

ARTICLE IV. RABIES CONTROL*

*State law reference(s)--Rabies control, V.T.C.A., Health and Safety Code § 826.001 et seq.

Sec. 3-126. Proof of current vaccination required.

The owner of each dog, cat, or ferret found in the city shall cause each such animal to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian by the time the animal reaches four months of age, and then within each subsequent 12-month period thereafter. It shall be a violation of this chapter for any owner of any such dog, cat, or ferret found in the city to fail or refuse to present proof to the animal control officer, upon request, that such animal has been properly vaccinated against rabies within the preceding 12-month period.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-127. Official vaccination certificate to be issued and retained.

Any veterinarian who vaccinates an animal against rabies shall issue a completed official rabies vaccination certificate, as prescribed by the state department of health, to the owner for each animal vaccinated. A copy of each rabies vaccination certificate issued shall be retained in a readily retrievable status by the issuing veterinarian for a period of at least three years from the date of issuance. If a veterinarian in the city ceases the practice of veterinary medicine, the duplicate rabies vaccination certificates retained by that practice shall be turned over to city animal control, unless the sale or lease of a practice includes transferring the records of the practice to a new owner.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-128. Use and sale of vaccine restricted.

Rabies vaccine for animals may be administered only by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. A person may not sell or distribute rabies vaccine for animals to any person except a licensed veterinarian or to a person working in a veterinary clinic who accepts the vaccine on behalf of the veterinarian.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-129. Report of suspected animals.

(a) Any person who knows of an animal which is rabid, or suspects to be rabid, shall report such animal to the animal control officer as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours from the time of discovery. For purposes of this section, the word "animal," as it relates to rabies suspects, shall specifically mean mammals. A person who reports a rabies suspect to the animal control officer shall provide the following information, if known:

- (1) Location where the animal is being kept or was last seen.
- (2) A description of the animal and why it is a rabies suspect.
- (3) Name, address, phone number of the animal owner or keeper.
- (4) Name, address, phone number of any persons who may have been in contact with the rabies suspect.
- (5) Any other relevant information.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-130. Report of animal bite required.

Any person having knowledge of an animal bite to a human shall report the incident to the animal control officer as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after the incident occurs. Upon receiving a report of an animal bite to a person, the animal control officer shall investigate the incident utilizing standardized reporting forms. For purposes

of this section, the term "animal bite" shall specifically mean a bite inflicted by a mammal. A person who reports an animal bite to the animal control officer shall provide the following information, if known:

- (1) Name, address, phone number of the person who was bitten.
- (2) Name, address, phone number of the animal owner or keeper.
- (3) Description of the biting animal.
- (4) Location where the animal is being kept or was last seen.
- (5) Any other relevant information.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-131. Quarantine or testing.

(a) When a dog or cat that has bitten a person or may have exposed a person to rabies has been identified, the animal owner or custodian must place the animal in quarantine at a state department of health approved quarantine facility located in the city, as specified by the animal control officer. The animal shall remain in quarantine, at the expense of the owner or custodian, for at least ten days from the date of the bite or exposure, as prescribed by state department of health regulations. Signature of the owner or custodian on a written quarantine agreement shall be required at the time the animal is delivered for quarantine by the owner or custodian.

(b) A dog or cat which has bitten a human and has been designated as unclaimed may be humanely euthanized and a specimen submitted to a certified laboratory for rabies testing.

(c) If the biting animal is a high risk animal, it shall be humanely euthanized and a specimen submitted to a certified laboratory for rabies testing.

(d) If the biting animal is a low risk animal, neither quarantine nor rabies testing will be required unless the animal control officer has cause to believe the animal is rabid, or the animal control officer receives a written request from a veterinarian or physician to submit the animal for rabies testing.

(e) The animal control officer may require an animal which has inflicted multiple bite wounds, punctures, or lacerations to the face, head, or neck of a person to be humanely euthanized and a specimen submitted to a certified laboratory for rabies testing.

(f) If the biting animal is not included in subsection (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this section, the animal shall be humanely euthanized and a specimen submitted to a certified laboratory for rabies testing, or the animal control officer may require the animal to be quarantined at the owner's expense for 30 days as an alternative, and otherwise conforming to the requirements specified in (a).

(g) The owner of a dog or cat which has bitten a person may request authorization to quarantine the animal at home. An authorization for home quarantine shall not be valid until it is delivered in writing by the animal control officer. Home quarantine may be authorized for a dog or cat, if all the following criteria are met:

- (1) Secure facilities must be available at the home of the animal's owner, and must be approved by the animal control officer. Secure facilities must confine the quarantined animal in a manner which prevents any physical contact with other animals or people, and which will prevent the escape or unauthorized removal of the animal from the confinement area;
- (2) The animal was currently vaccinated against rabies at the time of the bite incident;
- (3) The animal control officer or a licensed veterinarian must observe the animal at least on the first and last days of the quarantine period. If the animal becomes ill during the observation period, the animal control officer must be notified by the person having possession of the animal. At the end of the observation period, the release from quarantine must be accomplished in writing;
- (4) The animal was not a stray at the time of the bite;

(5) The home quarantine location must be within the city, unless otherwise specifically authorized by an animal control supervisor or higher authority; and

(6) The owner must sign a home quarantine agreement, as prescribed by city animal control, agreeing to abide by its terms and conditions.

(h) The owner of an animal which is pending written authorization for home quarantine must comply with the following requirements, until the owner receives such authorization or other quarantine instructions from the animal control officer:

(1) The animal shall not be vaccinated against rabies;

(2) The animal shall be confined at the proposed home quarantine location at all times, in a manner which prevents any physical contact with other animals or people;

(3) The animal shall not be removed or allowed to leave from the proposed home quarantine location at any time;

(4) If the animal becomes ill, dies, escapes, or for any reason is not present at the proposed home quarantine location, the owner shall notify the animal control officer immediately of such situation. If the animal dies, the owner shall immediately surrender the deceased animal to the animal control officer for rabies testing; and

(5) The owner shall comply with all other applicable requirements prescribed by state department of health regulations.

(i) The owner of an animal which is authorized to be kept in home quarantine by city animal control must comply with the following requirements until such animal has been released from home quarantine by the animal control officer:

(1) The animal shall be confined at the home quarantine location at all times, in a manner which prevents any physical contact with other animals or people;

(2) The animal shall not be removed or allowed to leave from the home quarantine location at any time;

(3) If the animal becomes ill, dies, escapes, or for any reason is not present at the home quarantine location, the owner shall notify the animal control officer immediately of such situation. If the animal dies, the owner shall immediately surrender the deceased animal to the animal control officer for rabies testing;

(4) The quarantined animal must be accessible for observation by the animal control officer on the last day of the quarantine period. The animal may not be released from quarantine until after the animal control officer has completed the final health observation;

(5) The owner shall comply with all terms and conditions of the home quarantine agreement, and all other applicable requirements prescribed by state department of health regulations; and

(6) Failure or refusal to comply with home quarantine requirements at all times may result in the immediate revocation of a home quarantine authorization, and the owner or custodian will be required to place the animal in quarantine as specified in subsection (a) for the remainder of the quarantine period.

(j) Any facility where biting animals or animals suspected of being rabid are confined for observation shall separate each such animal from all other animals in a manner that there is no possibility of physical contact between animals.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-132. Failure to comply with quarantine or testing requirements.

It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to fail or refuse to comply with any requirements for quarantine or rabies testing prescribed by section 3-131 of this chapter, including those contained in any notice or agreement executed pursuant to that section.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-133. Exposed animals.

(a) The owner of a domestic animal that is not currently vaccinated against rabies which has been bitten by a rabid animal, or directly exposed to rabies by physical contact with a rabid animal or its fresh tissues, shall cause the exposed animal to be:

- (1) Humanely euthanized; or
- (2) Immediately vaccinated against rabies, placed in strict isolation for 90 days and given booster vaccinations during the third and eighth weeks of isolation. If the animal is under three months of age at the time of the second vaccination, an additional booster shall be given when the animal reaches three months of age. Isolation shall be accomplished by written agreement prescribed by city animal control, and the owner or custodian shall be required to comply with the terms and conditions of such agreement.

(b) The owner of a domestic animal that is currently vaccinated against rabies which has been bitten by a rabid animal, or directly exposed to rabies by physical contact with a rabid animal or its fresh tissues, shall cause the exposed animal to be:

- (1) Humanely euthanized; or
- (2) Immediately given a booster rabies vaccination and placed in strict isolation for 45 days. Isolation shall be accomplished by written agreement prescribed by city animal control, and the owner or custodian shall be required to comply with the terms and conditions of such agreement.

(c) The owner of a domestic animal, other than that described in subsection (a) or (b), shall comply with the recommendations contained in the latest edition of The Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, or as may otherwise be prescribed by state department of health regulations.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-134. Failure to comply with requirements for exposed animals.

It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to fail or refuse to comply with any requirements for animals exposed to rabies prescribed by section 3-133 of this chapter, including those contained in any notice or agreement executed pursuant to that section.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-135. Equine vaccinations required.

(a) Any rental equine animal in the city, which is used or let for hire to be ridden or driven by the public either with or without the furnishing of riding or driving instruction, or which will be in direct physical contact with the public, must be vaccinated against the following diseases within each 12-month interval:

- (1) Rabies;
- (2) Eastern equine encephalomyelitis;
- (3) Western equine encephalomyelitis;
- (4) Tetanus; and
- (5) Any other vaccinations prescribed by the state department of health.

(b) It shall be a violation of this chapter for a person to fail or refuse to present proof to the animal control officer, upon request, that an equine animal subject to the requirements of this section has been vaccinated as required herein within the preceding 12-month period.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Sec. 3-136. Area quarantine.

It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to fail or refuse to comply with any rules or regulations prescribed by the state department of health during a declared area rabies quarantine.

(Ord. No. 1999-2-95, § I, 2-6-95)

Secs. 3-137--3-150. Reserved.