings, (ii) sag under the animal's weight, or (iii) otherwise do not protect the animals' feet or toes from injury are not adequate shelter.

**Adequate space:** Sufficient space to allow each animal to (i) easily stand, sit, lie, turn about, and make all other normal body movements in a comfortable, normal position for the animal and (ii) interact safely with other animals in the enclosure. Birds must be provided with adequate perches appropriate to the species which allow the bird to stand completely upright without having any head contact with the ceiling of the cage and any tail contact with the floor or grate of the cage. Cages must be sufficient size to allow the bird to fully extend its wings. When freedom of movement would endanger the animal, temporarily and appropriately restricting movement of the animal according to professionally accepted standards for the species is considered provision of adequate space.

**Ambient temperature:** The temperature surrounding the animal.

**Animal:** Every living creature, domestic or nondomestic, but does not include humans and does not include invertebrates.

**Animal control:** The animal control component of the agency which includes the animal control function for the jurisdiction, however denominated.

**Animal control officers:** Any animal control officer employed by the jurisdiction.



This is Page one of their 13-page document. The following pages discuss topics such as dangerous animals, exotic animals, temporary exhibitors, animals running at large, etc. No other place in their document discusses shelter except here on Page one, and this is a short, excellently written definition of appropriate shelter.

## Davidson County Animal Control Ordinance

### Section 1      Definitions

#### Abuse

- (1) Failing to provide an animal with adequate food and drinkable water at suitable intervals sufficient to maintain the animal's health and well-being;
- (2) Overworking or overdriving any animal causing physical pain, suffering, or death to the animal;
- (3) Cruelly beating, torturing, molesting, harassing, injuring, tormenting, poisoning, baiting, or mutilating any animal causing physical pain, suffering, or death to the animal;
- (4) Failing to provide adequate medical attention for any sick, diseased, or injured animal in order to prevent physical pain, suffering, or death to the animal;
- (5) Keeping or conveying any animal under conditions which cause physical pain, suffering, disability or death to the animal or which increase the probability of the transmission of disease;
- (6) Failing to provide an adequate shelter for an animal wherein the animal can be protected from extremes of weather (heat, cold, rain, sun, etc.) physical suffering, and impairment of health, and which is large enough to allow the animal to make normal body movements.
- (7) For animals which are kept outside, under weather conditions which adversely affect the animal's health, failing to provide a shelter for the animal which is surrounded on three (3) sides, covered by a roof, and has a floor (excluding barns), and which is structurally sound, maintained in good repair, and constructed in such a manner that it is water and wind resistant.

**Animal Control Officer**      Shall mean an employee of Davidson County or a municipality within Davidson County whose responsibility includes animal control and the enforcement of animal control laws, rules and regulations, including the Rabies Control Rules.

**Animal Shelter**      Any premises designated by the county for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals found running at large or otherwise subject to impounding in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance or Rules For The Control of Rabies within Davidson County.

**At Large**      Any animal shall be deemed to be at large when it is off the property of its owner and not under restraint or control of a competent person.

**Attack**      An approach to a person by an unrestrained animal in vicious, terrorizing or threatening manner or apparent attitude of attack, without the



Email: [projectbarknc@gmail.com](mailto:projectbarknc@gmail.com)

Hello. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. We thank you sincerely City Council members for your leadership and service for High Point. My name is Libby Scandale and I live at 4907 Kingswood Dr. in Greensboro. Though I live in Greensboro, I have very strong connections with High Point. I taught 28 years at Ragsdale High School and many of my students lived here, and I am still in contact with them and their families. I am currently an instructor at High Point University and have been since 2007. In 2010, seven years ago, we started a county organization called Project BARK which has reached hundreds of High Point residents. I truly have a sincere and loving interest in High Point!

For the past seven years, we have gone into under-served High Point neighborhoods placing free doghouses (more than 1,200 county-wide now) and explaining our spay/neuter program which has funded over 5,000 spay/neuter procedures and which is virtually cost-free for eligible pet owners. You will see those details in the packets you're receiving.

Less than two weeks ago we discovered that the City of High Point does not have a specific written ordinance requiring that shelter be provided for outdoor dogs. This was very surprising, since we know that High Point residents are animal lovers. So it's safe to believe that they would be very disturbed picturing companion animals shivering in icy sleet or rain, and Animal Control Officers having no authority to request the owners to provide shelter because there is no local ordinance.

In our time over the past several years, we have seen some situations which are not safe or humane. One very recent example happened three weeks ago. We saw large dogs being confined at least all day in tight airline type crates which were so small that the dogs could not stand up or turn around, and due to the open slits in the crates, did not protect the animals from the elements. We have also witnessed animals left outdoors for days in tiny wire cages with no tarp or draping of any kind. We all know: no one could consider this to be an acceptable situation.

We have a very good working relationship with High Point Animal Control. For a number of years, they have referred families to us where our organization





January 31, 2018

1903 San Fernando Dr  
High Point, NC 27265

City Council Members:

I'm a volunteer for and a strong advocate for animal welfare. In the course of my/our efforts to improve the lives of pets in High Point neighborhoods, we have discovered the antiquated, non-existent, laughable laws/regulations/ordnances that exist in this city.

We have seen appalling conditions, horrendous neglect, minimal, negligible care given these animals, poor if any protection from the elements yet virtually nothing is done by city government. Many of these animals lack even food and water and are chained outside with minimal human contact. I get the impression that the attitude from the city is a distinct "don't care, can't be bothered" attitude. Animal control officers can do virtually nothing about these conditions but merely check for tags. Whoopee!!

High Point advertises itself as an "international" city yet from an animal welfare standpoint we are third world, 16th century. We need to change that and emerge from the dark ages. The county has recently passed some ordnances that move us in the proper direction but I understand that cities in the county need not comply with this modernization but need to pass their own regulations/laws/ordnances. Obviously High Point does not feel the need to modernize.

The time is now to at least mandate that pet owners give their pets even shelter from the elements as a start. Many of the animals we have observed (and reported to animal control) would, frankly, be better off euthanized than living in their present conditions. It is horrifying, even embarrassing to conceive that these conditions exist in a modern (?) "international"(?) city.

I urge action on this matter. To paraphrase America's idol in Washington, let's make High Point great again.

Sincerely,

Jack M. Red  
336-847-1273

**GUILFORD COUNTY – PROJECT BARK**  
Spay-neuter financial assistance program

***THE 10/15 FIX***

**SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET FOR AS LOW AS \$ 10.00**

Do you qualify?

You do if you are presently receiving food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, Section 8 housing or Social Security disability benefits.

Or if your income falls below the Federal Income Guidelines.  
(a copy of the first page of your latest federal income tax return is required).

**\$ 10.00 for small dogs and cats**

**\$ 15.00 for large dogs**

For \$ 10.00 you can have that Jack Russell fixed and that's not all, it also includes a rabies shot which is required by NC state law.

If you qualify you will receive a voucher for use at one of the these clinics in Guilford County; the Humane Society of the Triad (Planned Pethood) or Sheets Pet Clinic . The vouchers are good for 30 days and it will be your responsibility to make and keep your appointment.

If you would like more information you can talk to one of our volunteers by calling our hotline at **336-965-1059**,  
Monday – Friday from 9:00 -5:00.



**FREE SPAY/NEUTER**

**Effective January 1st we are  
offering free spay/neuter surgeries  
for all  
cats, pit bulls and pit bull mixes.**

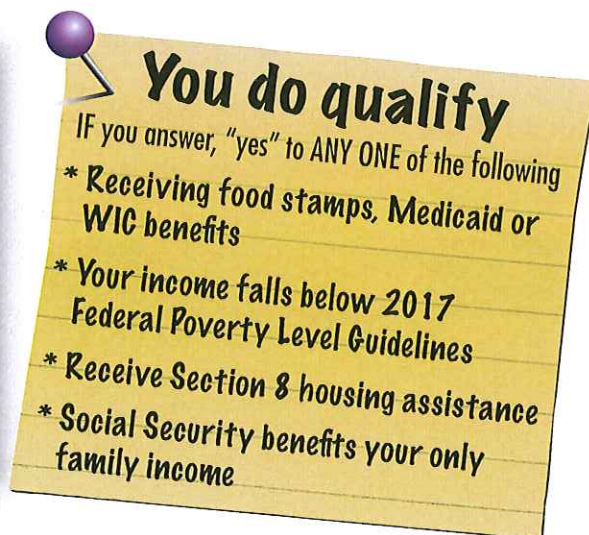
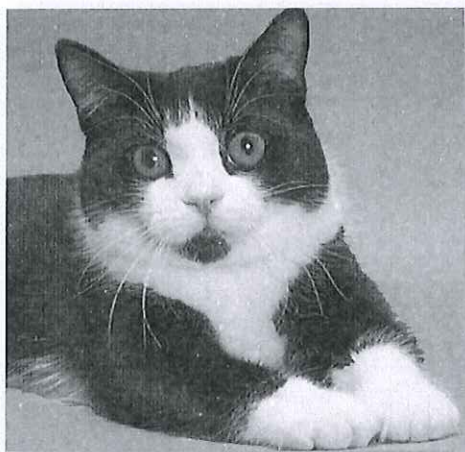
**FREE!!!**

**FREE!!!**

# CATS, PIT BULLS & PIT MIXES **FREE Spay/Neuter**

**QUALIFYING Guilford County Residents ONLY**

**There is an over population of dogs & cats surrendered to the Guilford County Animal Shelter EVERY DAY, MANY ARE EUTHANIZED!**



They lose their lives, not because they are vicious, sick etc. even though some are. The majority are being euthanized because the GCAS cannot find homes for them.

**Come on folks, if you want to have a pet & are not interested in producing offspring then get that pet fixed, it's as simple as that.**

*If You Feed Them, Fix Them!*

**Project BARK** is a non-profit organization that administers the Guilford County Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program. Never heard of it, well now you have. Since 2011 **Project BARK** ([www.projectbark.org](http://www.projectbark.org)) has provided funding for over 5800 spay/neuter surgeries. No more excuses, call us!

**If you would like more information you can talk to one of our volunteers by calling our spay/neuter hotline**

**at 336-965-1059**

**Monday – Friday from 9:00 – 5:00.**

**FREE!!!**

**FREE!!!**

# 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet

## **Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.**

Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before their first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.

## **Neutering provides major health benefits for your male pet.**

Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.

## **Your spayed female won't go into heat.**

While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four or five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise to mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently – sometimes all over the house.

## **Your male dog won't want to roam away from home.**

An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate. That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house or yard. And once he is free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

## **Your neutered male will be much more behaved.**

Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong smelling urine all over the house. Many aggressive problems can be avoided by early neutering.

## **Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat.**

Don't use that old excuse. Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds – not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

## **It is highly cost effective.**

The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for an unwanted litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when you unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray.

## **Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.**

Stray animals pose a real problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals in the streets.

## **Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth.**

Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children, especially when so many unwanted pets end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children the miracle of birth.

## **Spaying and neutering helps fight overpopulation.**

Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying and neutering.

**For more information about low cost spay/neutering in this area, please contact Project B.A.R.K. at 336-965-1059 or visit [www.projectbark.org](http://www.projectbark.org).**