

County Survey - Shelters and Regulations

COUNTY	COUNTY SHELTER	PRIVATE SHELTER	S/N REQ'D FOR ADOPTION	COUNTY WIDE LEASH LAW	LICENSE REQUIRED	DIFFERENTIAL LICENSING	BREEDING PERMITS OR RESTRICTIONS	TETHERING BAN OR LIMIT	LIMIT LAW	BREED SPECIFIC ORDINANCE	EXOTICS PROHIBITED OR PERMITTED
Alamance	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes-City of Burlington	No	No
Alexander	Yes		Yes - after	No - have nuisance law	No	No	No	No	No	No	Inherently Dangerous Mammals Ordinance including hybrids
Alleghany	No	Twin Oaks Vet	No	No	Privilege tax	No	No	No	No	No	No
Anson	Yes	Yes	No	No; leash law in Wadesboro	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ashe	Yes		Yes - after	No	Privilege Tax: Individual \$2 / Lifetime \$10	No	No	No	No	No	must have permission to own
Avery	No	Humane Society	Yes - before	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No
Beaufort	Yes		Yes - after	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No
Bertie	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Bladen	Yes		Yes - after	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Brunswick	Yes		Yes - after	Direct control and nuisance law	License required in City of Boiling Springs Lakes, Oak Island	No	No	No	No	No	Detailed Regulations
Buncombe	Yes	Humane Society	Yes - before	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes Mandatory S/N at 6 months of age or \$100 unaltered animal permit	Tethering in public right-of-way or public property included as nuisance; tethering in Ashville prohibited.	7 or more per lot included in nuisance law; permit req'd to exceed	No	Permit required
Burke	Yes	Yes	Yes-from Burke County Friends for Animals	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

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Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	5 dogs=kennel and zoning restrictions may apply	No	No	No	Inherently dangerous animals defined and prohibited
Caldwell	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Camden	County owns shelter; SPCA runs shelter		Yes	No	Yes. \$5 ea. tax up to 2 dogs and 4 cats; 3 or more dogs= kennel; 5 or more cats= kennel. Kennel tax \$20	No	No	No	No	No	No
Carteret	No	Humane Society	Yes - after	Yes	No - county-wide; dog license req'd in Town of Emerald Isle	No	No	No	No	No	Inherently dangerous animals defined and prohibited
Caswell	No	APS	No	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No
Catawba	Yes		Yes - after	No; have nuisance provisions. Leash law in Town of Conover, Town of Hickory.	No	No	No	Conditions specified; animal control can deem what time/type of tethering is harmful	No	No	Inherently dangerous animals defined and prohibited
Chatham	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Permit&Liability Insurance
Cherokee	No - served by Valley River Humane		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Chowan	Yes		Yes - after	No	Trying to get	No Answer	Trying to get	Unknown	Unknown	Edenton names specific breeds as potentially dangerous	No

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Clay	No - served by Valley River Humane		Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Cleveland	Yes		Yes - after	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Note: Cleveland County maintains public website database of rabies vaccinations with owner's name, address, dog breed and vet who administered vaccination.											
Columbus	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Craven	Yes		Yes - after	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Cumberland	Yes		S/N before adoption and microchip	Yes	Yes - Privilege license; Town of Hope Mills requires special zoning for kennels - see below.	\$7 altered \$25 unaltered	Restrictions in City of Fayetteville; permit required; kennel screening, kennel standards	Yes	Limit of 3 dogs in all zoned (corporate) areas of the county	No	Yes
Currituck	No	Yes	Issues S/N form to be returned	Yes-on dogs	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Dare	No	Yes	S/N before adoption	only in Colington Harbor and County Rec facilities	Yes	Yes \$5 altered \$15 unaltered	No	No	No	No	Pending
Davidson	Yes		S/N before adoption	Yes	No	No	No county-wide; Thomasville requires dog breeding permit	No	City of Lexington and City of Thomasville limit to 3 on residential lots	No	Must register and carry liability insurance
Davie	No	Humane Society opened no-kill shelter	No	Not county-wide; Town of Mocksville city limits	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Duplin	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

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Durham	Yes	Yes	S/N before	Yes - dogs only	Individual & Kennel licensing	Yes-altered \$10 / Intact \$75	No	Yes, including pen size regulations	No	No	Permit required; possession of inherently dangerous animals regulated
Edgecombe	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Forsyth	Yes	Yes	S/N before adoption	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Limit on number of breeding rabbits - see below	No	Yes
Franklin	Yes		Yes (not enforced)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Gaston	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Gates	Chowan County		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No [working on one]
Graham	No - served by Valley River Humane		Yes	No	No	No	No			No	No
Granville	Yes		No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Greene	Yes		No Answer	Yes	Town of Snow Hill must list dogs with tax office	No	No	Yes	Town of Snow Hill limit of 3 dogs or need kennel license	No	Yes
Guilford	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No county-wide; license required in High Point	No	Yes Litter permit (not enforced)	No	No	No	Wild Animals prohibited
Halifax	Yes	Yes	No Answer	No-may be local laws	No	No	No	Tethering ban in Roanoke Rapids	No	No	Yes
Harnett	Yes		No	No - use nuisance law	No - County-wide license; dog license req'd in City of Dunn	No	No	Yes- no more than 3 dogs may be tethered at any time	No	No	Inherently dangerous animals defined and prohibited

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Haywood	Yes	Yes	Yes	Direct Control Law	ID tags required	No	No	No	No	No	Inherently dangerous animals defined and prohibited
Henderson	Yes		Yes & Chip	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hertford	Yes		No	Yes (dogs)	No	No	No			No	No
Hoke		Hoke-Raeford HS	Yes	Leash law in City of Raeford	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No
Hyde	No Ordinances		No	No	No	No	No			No	No
Iredell	Yes		Yes	Dogs must be under direct control; Leash law in Statesville	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Jackson	Yes		Yes	Dogs must be leashed on County owned property; also use nuisance law	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Johnston	Yes		Required thru SNAP after adoption	Direct control law	Privilege Tax	No	No	Banned in own of Clayton	Town of Selma limits to 3 dogs or cats	No	Inherently Dangerous Mammals Ordinance
Jones	No	Riverbank Vet Hosp for rabies only & emergencies	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Lee	Yes		Yes-before adoption	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Lenoir	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Lincoln	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Discussed in 2007; no action	No	Regulated-Registration
Macon	No	No	No	No	No	No	No			No	No

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Madison	Yes		Yes-before adoption	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Martin	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No
McDowell	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mecklenburg	Yes		S/N before adoption and microchip	Yes	Yes	Yes- county-wide altered \$10 and unaltered \$30; same for Town of Matthews	No	No	Yes-Livestock, fowl or more than 2 outside cats/dogs; Town of Matthews limit to 4 dogs/cats without permit	No	Yes
Mitchell	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Montgomery	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No more than 7 dogs inside City limits	No	Yes
Moore	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Pending
Nash	Yes		Yes	Nuisance law	ID tags required county-wide; tax/registration and kennel licenses required in Rocky Mount	No	No	No	Rocky Mount limit to 2 without permit; Nashville limit of 3	No	Non Domestic prohibited
New Hanover	Yes	No	Yes	Direct Control law	Yes - individual, kennels and catteries; Kennel licenses issued at sole discretion of animal control	Yes - \$10 / \$20	Responsible Breeders Permit required within 3 days after litter birth	Yes	No	No	No
Northampton	Yes		No	Prior to 2005	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Onslow	Yes		Yes	Yes	Large volume kennels require license (number not defined)	No	No	No	No	No	Wild Animals prohibited

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Orange	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes-\$5 altered; \$30 unaltered	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Pamlico	Craven-Pamlico Animal Services		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pasquotank		SPCA of Eastern North Carolina	Yes	Leash law for all subdivisions	Yes; individual and kennel license above 3 dogs	No	Commercial breeding banned in Elizabeth City limits	No	Elizabeth City-limit of 3 animals; livestock banned	No	No
Pender	Yes		Yes	At large Ordinance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No Answer
Perquimans	Chowan County		Yes	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No
Person	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pitt	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No. City of Greenville Ordinance specifies type, length of tether	No	No	No
Polk		Foothills Humane Society	Yes	No			No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No Answer
Randolph	Yes	No	No	Leashed/confined to owners yard	Privilege Tax; license req'd in City of Randleman	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Richmond		Richmond County Humane Society	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Robeson	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Unknown	City of Lumberton limits to 3 dogs, 4 cats	No	No

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Rockingham		Reidsville Vet. Hospital	Yes	Nuisance law-No at large animals	Tax Tag	Yes - \$5 altered and \$15 unaltered; kennel license \$100/yr	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Rowan	Yes	Humane Society using foster homes	Yes; voucher given	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Permit required
Rutherford	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sampson	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Note: Sampson County animal control does not adopt any animals that are impounded or picked up unless they have proof of rabies vaccination.											
Scotland	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes. Breeders, kennels, rescue, pet shops, are required to register annually	n/a	Breeder registration required; kennel standards	Yes	No	No	No
Stanly	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes-dogs only	No	No	No	No	No	Dangerous (vicious) animals named
Stokes	Yes	No	No	Not county-wide; 2 cities have passed ordinance; see below	Yes-dog	No	No	Town of Walnut Cove tethering limited to 1 hr in 24	No	No	Regulated-Registration
Surry	Yes	No	Yes	No; nuisance and at-large laws	No	No	No	Exercise & socialization must be verified for tethered dogs	No	No	Bans dangerous exotics
Swain	No - served by Valley River Humane		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

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Transylvania	Yes	Yes-3	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Bans ownership of certain breeds by anyone with arrest or conviction	No Answer
Tyrrell			No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Union	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	License required; size, weight limitations
Vance	Yes		Yes	No-Control law	\$2.00 Tax tag	No	No	No	No	No	No Answer
Wake	Yes		Yes	Leash law-Town of Cary, City of Raleigh, Town of Apex	Yes in Raleigh, Cary, Garner; Cattery, Kennel (over 5 dogs) license required in Raleigh	Yes-Town of Cary, City of Raleigh	No	No	Yes- Town of Garner - see note below	No	No answer from County. Prohibited in Town of Garner - see notes below.
Warren	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Washington	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Watauga	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Wayne	Yes		Yes	No-prohibits dogs at large	No	No	No	No	No	No	No Answer
Wilkes	Yes		No	No - public nuisance law	No- ID required	No	Breeding Kennel (5 or more dogs/cats) must be registered	No	No	No	Inherently dangerous exotics prohibited

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Wilson	Yes		No	No-Nuisance law	Individual & Kennel licensing; kennel license will not be issued unless premise is veterinarian approved; minimum kennel size 10X10 for each dog	Yes	Yes Permits for dealers and security dogs	No	No	No	Non Domestic prohibited
Yadkin	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No Answer
Yancey	Yes		No	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	No	No Answer

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CITY/TOWN ORDINANCES AND RESTRICTIONS											
Atlantic Beach, Carteret County											
The entire area within the corporate limits is a Bird Sanctuary. It is unlawful to trap, hunt, shoot or attempt to shoot or molest in any manner any bird, or wild fowl or to rob bird nests or wild fowl nests within the town. Keeping of livestock and poultry is prohibited. Leash law, dog license required											
Carolina Beach, New Hanover County											
Leash law; dog license required. It is unlawful to keep or harbor any animal or fowl not considered a "commonly accepted domestic animal or fowl" within the jurisdictional limits of the town.											
City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County											
License fees include ferrets. Permits required to keep any livestock or fowl; limit 20 fowl/rabbits per acre. Permit required to keep more than 3 dogs, cats or combination outside. Exotic animals prohibited. Animals prohibited from any city-sponsored events.											
City of Concord, Cabarrus County											
It is unlawful to keep cattle, sheep, goats, domestic fowl, or swine within city limits											
City of Dunn, Harnett County											
License required for dogs. Unlawful to keep hogs, swine. Unlawful to keep bees. The entire area embraced within the corporate limits of the city is hereby designated as a bird sanctuary. Unlawful to keep more than 2 rabbits; must be kept more than 50 ft from any dwelling for human habitation.											
Town of Emerald Isle, Carteret County											
The entire town is a sea turtle sanctuary and a bird sanctuary. It is unlawful for any person to have or possess within the town horses, cattle, hogs, goat, fowl, and other livestock except by permit. Leash law; license required. Nuisance and pooper scooper law for dogs.											
Town of Garner, Wake County											
One time license fee of \$25 for dogs, cats. The entire area inside corporate town limits is designated as a bird sanctuary. Inherently dangerous animals prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or maintain more than two (2) dogs over 5 months of age on any lot or parcel of land having less than 20,000 SF. Inherently dangerous animals (cited as wolf and cat hybrids, undomesticated cats over 15 pounds, and bears)											
Town of Hickory, Catawba/Caldwell Counties											
Leash law. Keeping of hogs, pigs, swine and goats within the corporate limits is, for the protection of the public health, prohibited. One goat or one pig may be kept as a family pet under certain conditions. The area embraced within the corporate limits and all parks and grounds used for municipal purposes are hereby declared a sanctuary for the protection of birds.											
City of High Point, Guilford County											
Leash law; dog license required.											
Town of Hope Mills, Cumberland County											
Kennels require special zoning permits. No person shall keep on any one lot or premises within the corporate limits more than three dogs or three cats. No person shall keep, possess, or maintain, within the town, any horse, mule, pony, cow, cattle, hog, swine, sheep or goat on any lot, parcel, or tract of land less than two acres in size. It shall be unlawful for any person notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section to keep in excess of one horse, pony, mule, cow, hog, swine, sheep, or goat, and ten chickens per acre. Any horses, mules, or ponies maintained within the town's residential zoning area shall be registered with the town on January 1 of each year, and an annual license fee shall be paid to the town. Riding is restricted in certain areas. Privilege license required for dogs, cats.											
Town of Kernersville, Forsyth County											
The entire area within corporate limits of the town is designated as a bird sanctuary.											

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City of King, Stokes County											
The area embraced within the corporate limits of the city and all lands owned or leased by the city outside the corporate limits are hereby designated as a bird sanctuary.											
Leash law. It is unlawful to keep hogs, goats, or sheep within city corporate limits. It is unlawful to keep more than 10 rabbits within city corporate limits; hutch construction specified.											
City of Kinston, Lenoir County											
City corporate and territorial limits are designated as a bird sanctuary. Keeping of livestock within city limits is prohibited. Identification tags required for dogs.											
City of Laurinburg, Scotland County											
Leash law for dogs. Dogs may only be tethered one hour out of every 24. Dogs must be licensed and registered. It is unlawful to keep pigs, hogs, goats, chickens, domesticated ducks within city limits.											
All territory within city limits is designated as a bird sanctuary.											
City of Lexington, Davidson County											
All territory within city limits is designated as a game and bird and wildlife preserve and sanctuary.											
It shall be unlawful for any person to own, to keep custody of or to take care of more than three (3) dogs four (4) months or older, on any residential zoned lot.											
This applies to single-family residences and duplexes. It is unlawful in multi-unit buildings to keep more than one (1) outside animal per unit.											
Animals shall be in an area as designated by the owner of the property. Single-family homes, duplexes, attached single-family homes are exempt.											
It shall be unlawful to own, to keep custody of or to take care of four (4) or more chickens, rabbits or fowl or other small animals of any one type and a total of any combination of eight (8).											
The number of livestock is limited to one (1) animal per two (2) acres of pasture with a maximum of five (5). Bona fide farms are exempt.											
City of Lumberton, Robeson County											
The territory within city limits is declared a bird sanctuary. Bee keeping is prohibited. No more than 3 dogs per owner within city limits. No more than 4 cats per owner within city limits.											
Dog license required annually; must be affixed to collar. Cat license (and collar) required. Nuisance law for dogs & cats.											
License required to keep pot bellied pigs. Permits required for horses.											
Town of Manteo, Dare County											
All area within town limits is designated a bird sanctuary. Dogs at large prohibited. Identification tag required. Vicious animals prohibited. Livestock prohibited.											
Town of Matthews, Mecklenburg County											
License required for dogs, cats, ferrets; differential fee \$10 sterile / \$30 fertile. Permit required to keep more than 4 dogs or cats.											
Permit required to own any equine animals, cloven-hoofed animals or livestock, chickens, turkeys, geese, pheasants, pigeons, domestic fowl. Limit of 20 rabbits or fowl per acre.											
City of Mebane, Alamance County											
The area embraced within the corporate limits of the city and all lands owned or leased by the city outside the corporate limits are hereby designated as a bird sanctuary.											
City of Mount Airy, Surry County											
The area embraced within the corporate limits of the city and all lands owned or leased by the city outside the corporate limits are hereby designated as a bird sanctuary.											
It shall be unlawful for any person with less than 10 acres of land to keep swine, horses, mules, cattle, goats, sheep or other livestock within the corporate limits.											
Town of Oak Island, Brunswick County											
Registration tags required for dogs. Running at large prohibited; misdemeanor offense.											
Area within corporate limits is declared a bird sanctuary. Specific defined area of dunes is designated as a sea turtle sanctuary. Unlawful to feed alligators within corporate limits.											
City of Randleman, Randolph County											
All dogs kept, harbored or maintained by their owners in the city must be licensed and registered											
Keeping of hogs, pigs, pot bellied pigs or swine within corporate limits is declared a nuisance to adjoining property owners and to the public and is prohibited.											

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City of Reidsville, Rockingham County											
License tax for dogs and cats; \$1 for altered and \$2 for unaltered. Animals running at large prohibited											
City of Sanford, Lee County											
Squirrel hunting and shooting prohibited within city limits. No person shall keep within the city any pig, hog or other animal of the swine variety, chickens or other animal of the poultry variety, or any goats.											
Dogs to wear identification and rabies tags. Cats to wear identification and collar. Inherently dangerous animals prohibited.											
Town of Selma, Johnston County											
License and registration required; \$2 fee. It is unlawful for any person to have or keep more than three (3) dogs or cats, six (6) months or older on any tract within town limits.											
Unlawful to keep livestock or fowl within corporate limits except in conjunction with business that is permitted as special or conditional use within zoning district.											
Town of Sylva, Jackson County											
Leash law for animals; does not apply to cats. The entire area within corporate limits is designated as a bird sanctuary.											
City of Thomasville, Davidson County											
A bird sanctuary exists with the territorial limits of the City. Keeping swine prohibited.											
Dogs running at large prohibited. Permit required for dog breeding. Permit required to own/maintain more than 3 dogs. Dog pens must be a minimum of 25 ft from adjacent property boundary											
Town of Waynesville, Haywood County											
The entire area within corporate limits of the town is designated as a bird sanctuary. Swine prohibited within city limits.											
City of Winston-Salem, Forsyth County											
It shall be unlawful for any person to keep more than ten rabbits of breeding age within the corporate limits of the city; hutch construction defined.											
Nuisance if fowl or dogs crow, cackle, bark, whine, howl for more than 15 minutes. Dogs must be restrained to owners property; running at large prohibited.											
Sanitation requirements for dogs; feces to be picked up daily; kept in tight fitting container and disposed after interval no longer than 5 days.											
SUMMARY OF DATA											
Shelter operated by county			Yes-76	No-22	Breeding permits or restrictions			Yes-8	No-92		
Shelter operated by private concern			Yes-27		Tethering limit or ban			Yes-8	No-92		
Spay/Neuter required for adopted animals			Yes-61		Limit law			Yes-9	No-92		
County-wide leash law			Yes-20		Breed Specific ordinance			Yes-1	No-99		
Pet licensing			Yes-28	No-73	Exotics prohibited, regulated			Yes-46	No-45		
Differential licensing			Yes-11	No-89	Kennel licenses			Yes-9	No-91		
DISCLAIMER:											
This survey is provided as a quick reference to North Carolina animal laws.											
However, cities and towns within North Carolina may have ordinances and restrictions not listed in this survey.											
North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance (NCRAOA)											
www.ncraoa.com ncraoa@yahoo.com											