

Attention Rio Arriba County Residents

As we all know there have been major domestic animal problems in both rural and urban areas throughout Rio Arriba County (RAC) for several years. The RAC Animal Control has undergone recent administrative changes and will be implementing the existing [RAC Animal Control Ordinance No. 1996-02](#), adopted by the Board of County Commission in 1995. RAC has two animal control officers that respond to public request for assistance of capture, removal and other concerns that are brought to our attention. Per the Ordinance, **Section IV, Impounding Strays, Records to be Kept, Redemption Fees, Animal Pick-up Fee, Notice Required, Owners Impoundment**, there will be a \$10.00 impoundment fee when RAC is called to locate and impound an animal to the animal shelter. RAC will also be implementing **Section V, A. Rabies Vaccinations**. It is the duty of all persons owning or keeping a dog or cat or any member of the canine or feline family over the age of three (3) months, to have such animals vaccinated against rabies. **Section. VI Prohibited Activities A. Animal Running at Large**. It is unlawful for any person to allow or permits any animal to run at large in or on any street, alley, sidewalk, vacant lot, public property, other unenclosed place in the County, or private property, with the permission of the owner thereof. **Section XI, Licensing**, which requires licensing all cats and dogs on an annual basis; for unneutered or unspayed cats or dogs it is \$10.00 and for neutered or spayed cats or dogs it is \$5.00. Licensing will be conducted out of the Espanola Valley Humane Society (Espanola Animal Shelter) where proof of qualification from a licensed veterinarian will be required. Fees for citizens over the age of 62 is \$5.00 and \$2.00 respectively. Anyone who does not participate in this program is subject to warnings and/or citations. Please call 747-1402 Public Works Department for further information.