



Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Steven Stack, MD
SECRETARY

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January 30, 2026

Dear Representative Witten,

The Cabinet believes allowing a licensed veterinary technician to administer the rabies vaccine would be of significant benefit, especially for animal shelters. This bill will increase the capacity for rabies vaccinations of pets and will increase the likelihood that pets adopted from shelters would be vaccinated prior to adoption.

When supervised by a licensed veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician would be able to correctly and safely administer the rabies vaccine to all domestic animals. In animal shelters, this practice would free up the veterinarian to focus on other duties.

In 2025, three domestic animals tested positive for rabies in Kentucky, and an average of 14 people were exposed from each animal. Each exposure is investigated by the Kentucky Department for Public Health and the local health department of jurisdiction to ensure exposed individuals receive proper care. Higher animal vaccination rates will decrease follow-up from state and local health department staff, saving resources and time. Increased vaccination will also save in expensive post-exposure treatment costs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or to CHFS Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Director Josh Hardesty at joshj.hardesty@ky.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven J. Stack".

Steven J. Stack, MD, MBA
Secretary