

# Iredell County Animal Services & Control Department

243 Twin Oaks Rd.  
Phone: 704-878-5424

Statesville, NC 28625  
Fax: 704-928-2015

## Direct Control Ordinance

On September 1, 1986, the ordinance pertaining to direct control of dogs became effective in Iredell County. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect people, property and dogs from abuse and/or unfavorable conditions.

Direct control means that the dog is controlled and obedient at all times to the owner's commands or is within a vehicle or other secure enclosure. For instance, you may walk your dog without a leash if he is obedient to your commands, but your dog is not permitted on another person's property without that property owner's permission.

If you violate the Direct Control ordinance, then you will be issued a citation and your dog can be impounded. You will be charged to reclaim your dog at the animal shelter. Daily board fees will also apply in addition to reclaim fees and citation fees.

## Rabies Vaccinations

All dogs and cats over three (3) months old must receive a rabies vaccination from a licensed veterinarian or certified rabies vaccinator. All dogs and cats must wear a rabies tag on a collar or harness when the animal is off the owner's property. (This excludes actual duration of organized hunting activities.)

The Animal Control Department offers a rabies clinic on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 pm—7:30 pm.

## Dangerous Dogs

The Animal Control Department may determine when a dog is dangerous after the dog has bitten a person or potentially dangerous if the dog attacks people, livestock or other pets when not on the owner's property. Dogs determined to be dangerous or potentially dangerous will be dealt with in a very strict manner in order to preserve the safety and welfare of the people.

## Public Nuisance Animals

After the first offense, acts such as turning over garbage cans, damaging gardens, foliage, or other real property, will be considered a public nuisance. If an animal is determined by an Animal Control Officer to be a public nuisance, then it will be unlawful for the animal to leave the owner's property unless under the direct control of the owner.

## Female Dogs in Estrus

Female dogs must be kept in a secure enclosure or under restraint during the estrus period (heat cycle).

Restraint in this instance does not mean tied to a stationary object.

## Animals Left Inside Vehicles

Remember that on warm days the temperature inside a vehicle climbs rapidly, even with the windows opened. Do not leave your pet inside your vehicle. If you do, your pet may be impounded and you may be charged with cruelty to animals.

## Be Humane to Your Pet

*Be sure if your pet is left outside that it has adequate shelter, shade and a constant source of water available to it*

*at all times.*

## **Wild Animals**

Remember to keep your hands to yourself around any wildlife. Do not let your children play with any wild animal no matter how friendly that animal may seem. For more information on wild animals, contact the North Carolina Department of Wildlife

Report sick or injured wildlife to the Animal Control Department

***For additional information, call ICAS&C or visit our website, [www.co.iredell.nc.us](http://www.co.iredell.nc.us).***