

RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO RABIES CONTROL

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AUTHORITY

The following Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Rabies Control are duly adopted and promulgated by the Arkansas State Board of Health pursuant to the authority expressly conferred by the Laws of the State of Arkansas, including, without limitation, Act 96 of 1913 (Arkansas Statutes, 1947, Section 82-110) and Act 11, First Extraordinary Session, 1968 (Arkansas Statutes, 1947, Section 82-2408).

SECTION I. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are defined for the purpose of these Regulations:

- A. Dog: All members of the canine family.
- B. Cat: All members of the feline family.
- C. Owner: Any person having a right of property in a dog, cat or other animal, or who keeps or harbors a dog, cat or other animal, or has it in his care, or acts as its custodian, or knowingly permits a dog, cat or other animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.
- D. Other animal: Any warm-blooded animal, dogs and cats excepted, which may be affected by rabies.
- E. Has been bitten: Has been seized with teeth or jaws, so that the skin of the person or thing seized has been nipped or gripped, or has been wounded or pierced; includes contact of saliva with any break or abrasion of the skin.
- F. Vaccination against rabies: The injection, intramuscular or otherwise, of canine or feline antirabies vaccine, as approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or Arkansas State Veterinarian, and administered by a licensed veterinarian, agent of the Health Department or State

Veterinarian. All dogs and cats shall be vaccinated annually against rabies in accordance with Act 171 of 1945 as amended by Act 374 of 1951 and Act 447 of 1961, and in accordance with Act 11 of 1968 as amended by Act 725 of 1975. Lay or owner-vaccinated animals cannot be accepted as being officially vaccinated.

G. Quarantine

1. Quarantine of dogs and cats suspected of having rabies. The complete confinement and observation in a secure cage or enclosure free from human contact for a period of ten (10) days.
2. Quarantine of an area. All dogs and cats, vaccinated or unvaccinated, at all times during a specified period will be kept in a cage, pen or enclosure, and exercised on a leash. Stray dogs and cats will be apprehended and humanely destroyed in accordance with local ordinance.

H. Special circumstances: Bites upon the head, face, neck or upper extremities; deep lacerations; multiple bite wounds inflicted by unvaccinated dogs, cats or other animals.

I. Confinement, quarantine and observation

1. Dogs and cats: Health authorities of the state, county and city, and law enforcement officers, have the authority to order confinement, quarantine and observation of any dog or cat which has bitten a human. Confinement may be in a public pound or a licensed veterinary hospital. When appropriate facilities are not available, it is the owner's responsibility to prepare and maintain satisfactory confinement facilities. The dog or cat will be quarantined from contact with other animals and humans. It will be observed by a licensed veterinarian for a period of ten (10) days from the date the person was bitten. During the observation period, the dog or cat should neither undergo therapeutic, surgical nor corrective treatment; it is not to be revaccinated, sold, transferred, destroyed, euthanized or otherwise disposed of. If the dog or cat dies or is killed during the 10-day observation period, intentionally or unintentionally, the head shall be shipped immediately to the Public Health Laboratory as outlined in Section I. J. The owner is responsible for all costs, including confinement fees, veterinary fees and transportation costs. At the end of the 10-day observation period, if the dog or cat is certified by the observing veterinarian to be free from rabies, and if the dog or cat does not have a record of current vaccination status, it will be vaccinated against rabies prior to release. Dogs or cats having current rabies vaccination need not be revaccinated upon release.
2. Other animals: The incubation period of rabies in all other animals is variable and a specific period of confinement is not practical. Consult health authorities for detailed instructions.

J. Shipment to the public health laboratory for tests for diagnosis of rabies.

1. For dogs, cats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, opossums, coyotes, wolves and similarly sized animals, ship the head only.
2. Ship entire carcass of small size animals such as rats, mice, chipmunks, squirrels, bats, etc.
3. Ship to the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Public Health Laboratories, 4815 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, in the special rabies specimen boxes supplied by the Laboratory and distributed to all licensed veterinarians and local health units. Because a human life may be endangered, and because early diagnosis of rabies is highly advantageous in selecting treatment for the victim, the fastest and most direct transportation is encouraged. This can be accomplished by personally transporting the animal head to the Laboratory. If private transportation is not available, commercial bus transportation should be used since it has proved to

be the most expeditious and since the Arkansas Rabies Control Law requires commercial bus lines to accept for shipment properly packaged rabies specimens. Shipment by U. S. Mail is prohibited by U. S. Postal Regulations. Any veterinary fees, and all transportation costs, are the responsibility of the owner. When ownership is not established, these costs are the victim's responsibility. There is no charge by the Public Health Laboratory for the examination of an animal brain for rabies.

4. It is essential that all information relative to the possible rabies exposure accompany the rabies specimen.

This includes the complete name, address and phone number of the exposed individual, the owner, the physician and veterinarian attending the case. This information is available when the Clinical Rabies History Form VPH-2 (which is included in each rabies specimen box) is completely and accurately filled out. The Public Health Laboratory will report its findings by the most expeditious means to the attending physician, veterinarian, local health unit or individual exposed.

5. Brain or head only, large animals. Livestock and farm animals present a different situation. Entire carcasses must not be sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Little Rock, Arkansas. The attending licensed veterinarian should remove the brain and ship it in the special rabies specimen container as outlined in Section I. J. 3. Otherwise, it is the owner's responsibility to transport the head only, packed in wet ice, not dry ice, placed in a plastic bag in a leakproof container, to the Public Health laboratory. The shipment of large animal heads to the Laboratory is very unsatisfactory and dangerous

SECTION II. COMPLIANCE.

A. Those responsible for complying

1. Public health personnel.
2. Medical and veterinary medical practitioners.
3. Owners, as defined in Section I. C..
4. Law enforcement personnel.
5. Persons bitten by dogs, cats or other animals, or, in the case of a minor, the parents or guardian of the minor.

B. Violations considered as non-compliance.

1. Failure to have dogs or cats vaccinated against rabies.
2. Failure to control and confine dogs, cats or other animals which have been involved in biting incidents.
3. Resisting, obstructing or impeding an authorized officer enforcing the law.
4. Failure, refusal or neglect by an officer to carry out the provisions of the law.
5. Failure to notify health authorities and failure to comply with written instructions of health authorities regarding animal bites.

C. Penalty for non-compliance.

Trial for misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, fine of not less than five dollars (\$5.00), nor more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each offense.

SECTION III. PROCEDURES WHEN HUMAN IS BITTEN BY DOG OR CAT.

When a dog or cat is a rabies suspect

In "Special circumstances", as defined in Section I. H., the Director of the Arkansas Department of Health, or his designated representative, may advise the immediate euthanasia of the dog or cat and expeditious shipment of the head to the Public Health Laboratory for diagnosis of rabies. Costs for euthanasia and for transportation are borne by the owner.

When ownership of the dog or cat is established, the dog or cat, vaccinated or unvaccinated, will be confined, quarantined and observed as outlined in Section I. G. 1. However, with the owner's consent, the dog or cat may be euthanized and the head shipped as outlined in Section I. J.

Stray dogs or cats, or where ownership cannot be established, will be euthanized and the head shipped in accordance with Sections I. J. All veterinary fees, including euthanasia and transportation costs, are the responsibility of the victim or, if a minor, by the victim's parents or guardian.

SECTION IV. PROCEDURES WHEN A HUMAN IS BITTEN BY OTHER ANIMAL.

A. Wild animals.

A wild animal should be humanely destroyed and the head or brain shipped as outlined in Section I. J. Care should be taken not to damage the head because the brain is used by the Laboratory to perform the examination for rabies.

B. Domesticated wild animals.

Since the incubation period in animals other than dogs or cats is variable, euthanasia of such domesticated wild animals is necessary even when they have been vaccinated against rabies. Immediate shipment of the head to the Public Health laboratory, in accordance with Section I. J., should be accomplished.

C. Domestic animals.

1. Human exposure to domestic livestock afflicted with rabies often presents a dangerous situation. Medical attention and treatment are necessary. Consult with health authorities for instructions.

2. Domesticated caged pets

A bite from a domestic caged pet does not constitute an exposure to rabies. Animals in this classification are guinea pigs, white rats and mice, hamsters, gerbils and rabbits.

SECTION V. HUMAN POST-EXPOSURE TREATMENT.

The bite of any warm-blooded animal in Arkansas may be a potential source of rabies. An animal bite exposure to a human requires the immediate attention of a physician who must decide whether antirabies treatment is indicated. If so, the most effective treatment for the type of exposure must be administered.

SECTION VI. PROCEDURES WHEN DOMESTIC DOG OR CAT IS EXPOSED TO RABIES.

A. Vaccinated dogs or cats shall be revaccinated immediately and restrained by the owner. This shall be done by leashing and confinement for a period of at least ninety (90) days, or the animals may be euthanized as a precaution.

B. Unvaccinated dogs or cats either shall be euthanized immediately OR confined, quarantined and observed as outlined in Section I. G. except that the period will be for six (6) months, and animals will be vaccinated against rabies at least thirty (30) days prior to release. The owner is responsible for all costs.

SECTION VII. PROCEDURES WHEN DOMESTIC ANIMAL OTHER THAN DOG OR CAT IS EXPOSED TO RABIES.

Report should be made to the Director of the Division of Veterinary Public Health for consultation concerning disposition of the animal.

SECTION VIII. AREA QUARANTINE.

A. Upon request of the proper local officials, a municipality, township, county or undesignated area may be placed under quarantine by the State Health Director as outlined in Section I. G. 2.

B. In serious situations, the State Health Director may place an area under quarantine without waiting for local request.

C. The occurrence of three or more cases of positive rabies in animals, confirmed by the official Health Department Laboratory in Little Rock, Arkansas, is sufficient basis for placing an area under quarantine.

D. The proper officials of a government unit may require additional measures to supplement the quarantine of an area in serious situations where there is a possibility that rabies may spread to other animals and constitute a dangerous health hazard for the citizens of the State. These additional measures will be supplied by the Health Department.

SECTION IX. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of these Rules and Regulations which can give effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions hereto are declared to be severable.

SECTION X. REPEAL.

All Regulations and parts of Regulations in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

CERTIFICATION

This will certify that the foregoing Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Rabies Control were adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Health at a regular executive session of said Board held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on the twenty-eighth day of January, 1971, and that an Amendment thereto was subsequently adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Health at a regular executive session of said Board held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on the twenty-fourth day of July, 1975.

(signed)

Rex C. Ramsay, Jr., M.D.

Secretary of the State Board of Health

Director

Arkansas Department of Health

Dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, this twenty-fourth day of July, 1975.