

**\*\*NEW ORDINANCE AS OF 2016  
REGARDING STRAY ANIMALS\*\***

**Section 3-25. Handling of stray animals by the public:** *"It shall be unlawful for any person, without the consent of the owner or keeper, knowingly and intentionally to harbor, keep in possession by confinement or otherwise, any animal that does not belong to him/her. Any person in possession of a stray animal shall contact the Pender County Animal Control within 24 hours to arrange for impoundment. If the person possessing or harboring does not want the animal taken to the shelter, they must provide a clear photo and description of the animal, along with the location the animal is being held to the Pender County Animal Shelter within 24 hours. They are required to hold the animal for 7 consecutive days and must provide proof they have made reasonable attempts to locate the owner."*

**What does this mean?** This means anytime you find a stray animal you should immediately contact Pender County Animal Control to pick up the animal and bring it to the shelter! You have up to 24 hours to do so from the time you find the animal. This makes it *safer* for you since most of the time you have no idea of the animal's vaccination status or temperament; and it prevents you from having strangers or possibly false impersonators come to your home to claim the animal. *It removes that responsibility and liability* from you! This also makes it easier for the owner to find their pet and for Animal Control to better monitor habitual offenders!

**What if the owner isn't found?** In NC owners have 72 hours to come to the shelter to claim their animal or the animal becomes county property. At the end of 72 hours if the animal appears friendly and generally healthy, the shelter will place the animal up for adoption! IF the animal has serious health issues or aggression, the animal is euthanized for humane/safety reasons.

**What if I want to keep the animal?** There is no established timeline in NC that gives you ownership of a stray animal. The only way to have guaranteed ownership of a stray is to adopt it from the shelter at the end of the 72 hour hold. Notify the officer/shelter that you want first option to adopt!

**PENDER COUNTY ANIMAL  
CONTROL INFORMATION:**

***You must contact Animal Control  
for these services:***

- To have animals picked up
  - To report loose / wandering animals
  - To report neglect or abuse
  - To report bites
- 910-259-1349

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission:**

Anything pertaining to injured or nuisance wild animals must go through NC Wildlife:  
919-707-0010

**Cape Fear Raptor Center:**

To report an injured raptor  
(eagle, hawk, vulture, etc)  
910-602-6633

**ASPCA Poison Control**

888-426-4435

**View our animals online!**

<https://www.facebook.com> under

Pender County Animal Shelter—Pender Pets

Wilmington NC Craigslist Pet Section—search PCAS

Petfinder.com & Petharbor.com



**Pender County  
Animal Shelter**

## **Pender County Animal Control Ordinance Facts**

*What pet owners need to know!*

3280 New Savannah Rd

Burgaw, NC 28425

Tel: 910-259-1484

[animalshelter@pendercountync.gov](mailto:animalshelter@pendercountync.gov)

**Shelter Hours:**

**Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm**

**Saturday - Noon - 4pm**

**Sunday - 1pm - 4pm**

### Ordinances that affect you the most:

While it is important to know all of the ordinances related to owning pets in Pender County, here are some key ones that everyone needs to know!

**Section 3-6. At Large:** *"It shall be unlawful for any owner or keeper of a dog or cat to allow it to run at large in the county. Hunting dogs shall be exempt from the provisions of this section, while engaged in hunting, as long as they are under the supervision of the owner or keeper."*

**The definition of "at large" is as follows:** *"Any animal shall be deemed at large when it is off the property of its owner, off of leased property of its owner, off of property for which the owner has permission for the animal to be on, and is not under the restraint of the owner or his designee"*

**The definition of "restraint" is as follows:**

*Any animal is under restraint within the meaning of this chapter if it:*

- 1) *Is controlled by means of chain, leash, electronic device, or other tether*
- 2) *Is within or on a vehicle driven or under the control of the owner or his agent*
- 3) *Is locked within a secure enclosure and cannot exit without assistance*
- 4) *Is locked within the dwelling or outbuildings of the owner and cannot exit without assistance*
- 5) *Is under voice control*

**Violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of no less than \$50.00 and not more than \$500.00!**

**This means your animal needs to be on your property in a fence, in your home, on a chain/tether or under your direct supervision & voice control at all times!**



### Section 3-11. Vaccination of dogs, cats & other pets:

In this section the ordinance states: *"It shall be unlawful for an owner or keeper to fail to provide current vaccination against rabies (hydrophobia) for any dog or cat 4 months of age or older."*

This section also gives the health director or Board of Health the right to require the vaccination of other species of animals in the event of a threatened epidemic or to control an existing epidemic. Rabies vaccines will ONLY be recognized when administered by a licensed veterinarian or certified rabies vaccinator (CRV).

### Section 3-12. Vaccination tag & certificate:

All animals vaccinated for Rabies are required to have a tag assigned for that vaccination. Owners must be given a certificate with details regarding the animal vaccinated & the vaccine. County ordinance requires that dogs wear their CURRENT Rabies tag at ALL times. Cats and ferrets are exempt but the owner must produce a CURRENT tag upon request.

Part B of this section states: *"It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or keeper to fail to provide the dog with a collar or harness to which a current rabies tag issued under this section is securely attached."*

**Section 3-7. Identification tag:** *"It shall be unlawful for a dog owner to own a dog that is not fitted with an ID tag displaying the owner's name & phone number on the collar of the dog; the ID tag shall be worn at all times and shall serve as prima facie evidence of ownership of a dog."* **Violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of no less than \$50.00 and not more than \$500.00!**

**\*\*It is recommended that cats have identification as well. Microchips are the BEST form of identification for dogs & cats as they can NOT be altered or removed!\*\***



### Section 3-8. Unlawful removal or destruction of identification articles:

*"It shall be unlawful to remove or destroy any identifying articles including collars, tattoos, tags, microchips or any other article used to prove ownership of a dog."*

**Violation of this section shall be a class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of no less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).**

### Section 3-28 Prohibited—Inherently Dangerous Wild

**Animals:** *"It shall be unlawful for any owner or other person to possess or harbor an inherently dangerous wild animal as defined within this chapter within the county."* There are exemptions in this section in regards to zoos, circuses, fairs, or other temporary events.

### Inherently Dangerous Wild Animals are defined as:

*"The term applies to the following animals which are inherently dangerous to person or property and which include, but are not limited to: all felines, other than the domestic house cats (including, but not limited to lions, tigers and leopards), nonhuman primates, bears, wolves, reptiles that are venomous or weigh 25 pounds or more (excluding all turtles), and other non domesticated carnivores. Not included in this definition are: emus, llamas, ostriches, alpacas and pack animals (as defined in this chapter)."*

