

Coshocton County General Health District  
Board of Health

REGULATION 2005-1

PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF RABIES  
THROUGH REQUIREMENTS FOR RABIES VACCINATION OF DOGS

A regulation of the Board of Health of the Coshocton County General Health District providing for the prevention and control of rabies through requirements for rabies vaccination of dogs; for the reporting of all animals biting people incidents; quarantining of animals involved in biting incidents; prescribing duties, responsibilities and authorities of the Coshocton County Health Department; and providing for the enforcement of the Regulation and penalties for the violation of its provisions.

Cross References

Rabies quarantine – Ohio Revised Code 955.26

Report of bite of animal – Ohio Revised Code 955.42

Biting animal to be confined; veterinarian to report – Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-29

Report of suspected rabid animal – Ohio Administrative Code 901:1-17-05

Importation of dogs into state – Ohio Administrative Code 901:1-17-05

Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

SECTION 2005-1.01 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Regulation, certain terms are defined as follows:

- (A) “Agricultural animal” means member of any animal species that are recognized as a food source for man, a work animal for man, or provide a source of raw materials for manufacturing by man. These animals are usually herbivores and have been bred to serve man as resources for generations, including, but not limited to cattle, sheep, pigs, American Bison, goats, horses, etc.
- (B) “Bite” means any puncture, tear, scrape of the skin inflicted by the teeth or claws of a rabies susceptible animal.
- (C) “Board of Health” means the Board of Health of the Coshocton County General Health District appointed pursuant to Section 3809.02, Ohio Revised Code.
- (D) “Contact animal” means any animal which has been in association with a rabid animal in such a manner that the transmission of rabies is likely.
- (E) “Dog” means any member of the domestic canine species which is more than three months of age.

- (F) “Domesticated animal” means any member of an animal species capable of transmitting rabies, that has not existed in the wild for generations, that has a history of cohabitation with man in a friendly environment for centuries, is dependent upon the race of man to provide for its care, and for which there is an approved, tested U.S.D.A. anti-rabies vaccine available, i.e. domestic dogs.
- (G) “Exotic animal” means a member of any non-domesticated animal species which is not indigenous to the State of Ohio, which is capable of transmitting rabies, and for which there is not a USDA approved anti-rabies vaccine specifically tested for effectiveness for that animal species.
- (H) “Feral” means any animal of a domestic species that has returned to the wild and is self-maintaining without assistance from man.
- (I) “Health Commissioner” means the Health Commissioner of the Coshocton County General Health District appointed by the Board of Health pursuant to Section 3809.11 of the Ohio Revised Code or his authorized representative.
- (J) “Health District” means the Coshocton County General Health District created pursuant to Section 3809.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- (K) “Isolation” means the placing of a suspected rabid animal or a contact animal separate and apart from all other animals or persons so that the accidental transmission of rabies is unlikely.
- (L) “Owner” “Keeper” or Harboring” means any person who owns, keeps, harbors, possesses, maintains or otherwise controls an animal within the Coshocton County General Health District. This term shall not apply to dogs owned by other persons when the animals are temporarily maintained on the premises of a veterinarian or kennel operator.
- (M) “Person” means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association.
- (N) “Pocket pal” means small herbivorous animals including, but not limited to hamsters, chinchillas, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, white rats, white mice, etc., which do not normally have the capability of transmitting rabies.
- (O) “Quarantine” means to confine an animal to the premises of the owner or harboring or on the premises of a veterinarian, where certainty of continued confinement can be assured.
- (P) “Rabid animal” means any animal exhibiting, in the professional opinion of the veterinarian, definite symptoms of rabies.
- (Q) “Rabies susceptible animal” means any animal or animal species to or from which rabies may be transmitted.

- (R) “Stray” means any animal whose owner cannot be determined or one which cannot be apprehended and isolated for observation.
- (S) “Suspected rabid animal” means an animal which has bitten or scratched a person and is being held for observation to determine if rabies symptoms develop.
- (T) “USDA” means the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (U) “Vaccination” means the administration, by a licensed veterinarian or a dog owner, of a USDA approved anti-rabies vaccine that has been specifically tested for effectiveness for that animal species.
- (V) “Veterinarian” means a veterinarian who is duly licensed under the laws of the State of Ohio to diagnose and medically treat animal injuries and diseases.
  
- (W) “Wild animal” means a member of any non-domestic animal species, including the offspring of wild animals crossbred to domestic dogs and cats, which is capable of transmitting rabies, and for which there is not a USDA approved anti-rabies vaccine specifically tested for effectiveness for that animal species.

## SECTION 2005-1.02 REQUIRED VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES

### 2005-1.021 VACCINATION OF DOGS

- A. Any person who is the owner, keeper, or harborer of a dog in the Health District shall have said dog vaccinated against rabies within thirty (30) days after the dog has reached three months of age.
- B. Any person who becomes the owner, keeper, or harborer of a dog in the Health District that is more than three months of age and which has not been vaccinated against rabies shall have the dog vaccinated within thirty (30) days of obtaining possession of the dog.
- C. All dogs entering the Health District for field trials or hunting purposes shall be properly vaccinated against rabies. The owner or keeper of such dogs shall have in their possession a certification of vaccination from the veterinarian who vaccinated the dog.
- D. Dogs entering the Health District temporarily for animal shows, exhibition, and/or breeding purposes shall not be allowed out of the owner’s, keeper’s, or handler’s direct control unless they have been properly vaccinated against rabies.

### 2005-1.022 REVACCINATION

Each dog shall be revaccinated one year after the initial rabies vaccination and thereafter at no longer than one or three year intervals according to the recommendations of the

current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. Compendium of Animal Rabies Control for the vaccine used.

#### 2005-1.023 VACCINATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY A VETERINARIAN

- A. Rabies vaccine shall be administered by or under the supervision of a veterinarian licensed by the State of Ohio, except that an owner of a dog(s) may vaccinate any dog(s) they personally own.
- B. Vaccination or revaccination shall be by a method listed in the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

#### 2005-1.024 EXEMPTION FROM RABIES VACCINATION

- A. A dog for which a rabies vaccination is contraindicated for medical reasons and for which the owner, keeper, or harbinger of said dog has written documentation from a licensed veterinarian stating the reason(s) why vaccination is contraindicated.
- B. A nonresident owner, keeper, or handler of a dog who has the dog in the Health District for a period of less than fourteen days. Such dogs shall not be allowed out of the owner's, keeper's, or handler's direct control at any time.
- C. A nonresident owner, keeper, or handler of a dog who has the dog in the Health District for a period of more than fourteen days, but holds an immunization certificate or other proof of vaccination listing the name, address, and telephone number of the veterinarian who vaccinated the dog.
- D. Dogs confined to the premises of the County Dog Pound for a period of less than thirty days. Any such dog shall be vaccinated against rabies prior to its adoption or release from the Dog Pound.
- E. Dogs confined for the purposes of research by a facility that is licensed under the Federal Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

### SECTION 2005-1.03 VACCINATION RECORDS AND TAGS

#### 2005-1.031 VACCINATION RECORDS

All veterinarians and dog owners vaccinating or re-vaccinating dogs against rabies shall do all of the following:

- 1. Complete, sign, and issue a vaccination certificate to the person having the dog vaccinated. The vaccination certificate shall include:
  - a. Name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the dog.
  - b. Rabies tag number.
  - c. Age, sex, species, name, and general description of the dog.

- d. Duration of immunity (one or three years).
  - e. Name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian or dog owner who vaccinated the dog.
- 2. Issue and affix a rabies vaccination tag to the collar or harness of the dog at the time of vaccination.
  - 3. Maintain a record of the vaccination certificate for the period of the immunization.

#### 2005-1.032 VACCINATION TAGS

- A. Each owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog shall keep written evidence of each rabies vaccination and shall produce such evidence at the request of the Health Commissioner. Upon receipt of a vaccination tag from the vaccinating veterinarian, the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog shall immediately attach such tag to the collar or harness of the dog and shall ensure that the dog is wearing the vaccination tag at all times.

#### 2005-1.033 VETERINARIAN REPORTS TO HEALTH COMMISSIONER

All veterinarians and dog owners shall provide the Health Commissioner, upon request, verbal or written verification of rabies vaccinations for the dogs they have immunized or re-immunized against rabies.

#### SECTION 2005-1.04 DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

Nothing in this Regulation 2005-1 shall be interpreted to mean that dogs vaccinated or re-vaccinated against rabies shall be allowed to run at large in violation of any rabies quarantine, any ordinance by any political subdivision or agency thereof, or this Regulation 2005-1.

#### SECTION 2005-1 .05 IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS WITHOUT VALID VACCINATION TAG

- A. The County Dog Warden or their authorized representative(s) may impound any dog found off the owner's premises without a valid rabies vaccination tag affixed to their collar or harness. An unvaccinated dog may be redeemed following vaccination of the dog and after complying with all other requirements for redemption of a dog from the Dog Pound.
- B. No person harboring or sheltering dogs shall permit the redemption, donation, or sale of a dog from a dog pound until the dog has been properly vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation 2005-1.

#### SECTION 2005-1.06 ANIMAL BITE INCIDENT REPORTING

- A. Whenever a person suffers a bite, scratch, or is otherwise potentially exposed by a dog, cat, or other rabies susceptible animal within the Health District, a report of all facts relating to the bite incident shall be made to the Health Commissioner. Such report shall be made as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after the bite incident occurred. The following persons shall have an affirmative duty of reporting to the Health Commissioner all information within their knowledge or in their possession concerning the bite incident:
- a. The attending physician to the bite victim;
  - b. The person in charge, or their designee, of a hospital emergency department or other health care facility providing care to the bite victim;
  - c. The bite victim;
  - d. The parent or guardian of the bite victim, if the victim is a minor,
  - e. The owner or harbinger of the biting animal; and,
  - f. Any other person, including a veterinarian, having knowledge of the bite incident.
- B. The Bite Incident Report shall include the name, age, and address of the person exposed; a description of the injury and treatment provided; and, if known, the name and address of the owner or person in control of the dog, cat, or other rabies susceptible animal inflicting the potential rabies exposure injury.

## SECTION 2005-1.07 QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED RABID ANIMALS

### 2005-1.071 DOGS AND CATS

- A. Whenever it is reported that a dog or cat has bitten, scratched, or otherwise potentially exposed a person in the Health District to rabies infection, the Health Commissioner shall order the dog or cat quarantined for a period of not less than ten days from the date of the exposure.
1. The quarantine may be implemented on the owner's premises when the Health Commissioner is satisfied that there will be adequate compliance with all quarantine requirements to assure control of the dog or cat during the quarantine. During the quarantine, the animal may not be permitted to leave the confined quarantine quarters.
  2. The quarantine shall be implemented at a veterinarian's kennel at the owner's, keeper's, or harbinger's expense, when the Health Commissioner has any doubt about adequate control of the dog or cat during the quarantine.

- B. Quarantined dogs and cats shall be examined by a veterinarian or a representative of the Board of Health for evidence of rabies infection at the end of the quarantine period. The examination shall be at the expense of the owner, keeper, or harbinger of the dog or cat. A written report shall be made to the Health Commissioner regarding the conclusions reached as a result of the examination. If the report shows no indication of rabies infection, the Health Commissioner may release the dog or cat from the quarantine.
- C. No dog or cat shall be released from quarantine unless and until it has been properly vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation 2005-1 and the Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-29.
- D. When a quarantined dog or cat dies while under quarantine, the owner, or caretaker shall immediately notify the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner shall provide for submittal of the animal's head to an approved laboratory for rabies examination. The owner of the dog or cat shall be responsible for any and all costs incurred during the quarantine and laboratory examination for rabies under this section.
- E. If the owner, keeper, or harbinger of a biting dog or cat is unknown and the animal is a stray, the Health Commissioner may quarantine the dog or cat at a veterinarian's kennel until the owner, keeper, or harbinger can be identified or may order the humane sacrifice of the animal and submittal of the animal's head to an approved laboratory for rabies examination.

2005-1.072          DOMESTIC ANIMALS

- A. Whenever it is reported that any other domestic animal that is known to transmit rabies has bitten, scratched, or otherwise potentially exposed a person in the Health District, the Health Commissioner shall order the animal to be quarantined for a period of time as determined by the Health Commissioner or humanely sacrificed and the head submitted to an approved laboratory for rabies examination.
- B. Quarantined animals shall be examined by a veterinarian or a Board of Health representative for signs of rabies at the end of the quarantine period. The examination shall be at the expense of the owner of the animal. A written report shall be made to the Health Commissioner regarding the conclusions reached as a result of the examination. If the report shows no indication of rabies infection, the Health Commissioner may release the animal from the quarantine.
- C. If the animal dies while under quarantine, the owner or caretaker shall immediately inform the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner shall provide for submittal of the animal's head to an approved laboratory for rabies examination.
- D. The owner of the animal shall be responsible for any and all costs incurred in the quarantine and the laboratory examination for rabies under this section.

2005-1.073          WILD ANIMALS

Whenever it is reported that a wild animal that is known to transmit rabies has bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed a person in the Health District, the Health Commissioner shall order the animal, if available, to be humanely destroyed and the animal's head submitted to an approved laboratory for rabies examination.

#### SECTION 2005-1.08 KILLING OF QUARANTINED ANIMALS PROHIBITED

No person shall kill a quarantined dog, cat, or domestic animal until such quarantine period has been completed, except that this prohibition shall not apply to the humane killing of dog, cat, or domestic animal in order to prevent further injury or death if such animal is diseased or seriously injured and the Health Commissioner consents to the sacrifice of the animal. The head of any animal sacrificed shall be submitted to an approved laboratory for rabies examination. The owner of the animal shall be responsible for all costs incurred in the laboratory examination for rabies under this section.

#### SECTION 2005-1.09 REMOVAL OF QUARANTINED ANIMALS PROHIBITED

No person shall remove a quarantined animal from the Health District prior to its release from quarantine without the written permission of the Health Commissioner.

#### SECTION 2005-1.10 TRANSFER OF QUARANTINED ANIMALS PROHIBITED

No person shall transfer ownership or keeping of a quarantined animal prior to its release from quarantine without the written permission of the Health Commissioner.

#### SECTION 2005-1.11 HANDLING OF SUSPECTED RABID OR EXPOSED ANIMALS

Any animal which is bitten or exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal shall be managed as a rabid animal in accordance with the recommendations contained in the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

#### SECTION 2005-1.12 REPORT OF SUSPECTED RABID ANIMAL REQUIRED

Any person who owns an animal exhibiting symptoms suggestive of rabies shall have the animal examined immediately by a veterinarian. Any veterinarian who examines, treats, or otherwise cares for any animal which exhibits symptoms or behavior suggestive of rabies, shall confine and isolate the animal in suitable quarters and shall report this event to the Health Commissioner as soon as possible but not later than twenty-four hours after the event. The animal shall be confined until it has been determined that it is not infected with rabies. If it is determined that the animal is rabid, the Health Commissioner shall take such action as may be necessary to prevent the occurrence of rabies in persons or animals known or presumed to have been exposed to the rabid animal.

#### SECTION 2005-1.13 FEES

The Board of Health may establish, by resolution, any fees deemed necessary to carry out the requirements of this Regulation 2005-1.

#### SECTION 2005-1.14 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Upon written request, the Board of Health shall grant an administrative hearing to any person affected or aggrieved by this Regulation 2005-1. The hearing shall be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting of the Board of Health occurring not less than ten day after the receipt of the written request. The hearing shall be governed by Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code.

#### SECTION 2005-1.15 VARIANCE

The Board of Health may grant a variance from the requirements of this Regulation 2005-1 when it will not be contrary to the public interest and where a person shows that because of practical difficulties or other special conditions, their strict application will cause unusual and unnecessary hardship. No variance shall be granted, however, that will defeat the spirit and general intent of this regulation or otherwise be contrary to the public interest.

#### SECTION 2005-1.16 EFFECT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY

Should any provision or part thereof of this Regulation be found unconstitutional, void, or of no effect, the same shall not affect the legality or force of law of the other provisions or parts thereof this Regulation.

#### SECTION 2005-1.17 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Regulation shall be effective immediately upon its adoption and shall replace any regulation governing rabies control previously adopted by the Board of Health.

#### SECTION 2005-1.99 PENALTIES

Any person who violates any provision of this Regulation shall be in violation of sections 3709.21 and/or 3707.48 of the Ohio Revised code and shall be subject to the penalties provided by sections 3707.48, 3707.53, and 3707.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Adopted by the Board of Health of the Coshocton County General Health District this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

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President

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Health Commissioner