

## **RABIES CONTROL**

### **§ 91.30 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW, SUBCHAPTER AS SUPPLEMENT TO STATE LAW.**

(A) It shall be unlawful for any animal owner or other person to fail to comply with the state laws relating to the control of rabies.

(B) It is the purpose of this subchapter to supplement the state laws by providing a procedure for the enforcement of state laws relating to rabies control, in addition to the criminal penalties provided by state law.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004) Penalty, see § 91.99

### **§ 91.31 INOCULATION OF DOGS, CATS AND OTHER ANIMALS.**

(A) It shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies (hydrophobia) for any dog, cat or ferret four months of age or older. Should it be deemed necessary by the County Environmental Services Director, the County Human Services Director, the County Manager or the state's Public Health Veterinarian that other animals be inoculated to prevent a threatened epidemic or to control an existing epidemic, it shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies for that animal(s).

(B) When a licensed veterinarian administers a rabies vaccine to a dog or cat, the dog or cat shall be re-vaccinated one year later and every three years thereafter, if a rabies vaccine licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a three-year vaccine is used. Annual re-vaccination shall be required for all rabies vaccine used other than the U.S. Department of Agriculture three-year vaccine. When a certified rabies vaccinator administers rabies vaccine to a dog, cat or ferret, the dog, cat or ferret shall be re-vaccinated annually.

(C) When a licensed veterinarian administers rabies vaccine to a ferret, the ferret shall be re-vaccinated one year later and every year thereafter.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004) Penalty, see § 91.99

### **§ 91.32 INOCULATION TAG AND PROOF OF VACCINATION FOR DOGS AND CATS.**

(A) Upon complying with the provisions of §§ 91.30 through 91.39, there shall be issued to the owner of the animal inoculated a numbered metallic tag, stamped with the number and the year for which issued, and indicating that the animal has been inoculated against rabies.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner to fail to provide the dog with a collar to which a current tag issued under this section is securely attached. The collar with attached tag, must be worn at all times, except during the time the dog is hunting or is performing at shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, field trials, schools or other events sanctioned and supervised by a recognized organization.

(C) It shall be unlawful to use for an animal a rabies inoculation tag issued for another animal.

(D) It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog or cat to fail to provide written proof that the animal has a current rabies inoculation when the Animal Control Section demands written proof.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004) Penalty, see § 91.99

### **§ 91.33 EVIDENCE OF INOCULATION OF CATS AND FERRETS.**

Cats and ferrets shall not be required to wear the metallic tag referred to in § 91.32 of this chapter, but the owner of a cat or ferret shall maintain the rabies vaccination certificates as written evidence to prove that the cat or ferret has a current rabies inoculation. A cat that has been ear tipped is presumed to have been vaccinated at least once.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004; Am. Ord. passed 6-4-2012)

### **§ 91.34 REPORT AND CONFINEMENT OF ANIMALS BITING PERSONS OR SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF RABIES.**

(A) Every dog, cat or ferret which has bitten any person shall be confined immediately and shall be promptly reported to the Animal Control Section and, thereupon, shall be securely quarantined, at the direction of the Animal Control Section, for a period of ten days, and shall not be released from the quarantine except by documented permission from the Animal Control Section.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to report as soon as possible that an animal has bitten a person. It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to inform the Animal Control Section of the whereabouts of an animal that has bitten a person, if the owner or keeper has given the animal away or in any way caused the animal to be taken from the owner's or keeper's premises.

(C) If there is any evidence that an animal bite may have occurred, it shall be assumed by law that a bite did occur, and quarantine procedures shall apply if required.

(D) Every dog, cat or ferret quarantined under this section shall be confined at the expense of its owner or keeper in a veterinary hospital or at the county animal shelter, if space is available; provided, however, that, if an animal control officer determines that the owner or keeper of a

dog, cat or ferret which must be quarantined has adequate confinement facilities upon his or her own premises, the animal control officer may authorize the dog, cat or ferret to be confined on the premises upon proof of current vaccination against rabies. If the dog, cat or ferret is confined on its owner's or keeper's premises, an animal control officer shall revisit the premises for inspection purposes on the fifth and tenth day of the confinement period. If the owner or keeper fails to provide continuous quarantine of the dog, cat or ferret on his or her premises as instructed, the animal shall be removed by an animal control officer and quarantined at a veterinary hospital or at the county animal shelter at the owner's cost. The owner or keeper shall agree in writing to the above conditions prior to the animal control officer authorizing confinement on the owner or keeper's property.

(E) In cases of stray animals of unknown ownership, the supervised quarantine required shall be at the county animal shelter or at a licensed veterinary hospital, or in lieu of supervised quarantine at the direction of the Animal Control Section, the animal may be euthanized, and the head examined for rabies.

(F) If rabies does not develop within ten days after a dog, cat or ferret is quarantined under this section, the dog, cat or ferret may be released from quarantine with the documented permission of the Animal Control Section. If the dog, cat or ferret has been confined in the county animal shelter, the owner shall pay any necessary veterinarian fees and a boarding fee approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

(G) In the case of a non-dog, cat or ferret or bat suspected of carrying rabies, the animal may be euthanized, and the head examined for rabies.

(H) The Animal Control Section will make a determination as to whether any stray, owner-surrendered, or abandoned animal that has bitten a person is to be considered adoptable. If the animal is not determined to be adoptable, it may be disposed of as otherwise provided in this ordinance.

- Determination of whether or not a bite animal will not be considered adoptable is guided by the Bite Waiver Policy in place at the county animal shelter.

(I) Every dog, cat or ferret which shows symptoms of rabies shall be confined immediately and shall be promptly reported to the Animal Control Section and, thereupon, humanely euthanized by either a licensed veterinarian or at the Wake County Animal Center. If any exposure to a person or other animal is suspected, the dog, cat or ferret will have the head examined for rabies.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004) Penalty, see § 91.99

### **§ 91.35 MANAGEMENT OF DOGS, CATS AND FERRETSEXPOSED TO RABIES**

When the local health director or designee reasonably suspects that a dog, cat or ferret has been exposed to the saliva or nervous tissue of a proven rabid animal or animal reasonably suspected of having rabies that is not available for laboratory diagnosis, the dog, cat or ferret shall be considered to have been exposed to rabies. The recommendations and guidelines for rabies post-exposure management specified by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians in the most current edition of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (the "Compendium") shall be the required control measures.

(A) For purposes of applying the required control measures set forth in the Compendium,

appropriate documentation of prior rabies vaccination shall be a valid rabies vaccination certificate or an official veterinary record of a prior rabies vaccine for that specific animal, provided by the animal's owner. It is the sole responsibility of the animal's owner to provide appropriate documentation of the animal's prior rabies vaccination.

- (B) Dogs, cats and ferrets exposed to rabies shall be seen by a North Carolina licensed veterinarian immediately for wound care and guidance on post-exposure management.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004)

### **§ 91.36 AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY QUARANTINE.**

(A) When reports indicate a cluster of positive rabies cases, the local health director or designee may order an area-wide emergency quarantine for the period as he or she deems necessary. Upon invoking an emergency quarantine, no dog, cat, ferret or other carnivores shall be taken into the streets or permitted to be in the streets during the emergency quarantine period. During the emergency quarantine, no dog, cat or ferret or other carnivore may be taken or shipped from the county without written permission of the Animal Control Section, and the municipal police departments located within Wake County, and the Wake County Sheriff's Office, are hereby directed during the emergency quarantine to impound any dog, cat, ferret or other carnivore found running at large in the county. During the quarantine period, the Animal Control Section or local health authorities shall provide for a section of mass immunization by the establishment of temporary emergency rabies vaccination facilities located throughout the county.

(B) In the event there are additional positive cases of rabies occurring during the period of quarantine, the period of quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the local health director or designee.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004)

### **§ 91.37 POSTMORTEM DIAGNOSIS.**

(A) If an animal dies while under observation for rabies, the head of the animal shall be submitted to the State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies diagnosis.

(B) The carcass of any animal suspected of dying of rabies which came in contact with a person or other domesticated animal capable of contracting rabies, shall be surrendered to the Animal Control Section. The head of the animal shall be submitted to the State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies diagnosis.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004)

### **§ 91.38 UNLAWFUL KILLING, RELEASING AND THE LIKE OF CERTAIN ANIMALS.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or release any animal under observation for rabies, any animal suspected of having been exposed to rabies, or any animal biting a human, or to remove the animal from the county without permission from the Animal Control Section.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004) Penalty, see § 91.99

### **§ 91.39 FAILURE TO SURRENDER ANIMAL FOR QUARANTINE OR EUTHANASIA.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or euthanasia as required in this subchapter or when the Animal Control Section makes demand.

(Ord. passed 5-3-2004) Penalty, see § 91.9

