

Revised

June 18, 1997

RABIES CONTROL REGULATION

TRUMBULL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Section 1.00 Definitions The following definitions should apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this regulation:

1. Board of Health” .Means Board of Health of Trumbull County General Health District, created by Section 3709.05 of the Ohio Revised Code.
2. Bite” .Any penetration of skin by the teeth or claws of a rabies susceptible animal or contamination of scratches, abrasions, open wounds, or mucous membranes with the saliva or potentially infectious material (such as brain tissue) of a potentially rabid animal.
3. Cat” .Means any member of the domestic feline species felis catus which is more than three (3) months of age.
4. Dog” .Means any member of the domestic canine species which is more than three (3) months of age.
5. Exotic Animal” .Means any non-domestic warm blooded animal, which is not indigenous to the State of Ohio and which is capable of transmitting rabies.
6. Feral” .Means any rabies susceptible domestic animal living in the wild state.
7. Ferret” .Means a member of the weasel family, commonly referred to as the domestic black-footed ferret that has been bred and raised in captivity.
8. Health Commissioner” .Means the Health Commissioner of the Trumbull County General Health District or his authorized representative.
9. Owner or Harbore” .Means any person who owns, harbors, keeps, possesses, maintains, or otherwise controls an animal within the Health District.
10. Person” .Means person, firm, corporation, or association.

11. "Pocket Pet" .Means small animals such as hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, white rats, and mice.
12. "Quarantine" .Means to confine an animal to the premises of the owner or harborer or in a suitable pound or kennel.
13. "Rabies Susceptible Animal" .Means any animal to or from which rabies may be transmitted,
14. "Vaccination" .Means the administration of an anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian.

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15. "Veterinarian" .Means a person who is licensed to diagnose and medically treat animal injuries and diseases.
16. "Wild Animal" .Means any warm blooded non-domestic animal, including non-domesticated cats, which is indigenous to the State of Ohio and which is capable of transmitting rabies.

SECTION 2.00 REQUIRED VACCINATIONS

- A.** It shall be the duty of all owners or harborers to have their dog, cat and/or ferret vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian. Each owner or harborer of an unvaccinated dog, cat and/or ferret; or a dog, cat and/or ferret whose vaccination has expired, shall cause such animal to be vaccinated. Each owner or harborer of a dog, cat and/or ferret which has a currently valid vaccination shall cause such animal to be revaccinated on or before the expiration date of the current vaccination. Any person who becomes an owner or harborer within the meaning of this regulation shall have thirty (30) days from the date upon which he/she became an owner or harborer in which to secure a valid vaccination for his/her dog, cat and/or ferret. The above requirements shall not apply (1) where a veterinarian states in writing that vaccination is contraindicated, or (2) to animals kept by medical colleges, laboratories, institutions or organizations engaged in teaching or research concerning the prevention and/or treatment of animal or human diseases.
- B.** Nothing contained in this regulation shall be construed as allowing dogs currently vaccinated against rabies to run at large.

SECTION 3.00 DUTIES OF OWNER OR HARBORER

- A. Each owner or harborer of a dog, cat and/or ferret shall:
1. cause such animal to be currently vaccinated pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.00 (A) of this regulation;
 2. ensure that each such vaccination is performed by a veterinarian;
 3. keep written evidence of each such vaccination and produce such evidence at the request of the Health Commissioner;
 4. upon receiving a vaccination tag from the vaccinating veterinarian, immediately attach such tag to the collar or harness of a vaccinated dog, cat and/or ferret; and
 5. ensure that the dog, cat and/or ferret is wearing the vaccination tag at all times.

SECTION 4.00 RESPONSIBILITIES OF VETERINARIAN

- A. All veterinarians immunizing or re-immunizing dog, cat and/or ferret against rabies shall properly maintain vaccination certificate records, and will make such records available for inspection by the Health District upon reasonable request therefore. The vaccination records shall be the property of the veterinarian and shall be kept for a period of not less than five years from the date of the vaccination. Upon the

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vaccination of any dog, cat and/or ferret whose owner or harborer resides within the Health District, the veterinarian shall:

1. deliver to the owner or harborer, at the time of the vaccination, a vaccination tag;
2. provide the owner or harborer of the vaccinated animal written evidence of such vaccination.

SECTION 5.00 ANIMAL BITE REPORTING

- A. Whenever a person suffers a bite by a dog, cat and/or ferret, or other rabies susceptible animal within the Health District, a report of all facts relating to the incident shall be made to the Health Commissioner as soon as possible, but not later than, twenty-four (24) hours from the time the bite occurred. If the Health Commissioner cannot be notified within these time limitations, such report shall be made to the appropriate police or sheriff's agency. 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:

1. the attending physician to the bite victim;
2. the bite victim;
3. the owner or harbinger of the biting animal; and
4. any person, including a veterinarian, having knowledge of the bite incident.

SECTION 6.00 BITE QUARANTINE PROCEDURE

- A. Biting dog or cat: When it is reported to the Health Commissioner that any dog or cat located within the Health District has bitten a person, such dog or cat shall be quarantined under an order issued by the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner shall have the discretion to determine where such animal may be quarantined, but as a general rule such animal may be quarantined at the residence of the owner or harbinger, or at the Trumbull County Animal Shelter or other animal control facility, or kennel. In all cases, said quarantine shall be under the supervision of the Health Commissioner and shall be at the expense of the owner or harbinger. The quarantine shall continue until a veterinarian determines that the dog or cat is not affected with rabies. The quarantine period hereby required shall not be less than ten days from the date on which the person was bitten. If at any time during the quarantine the animal exhibits signs of illness, dies or escapes from quarantine, the animal owner/harbinger shall notify the Health Commissioner. Examinations for symptoms of rabies shall be by a veterinarian. The veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner the conclusions reached as a result of the examination. The examination by a veterinarian shall be at the expense of the owner or harbinger. No dog or cat shall be released from the required quarantine unless and until it has been examined by a veterinarian, properly vaccinated against rabies, and written proof of such vaccination presented to the Health Commissioner.

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- B. If the biting animal has not been vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian or does not have a current vaccination against rabies administered by a veterinarian at the time of the scheduled release from quarantine, the animal owner/harbinger shall provide for such vaccination, administered by a veterinarian, within fourteen (14) days after the biting animal's scheduled release from quarantine.
- C. The Health Commissioner may declare a biting animal that has not been vaccinated against rabies to be a danger to the community, and therefore, subject to the requirements of Section 8.
- D. No person shall remove a quarantined dog or cat from the Health District

until such quarantine period has been completed. Likewise, no persons shall transfer a quarantined dog or cat within the Health District until such quarantine period has been completed except that a person may transfer the dog or cat to the Trumbull County Animal Shelter or to any other animal control authority.

- E. No person shall kill a quarantined dog or cat until such quarantine period has been completed, except that this prohibition shall not apply to the killing of a dog or cat in order to prevent further injury or death if such animal is diseased or seriously injured.
- F. If, for whatever reason, any quarantined dog or cat dies before the expiration of the quarantine period, the owner, harbinger or person having control of such animal shall immediately notify the Health District of the facts relating to the death of the animal and shall hold the body of the animal until the Health District claims it to perform tests for rabies. If any quarantined dog or cat dies before the quarantine period expires, then the head of the dog or cat shall be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination.
- G. If the owner or harbinger is unknown, the Health Commissioner may direct that the dog or cat be destroyed in a humane manner if symptoms suggestive of rabies develop, in which case the head of the dog or cat shall be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination.
- H. Any dog or cat which is currently immunized against rabies and which is exposed to a proven or suspected rabid animal should receive an immediate booster dose of rabies vaccine from a veterinarian and be quarantined for 45 days observation and confinement. If symptoms of rabies develop, the animal shall be euthanized and tested or if the animal dies, its head shall be immediately submitted for testing.

Any unvaccinated dog or cat which is exposed to a proven or suspected rabid animal should be euthanized immediately. If the owner is unwilling to have this done, the dog or cat must be placed in quarantine in strict isolation for a period of six months. Vaccination for rabies by a veterinarian one month prior to release from the six month quarantine period is required. If symptoms of rabies develop during isolation, the animal shall be humanely euthanized and tested, or, if the animal dies, its head shall be immediately submitted for testing.

SECTION 7.00 . OTHER BITING ANIMALS

- A. Biting Ferret: Whenever it is reported to the Health Commissioner that a ferret has bitten a person within the Health District, the Health Commissioner may direct the immediate killing of such animal by a suitable humane method. The head of the biting ferret shall then be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination. Ferrets shall not be quarantined until an appropriate quarantine period has been determined for that species.
- B. Whenever it is reported to the Health Commissioner that any other rabies susceptible wild or exotic animal, owned in accordance with Section 8 of the Trumbull County Rabies Control Regulation, has bitten a person within the Health District, the animal shall be sacrificed and tested for rabies or managed in an appropriate manner based on a decision made by the Health Commissioner in consultation with experts.
- C. Whenever it is reported to the Health Commissioner that any other rabies susceptible animal has bitten a person within the Health District, the Health Commissioner may direct the immediate humane destruction of said animal by a suitable humane method. The head of said animal shall then be submitted for rabies examination.

SECTION 8.00 . WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMALS

- A. Except as specifically provided herein, no person shall own, harbor, sell, feed, import, or otherwise attempt to exercise any control over a wild or exotic animal. The following exceptions to the above general prohibition are permitted:
 - 1. Ownership of pocket pets;
 - 2. Wild or exotic animals held for exhibit by government agencies, publicly supported zoos, circuses, museums, or extensions thereof;
 - 3. Wild or exotic animals held for use by research institutions or hospitals; and
 - 4. So-called petting zoos”, exhibiting non-carnivorous domestic animals, but only if such petting zoos are registered with the Health District and pay any registration fee, which may be established by the Board of Health.
- B. Wild or exotic animals, which were purchased or otherwise obtained prior to the effective date of this regulation, and which are located within the Health District as of such date, shall be permitted provided that the

following conditions are met:

1. No person shall knowingly enter, upon any public or private grounds or premises, to display or exhibit any wild or exotic animal that comes into contact with any person, other than the animal trainer or handler.

C. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this regulation, the owner or harbinger of such wild or exotic animal; (i) registers such animal with the Health District; (ii) pays any registration fee, which may be established by the Board of Health, and, (iii) offers written verification (e.g., bill of sale, state license, etc.) to the Health Commissioner that such animal was purchased or otherwise obtained before the

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effective date of this regulation.

D. The owner or harbinger agrees to confine the exotic animal in such a way so as to preclude contact with humans or with any rabies susceptible animals.

E. The owner or harbinger agrees not to trade, lend, give or to otherwise release the exotic animal to any other person within the Health District.

F. The owner or harbinger agrees not to transport or otherwise remove the animal to another location with Trumbull County without the prior approval of the Health Commissioner.

G. The owner or harbinger agrees not to breed the animal.

H. In the event of a human exposure with any wild animal, the animal shall be impounded for sacrifice, as soon as possible, to permit laboratory examination for rabies.

I. If the owner or harbinger of a wild or exotic animal fails to meet any of the requirements as set forth in paragraphs C through H above, the Health commissioner shall have the authority to seize and/or destroy the animal.

SECTION 9.00 .VICIOUS ANIMALS

Whenever the Health Commissioner considers any animal vicious or otherwise constituting a danger to the community or a public health threat, the Health Commissioner may issue special written notice to the owner or harbinger of such animal, ordering such animal to be confined, muzzled, quarantined, or destroyed.

SECTION 10.00 .PROCEDURES

The Board of Health shall establish by resolution any procedures necessary to carry out the requirements of this regulation.

SECTION 11.00 .EFFECT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY

In the event that any section or paragraph or part of this regulation is declared unconstitutional or unenforceable, the remaining parts thereof, shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12.00 .PENALTIES

Any person who fails to comply with any requirement of this regulation, or any order issued pursuant thereto, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Ohio

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Revised Code and any other administrative and/or legal action, which may be deemed appropriate by the Health Department.

SECTION 13.00 .EFFECTIVE DATE

This regulation shall be effective on or after the __ day of ____ 1997

Passed on the ___ day of _____, 1997, by the Board of

Health of the Trumbull County General Health District.

James Smith

J. Vincent Catuogno

President

Health Commissioner and Secretary

Trumbull County Board of Health

Trumbull County Board of Health

On Roll Call the Vote Was:

__M. Johnson __D. Burchett __T. Yova __G. Prelac

J. Smith