

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of rabies vaccinations.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 258.005 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 258.005 to 258.087, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 5 (1) "Dog" means any canine three (3) months of age or older for which there exists a  
6 United States Department of Agriculture approved rabies vaccine;
- 7 (2) "Owner" means any person owning, keeping, or harboring a dog, cat, or ferret in  
8 Kentucky;
- 9 (3) "Veterinarian" means a licensed practitioner of veterinary medicine;
- 10 (4) "Qualified person" means a person granted a permit by the secretary for health and  
11 family services to vaccinate his ***or her*** own dog against rabies;
- 12 (5) "Vaccination" means the administration by a veterinarian or other qualified person  
13 of rabies vaccine approved by and administered in accordance with administrative  
14 regulations promulgated by the secretary for health and family services;
- 15 (6) "Cat" means any feline three (3) months of age or older for which there exists a  
16 United States Department of Agriculture approved rabies vaccine;
- 17 (7) "Animal control officer" means an individual who is employed or appointed by, or  
18 has contracted with:
- 19 (a) A city, county, urban-county, charter county, or consolidated local  
20 government to enforce the provisions of this chapter, the provisions of the  
21 Kentucky Revised Statutes relating to cruelty, mistreatment, sexual crimes  
22 against, or torture of animals, and local animal control ordinances; or
- 23 (b) An entity that has contracted with a city, county, urban-county, charter  
24 county, or consolidated local government to enforce the provisions of this  
25 chapter, the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes relating to cruelty,  
26 mistreatment, sexual crimes against, or torture of animals, and local animal  
27 control ordinances;

1 (8) "Ferret" means any musteline three (3) months of age or older for which there exists  
2 a United States Department of Agriculture approved rabies vaccine;~~and~~

3 (9) "Quarantine" means the confinement of an animal for observation of clinical signs  
4 of illness indicating rabies infection, and the prevention of escape or contact with  
5 any person or other animal; and

6 (10) "Certified animal euthanasia specialist" has the same meaning as in KRS  
7 321.181.

8 ➔Section 2. KRS 258.015 is amended to read as follows:

9 (1) Only veterinarians, certified animal euthanasia specialists, or qualified persons  
10 may administer rabies vaccinations to dogs, cats, and ferrets. Vaccinations  
11 performed by a certified animal euthanasia specialist shall be performed at the  
12 euthanasia specialist's place of employment.

13 (2) Every owner shall have his or her dog, cat, or ferret initially vaccinated against  
14 rabies by the age of four (4) months and revaccinated at the expiration of the  
15 immunization period as certified by the veterinarian. The veterinarian or certified  
16 animal euthanasia specialist who vaccinates a dog, cat, or ferret shall issue to the  
17 owner a vaccination certificate on a form approved by the Cabinet for Health and  
18 Family Services. The vaccination certificate shall be prepared and issued in  
19 duplicate, one (1) copy to be retained by the issuing veterinarian or certified animal  
20 euthanasia specialist and one (1) copy to be given to the owner of the dog, cat, or  
21 ferret vaccinated. Each certificate shall bear the name and address of the  
22 veterinarian or certified animal euthanasia specialist who issued it. The  
23 veterinarian or certified animal euthanasia specialist shall also furnish each dog  
24 owner with a rabies tag bearing a serial number corresponding to the vaccination  
25 certificate with the year of immunization. The tag shall be affixed to a collar or  
26 harness furnished by the owner and shall be worn by the dog for which the tag was  
27 issued. No one except the owner or his or her duly authorized agent shall remove

1 the tag.

2 ~~(3)-(2)~~ Every qualified person who vaccinates his or her own dog shall comply with  
3 the vaccination certificate and tag requirement provisions of subsection ~~(2)-(1)~~ of  
4 this section.

5 ~~(4)-(3)~~ Every owner of a cat or ferret shall show proof of a valid rabies vaccination  
6 upon request of an animal control officer or peace officer.

7 ➔Section 3. KRS 258.043 is amended to read as follows:

- 8 (1) A local health department may sponsor mass rabies immunization clinics and shall  
9 contract with local veterinarians, certified animal euthanasia specialists, or both to  
10 administer the rabies vaccine. If the services of veterinarians or certified animal  
11 euthanasia specialists are not available in the area, the local health department may  
12 contract with other veterinarians or certified animal euthanasia specialists. The  
13 cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish a reasonable fee,  
14 not to exceed administrative costs of the program, to be charged to the owner of  
15 each dog, cat, or ferret to help defray the cost of the clinic.
- 16 (2) No owner shall be required to have his or her dog, cat, or ferret vaccinated at a  
17 public clinic if he or she elects to have his or her dog, cat, or ferret vaccinated  
18 privately by a veterinarian of his or her choice.
- 19 (3) No owner shall be required to have his or her dog vaccinated at a public clinic if he  
20 or she is a qualified person and elects to vaccinate his or her dog himself.