



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

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Summary of Proposed Changes to Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Rabies Control

It is proposed to amend Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Rabies Control pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act process, as amended, by authority of Act 434 of 1967 as amended.

The regulations are being revised pursuant to Act 159 of 2009 which modernizes Arkansas's Rabies Control Act. The act updated rabies requirements based upon changes in vaccines since 1975. It empowers the State Board of Health to establish reasonable vaccination requirements against rabies and deletes outdated requirements.

Proposed Changes to Current Rules and Regulations

- Revises the legal authority to reflect the current Arkansas legal code.
- Updates definitions and removes responsibility for vaccine approval from the State Veterinarian at Livestock and Poultry.
- Revises quarantine provisions:
 - Removes the requirement that a quarantined dog or cat be observed by a licensed veterinarian and allows local public officials to ensure the dog or cat is confined and observed.
 - Allows quarantined animals to be treated by a veterinarian.
 - Permits the release of the confined dog or cat if it shows no signs of illness compatible with rabies and requires vaccination of the animal against rabies by licensed veterinarian.
 - Adds the ability to euthanize and test other animals for which there is no known incubation period at the discretion of the Department of Health
- Updates instructions for shipping specimens to the public health laboratory for testing:
 - Provides the new address for the Public Health Laboratory.
 - Deletes the requirement to ship by commercial bus.
 - Provides instructions for requesting the local health unit to send the specimen by courier.
 - Permits a charge for laboratory examination of an animal brain for rabies.
 - Updates the form required for submitting a rabies sample and that results will be reported to the submitter.
- Modernizes rabies vaccination requirements:

- Requires an initial vaccination of dogs and cats within 30 days of reaching four months of age or upon purchase or arrival in the state, unless there is documented evidence of current vaccination.
 - Requires revaccination during the 12th month after the initial vaccination and revaccination thereafter based upon the interval prescribed in the 2008 Compendium of Animal Rabies and Control.
- Revises the penalty for non-compliance:
 - Deletes the \$5--\$25 fine for conviction of a misdemeanor.
 - Permits the Board of Health to assess a civil penalty.
 - The penalty shall not exceed \$1,000 for each violation.
 - Each day of a continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation.
 - A person accused of non-compliance must be given the opportunity for a hearing on the violation before a penalty can be assessed.
- Adds that the Health Department is available for consultation and risk assessment of animal bites regarding post-exposure treatment.
- For dogs or cats exposed to rabies, requires complete confinement and observation in a secure cage or enclosure for a period of 45 days instead of 90 days.