



Welcome to the new Wake County Animal Center Community Newsletter: Wags and Brags! This seasonal newsletter will feature adoption information, responsible pet ownership tips, updates from the center and much more. Thanks for reading!

Upcoming Events

Adoption Events

- May 6 - Petco Crossroads, Cary (1 to 4 p.m.)

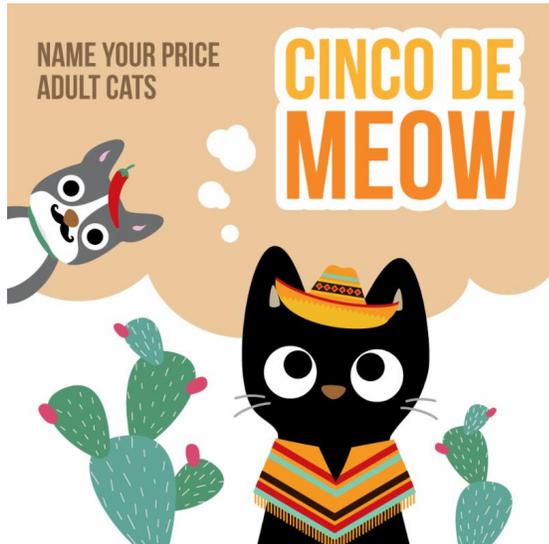
Rabies and Microchip Clinics

- May 20 - Ashley Wilder Dog Park, Knightdale (9 a.m. to Noon)

View our [Events page](#) for more info!

Adoption Specials

If you are waiting for the purr-fect time to adopt a cat, wait no longer! Name your price and adopt an adult cat during our Cinco De Meow special from May 1 - 7, and our National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month special on Wednesdays in June. View all pets available for adoption on our [adoption gallery](#).



Can't adopt but want to help? We need kitten fosters!



Fostering kittens means saving lives. Bringing a kitten from a tiny helpless baby to a healthy adolescent that is now ready for a home of its own can be rewarding. But fostering kittens is harder than fostering any other type of animal in the shelter system.

From the outside, it may look easy to take home cute fluffy kittens and help them grow until they reach adoptability. However, kittens are our most fragile charges and failure to thrive strikes them very easily, sometimes leaving foster parents wondering what they could or should have done to prevent their deaths. Ultimately, it isn't anything they did or didn't do. Kittens are subject to fail due to their increased susceptibility to parasites, stress and/or other illnesses. Because the vast majority of these kittens are born to feral or stray moms who have limited to no vaccine history and live in questionable conditions, they can potentially be exposed to many factors prior to entering the shelter system that may put them at higher risk for failure.

Fostering kittens is the hardest job you will ever love. Therefore, staff are upfront with potential foster parents about what goes into fostering. We have a great support system of staff and other fosters within our program who are there to mentor and guide you along the way. If this sounds like a family you would like to join, apply today by filling out the [online application](#)! If approved, you will be contacted by the foster coordinator about orientation to learn the ins and outs of kitten fostering and determine if it is the best fit for you. You will be entered into our system and set up with supplies and given specific information. You will then be able to pick out a new foster pet or pets.

Learn more about fostering kittens and other animals on our [website](#).

Donations Needed for Kitten Season

Another great way to help out during kitten season is to donate items to the animal center. The center has an [Amazon Wish List](#) of needed items. If you don't use Amazon but would like to donate, below is a list of needed items. On behalf of the staff and animals at the center, thank you for your generosity!

Kitten milk replacer
Snuggle Safe Pet Bed Microwave Heating Pad
Pet-Ag Nursing Kit (or other brand) 2oz bottle
Puppy training pee pee pads
Kitchen scale (up to 5lbs)
Child's vaporizer or humidifier

Small/shallow litter pans
Litter scoops
Cat/kitten toys
Stage 1 baby foods (meat varieties that ONLY contain meat and water/broth)
Canned kitten food



Welcome to Pittie and Kittie present: Responsible pet ownership! In every issue of Wags and Brags, we'll feature important information for the health and well-being of your pet. This month, we bring you:

Water Safety Tips for Dogs

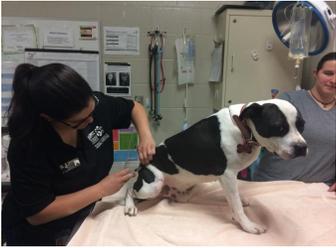
Memorial Day is upon us. Whether you are going to the beach or pool, follow the tips below to keep

your dog safe around water:

- Dogs are not natural swimmers! Some short-nosed breeds are not built to swim. Give all dogs, even water-loving Labradors, time to get acclimated to the water.
- Never throw your dog into a body of water! They can panic and drown if they are not able to swim.
- Never leave dogs unattended and make sure that there is a fence around your swimming pool to keep dogs from accidentally falling in.

- If you take your dog swimming, monitor their level of exhaustion. An exhausted dog is more susceptible to drowning. Make sure to get your dog out of the water to rest.
- Drinking pool, ocean or lake water can be bad for your dog due to chlorine, salt and parasites. Always have fresh, clean water available.
- After swimming, make sure to rinse off your dog to remove any chlorine or salt water from their coat, which can dry out their skin. Dry your dog's ears inside and out to prevent infection.
- Finally, consider investing in a life vest for your dog. This will help keep them afloat and make them easier to spot in the water. Vests also have a handle to use when getting your dog out of the water.

Rabies Vaccination



Rabies is a preventable, viral disease that can infect both animals and humans. The virus causes acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and is transmitted through contact with an infected animal, usually through a bite or scratch. If an exposed person or animal is not treated quickly, the virus is fatal.

Rabies is common in wildlife in North Carolina, especially in raccoons and foxes. Rabies vaccination is the best way to keep your pet safe in the event they come in contact with rabid wildlife. It is also the law that every dog, cat and ferret four months of age and older be vaccinated against rabies.

To find out more about rabies and to view our list of rabies clinics, visit our [website](#).

Renovated Dog Park Open at WCAC

Late last year, the dogs at the WCAC were treated to a renovated dog park thanks to a Wake County Capital Improvement Project.

The park enriches the lives of the dogs at the animal center by giving them a place to socialize and get exercise. It also allows WCAC staff to learn more about the dogs' personalities and see how they interact with other dogs. This helps staff to better match dogs with potential adopters.

Check out this video to learn more!



Animal Control Appreciation Profile - Erin Reynolds

Few people pursue their childhood dream when they reach adulthood. For Erin Reynolds, her love of animals, a desire to help those in need and a class visit in elementary school all led her to a career as a [Wake County Animal Control](#) Officer.

As a child who grew up loving animals from the time she could walk, Reynolds was first introduced to the field of animal control in second grade at Holly Springs Elementary School, thanks to a class visit from former Holly Springs ACO Eddie Holland.

"ACO Holland came to our class and talked to us about being safe around animals as a kid," said Reynolds. "He told us about his job and I was really interested. It just stuck since then."

At age 26, Reynolds is the second-youngest ACO with Wake County. Her first job at age 15 was as a kennel and veterinary assistant at a local animal hospital. After working at a local clinic and private practice, Reynolds came to the Wake County Animal Center in November 2013 to work in receiving. She processed incoming animals, cared for older and sick dogs and cats, dispensed medication and assisted with behavior assessments and shelter rounds. She also started the "All-Star Team," featuring dogs available for adoption at the shelter. In May 2016 Reynolds was hired as an ACO.

"We are happy and fortunate to have ACO Reynolds on our team," said Wake County Animal Center Director Dr. Jennifer Federico. "Not only is she great at handling the animals and interacting with residents and law enforcement, she can accurately assess illnesses while in the field and relay that information to the vet team, which helps us ensure



Former ACO Eddie Holland, left, with ACO Erin Reynolds.

animals gets the care they need as soon as possible."

No job is without its tough times. Knowing that she is making a positive impact, however, outweighs the negatives. Her most memorable case so far was when she played a key role in a cruelty case, resulting in a dog getting the care and loving home it needed.

"In this job, I get to help animals that would be suffering if it wasn't for me. I can help get justice for them when no one else is going to help," she said.

As a young woman and an ACO, Reynolds has also developed another skill: proving people wrong.



"Sometimes when I arrive on a call, grown men on scene say to me 'you look a little small to be handling large dogs.' But then I do what I am there to do and they are impressed," said Reynolds. "Yes, I am a small, young woman, but when you have a good grasp on how to handle animals, and know how to use the right tools, anything is possible."

Reynolds has lived in Wake County most of her life. She owns a Chihuahua and a hound dog, as well as two cats and nine chickens. She also fosters dogs at her home and bottle feeds kittens at the shelter.

WCAC Provides Expertise Nationally through Shelter Medicine Certificate Program

The veterinary expertise of the Wake County Animal Center has been recognized nationally and is now helping others in the field learn how to manage crisis and disaster situations.

WCAC Chief Veterinarian Dr. Sandra Strong is one of several professionals leading a lecture as part of Vetfolio's Shelter Medicine Certificate Program, a veterinary continuing education series. Veterinarians who complete the series will receive a certificate in shelter medicine.



Dr. Sandra Strong

Dr. Strong is providing expertise in the area of disaster preparedness, with a focus on canine influenza.

"The experts at Vetfolio thought the topic would be relevant and a good fit for the certificate," said Dr. Strong. "I'm excited and honored, because I'm the only expert from an actual shelter or who is not associated with a company."

The course, "Infectious Disease Preparedness Plan: Example of Canine Influenza in a Municipal Animal Shelter," began this fall and will remain active for a year.

Although the Wake County Animal Center has not had a canine influenza outbreak, Dr. Strong did plan for it when there were cases in Asheville in 2015. Her lecture focuses on ways to alert citizens in the event of an emergency such as this, how to keep the virus out of a shelter and the importance of media relations.

To learn more about the course, visit the [Vetfolio website](#).



Mission Statement of the Wake County Animal Center: Determined to make a difference for the animals and citizens of Wake County through education, adoption, enforcement and community partnership.