

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULATION 709  
Rabies Control Regulation**

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Revised 09/08/09

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**DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Contact" shall mean any susceptible animal that directly or indirectly has come in contact with a rabid, or suspected rabid animal.
- B. "Dangerous Animal" shall mean any animal which in the opinion of the Health Commissioner represents a danger to the health, welfare and safety of the public and presents a risk of serious physical harm to persons or property as measured by infectious disease status, viciousness, or poisonous status, or presents a risk of serious physical harm to persons, animals, or to property.
- C. "Exotic Animal" shall mean other wild animal not indigenous to Ohio, capable of transmitting rabies.
- D. "Feral" shall mean any susceptible domestic animal living in the wild state, including, but not limited to, any dog or cat without a rabies tag or other acceptable identification as approved by the Board of Health.
- E. "Health Commissioner" shall mean the Health Commissioner of the Franklin County District Board of Health or his/her authorized representative.
- F. "Human Exposure" shall mean all incidents involving persons having contact with a susceptible animal, including bites.
- G. "Immunization" shall mean the administration of a biological product recommended in the U.S. Public Health Service Center for Disease Control Animal Rabies Vaccine Compendium and licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and deemed adequate to provide protection to the animal so vaccinated against rabies.
- H. "Isolation" shall mean the placing of a rabid animal, suspected rabid animal, or a contact separate and apart from all other susceptible animals or persons so that the transmission of rabies is impossible.
- I. "Owner" shall mean any person owning, keeping, possessing, harboring, maintaining or having the care, custody or control of an animal.
- J. "Person" shall mean individual, company, partnership, firm, municipal corporation, corporation or association, or any combination of individuals, or any employee, agent, or officer thereof.
- K. "Pocket Pets" shall mean small pets such as, but not limited to, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, domestic rabbits, white rats, and mice.

## DEFINITIONS, (CONT)

- L. "Prohibited Animals" shall mean any poisonous insects, amphibians, or reptiles, including those whose fangs or poison sacs have been removed or neutralized.
- M. "Quarantine" is the limitation of freedom of movement of rabid or suspected rabid animals, or contacts, for a period of time equal to the longest usual incubation period of the disease, as recommended by the Compendium of Animal Rabies Control of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., in such manner as to prevent the spread of the rabies virus.
- N. "Rabid Animal" shall mean any animal showing observable clinical signs of rabies or which has been confirmed as having rabies by a laboratory acceptable to the Health Commissioner.
- O. "Stray" shall mean any susceptible animal whose owner cannot be determined or one that cannot be apprehended and isolated for observation.
- P. "Susceptible Animal" shall mean any animal to which rabies can be transmitted.
- Q. "Suspected Rabid Animal" shall mean a susceptible animal showing, to a limited degree, observable clinical signs of rabies or a susceptible animal that has bitten a person or has come in contact with a person in such manner that rabies could be transmitted to that person.
- R. "Veterinarian" shall mean a veterinarian duly licensed under the laws of the State of Ohio.
- S. "Wild Animal" shall mean: Hares or Rabbits, Gray Squirrels, Black Squirrels, Fox Squirrels, Red Squirrels, Groundhogs or Woodchucks, Deer, Wild Boar, Bears, Minks, Weasels, Raccoons, Skunks, Opossums, Muskrats, Fox, Beavers, Badgers, Otters, Coyotes, Bobcats or any other warm blooded non-domestic animal which is indigenous to the State of Ohio and capable of transmitting rabies; an offspring born to wild animals bred with a domestic animal, or offspring born to domestic animals bred with wild animals; and any animal for which there has been no rabies vaccine in which the efficacy has been demonstrated, or which the quarantine period has not been scientifically researched and defined.
  - 1. Mustela Putorius Furo (domestic ferret) shall be considered wild unless all of the following conditions are met:
    - a. shall be under the regular care of a licensed veterinarian but not necessarily in the veterinarian's possession, and
    - b. shall be currently immunized for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and
    - c. the ferret must be a product of three generations of breeding, in captivity, to live a life intimately associated with man in a tame or tamable condition.

## **709.02 QUARANTINE**

- A. Whenever it is reported to the Health Commissioner that a dog, cat, ferret, or any susceptible animal has bitten a person, that dog, cat, ferret, or susceptible animal shall be quarantined under order issued by the Health Commissioner. The dog, cat, ferret, or susceptible animal shall be quarantined in a pound or kennel or may be quarantined by its owner or by a harbinger in cases approved by the Health Commissioner.
- B. Home quarantine by the owner is acceptable provided that the following criterion is met.
  - 1. The owner assumes all risk related to the animal during home quarantine.
  - 2. Animals confined indoors must be confined to a house, building or other enclosure in such a way that prevents human contact, other than contacts with the owner(s).
  - 3. Animals confined outdoors must be on a leash, not to exceed a six foot length, and under direct supervision of an adult capable of controlling and handling the animal or confined in a kennel with a 6 foot high fence with an enclosed top and a secured bottom, or other enclosure suitable to the Franklin County Board of Health.
- C. Confinement may be obtained at the Franklin County Animal Shelter for a ten day period, at a daily charge to the owner.
- D. If the Franklin County Department of Animal Control captures or confines the animal due to running-at-large or not under owner control, the animal, if quarantined, will not be released until the quarantine period is over and the daily confinement cost is paid by the owner.
- E. If the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, the owner must take the animal to a veterinarian within 24 hours after the tenth day of the bite, for examination and rabies vaccination, before the animal is released from quarantine.
- F. No person shall remove an animal that has bitten a person within the jurisdiction of the Franklin County Board of Health from this jurisdiction until a quarantine period, as determined by the Health Commissioner, has been completed.
- G. No person shall kill an animal that has bitten any person until a quarantine period, as specified in Section 709.03, has been completed unless the owner of the animal elects to sacrifice the animal for immediate laboratory analysis.
- H. No animal shall be immunized against rabies, as specified in Section 709.04, while quarantined.

**709.02 QUARANTINE (CONT)**

- I. No animal shall be released from quarantine until it has been immunized, by a licensed veterinarian, against rabies.

**709.03 CONTROL REPORTS, OBSERVATIONS, EXAMINATIONS AND DISPOSITION**

- A. Veterinarians, owners or persons caring for an animal shall report to the Health Commissioner all cases of rabid or suspected rabid animals. If no veterinarian is in attendance of a rabid or suspected animal, the owner or person caring for the animal shall immediately make the report to the Health Commissioner.
- B. If there is any doubt as to the diagnosis, the attending veterinarian, owner or person caring for the animal, shall, after the death of the animal, deliver to the laboratory of the Ohio Department of Health or other recognized laboratory, the head of the suspected rabid animal for examination and laboratory diagnosis.
- C. The veterinarian, owner or person caring for the rabid or suspected rabid animal or contact shall give the Health Commissioner all data pertaining to the animal. This data shall include the name and addresses of all persons having been bitten or having contact with the animals; names and addresses of the owners or persons caring for animals bitten by or having contact with the rabid or suspected rabid animal; any information regarding the possibility of infection; and any other pertinent information.
- D. All rabid animals shall be destroyed by an acceptable humane method.
- E. All suspected rabid animals, with the exception of stray, wild, exotic and feral animals, shall be held in isolation under observation in a place suitable to the Health Commissioner for a period of not less than ten days or more than one hundred eighty days, in order to determine the development of observable clinical signs of rabies. Whenever the Health Commissioner requires a veterinarian to observe or examine a suspected rabid animal for symptoms of rabies, the veterinarian shall report the result(s) of the observation, and conclusions reached, to the Health Commissioner within 24 hours. The examination by a veterinarian shall be at the expense of the owner.
- F. If any animal dies before the quarantine period expires, the veterinarian, owner, or person caring for the animal shall make arrangements with the Health Commissioner to remove the head by an approved agency or individual and to submit the head of the suspected rabid animal, for examination and laboratory diagnosis, to the Ohio Department of Health laboratory or other recognized laboratory.

**709.03 CONTROL REPORTS, OBSERVATIONS, EXAMINATIONS AND DISPOSITION (CONT)**

- G. All animal contacts shall be destroyed by some suitable and acceptable humane method or shall be held in quarantine for at least one hundred eighty days, under observation, until observable clinical signs of rabies develop. This quarantine shall be held in some place authorized by the Health Commissioner, where no persons or susceptible animals can come in contact with the possible rabid animal.
- H. Any stray, wild, exotic, or feral animal, involved in an animal bite, must be sacrificed immediately and the head submitted to the Ohio Department of Health laboratory for analysis, except for the following:
1. For Mustela Putorius Furo (domestic ferret), shall be 10 days from the bite.
    - a. The animal shall meet all conditions, as specified in Section 709.01 (S)(1), of this regulation.
- I. All suspected rabid animals may be sacrificed if showing, to a limited degree, observable clinical signs of rabies. The Health Commissioner shall determine if the suspected rabid animal or animal contact should be destroyed and may require all such animals to be examined by a licensed veterinarian at the expense of the owner. The veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner the results of the examination and conclusions reached within 24 hours.
- J. The place of keeping and the premises where a rabid animal has been quartered shall be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the Health Commissioner.
- K. Whenever a person is bitten by a susceptible animal, prompt report of such bite shall be made to the Health Commissioner. The report herein required shall be made by the physician attending the person bitten, or, if such person is received at a hospital or other health care facility for treatment, the report herein required shall be made by the person in charge of the hospital or health care facility. This report shall include name, age and address of the person bitten, the part of the body where the bite was inflicted, and if known, the name and address of the owner or person caring for the animal inflicting the bite. When a physician was not consulted or the person bitten was not taken to a hospital or other health care facility, the report shall be made by the person bitten or any other person who has knowledge of the facts.

**709.03 CONTROL REPORTS, OBSERVATIONS, EXAMINATIONS AND DISPOSITION (CONT)**

- L. Whenever a veterinarian is called upon to observe a susceptible animal that has bitten a person, he shall promptly report the result of his observation to the Health Commissioner. Any susceptible animal inflicting a bite on a person shall be placed in isolation on the owner's premises or in a place deemed suitable by the Health Commissioner until it is determined to the satisfaction of the Health Commissioner that the animal is not affected with rabies. The isolation period shall not be less than ten days from the day the person was bitten, and there shall be at least 2 observations made by a veterinarian or health department representative. A veterinarian or health department representative shall make the final observation on the tenth day of the isolation period whenever possible, except where the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination. If the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, a licensed veterinarian must examine and vaccinate the animal as specified in Section 709.02 (E).
  
- M. When a report is made to the Health Commissioner of a person bitten by a susceptible animal, the Health Commissioner shall notify the owner or a person caring for the animal inflicting the bite that this animal shall be held in quarantine for at least 10 (ten) days from the date of the bite and that at least 2 (two) observations shall be made by a veterinarian or a health department representative. The quarantine shall remain in effect until final observation is made by a veterinarian or health department representative. The place of quarantine may be, if suitable, the premises of the owner or the person caring for the animal, a veterinary hospital, or an animal shelter approved by the Health Commissioner. All susceptible animals held under such quarantine shall be boarded and cared for at the expense of the owner or person caring for the animal.
  
- N. Any anti-rabies treatment given in Franklin County must be administered in accordance with the recommendations of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare Center for Disease Control.

#### **709.04 IMMUNIZATION**

- A. Any person who owns, keeps or harbors dogs, cats or ferrets within the jurisdiction of the Franklin County District Board of Health, shall have such dogs, cats or ferrets, immunized or re-immunized against rabies by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with recommendations in the current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* as existing and herein after amended or any other method approved by the Health Commissioner, provided that dogs, cats or ferrets need not be immunized before reaching the age of three (3) months. Dogs, cats or ferrets entering this jurisdiction for shows, exhibitions and/or breeding purposes shall not be allowed out of the owner's, keeper's or handler's control unless properly immunized. All dogs, cats or ferrets entering this jurisdiction for field trials, or any other purpose, shall be properly immunized. Immunized dogs, cats or ferrets shall be accompanied by an immunization certificate or certified acknowledgment by a veterinarian that the dog, cat or ferret has been properly immunized.
- B. All veterinarians immunizing or re-immunizing dogs, cats or ferrets against rabies whose owner, keeper or harborer resides in the jurisdiction of the Franklin County District Board of Health shall keep a record of such immunization or re-immunization and shall, without delay, give to the owner, keeper or harborer of the dog, cat or ferret immunized or re-immunized a certificate of immunization. The certificate of immunization shall be made on the NASPHV Form 51 (Rabies Vaccination Certificate) as existing and herein after amended or equivalent form as approved by the Health Commissioner which shall include the rabies tag identification number prescribed in 709.04(C). The veterinarian shall also provide the information required on the rabies vaccination certificate described in this Section to the Health Commissioner upon request, and without delay.
- C. All veterinarians who immunize or re-immunize a dog, cat or ferret against rabies whose owner, keeper or harborer resides in the jurisdiction of the Franklin County District Board of Health shall provide a rabies tag approved by the Health Commissioner which shall have thereon permanently affixed the year the immunization or re-immunization expires and the unique identification number. The rabies tag identification number shall be recorded on the rabies vaccination certificate prescribed in 709.04(B). Such rabies tag shall be displayed on the dog or cat. Ferrets, however, are not required to wear or display a rabies tag. Animals that do not have rabies tags displayed shall have a method or means approved by the Health Commissioner that includes the rabies tag identification number on the rabies vaccination certificate.



- D. The rabies tags, described in 709.04(C), shall be provided to the veterinarians or veterinary practice by the Health Commissioner. The veterinarians or veterinary practice shall purchase such tags at a cost determined annually by the Board of Health. A veterinarian may choose to charge and/or pass through such costs to the person requesting the vaccination. Any tags purchased by a veterinarian or veterinary practice and not distributed by said veterinarian or veterinary practice may be returned to the Health Commissioner for credit towards future tag purchases. To be eligible for credit, the veterinarian or veterinary practice shall return all non-issued rabies tags to the Health Commissioner for reimbursement no later than December thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) the following year. A reimbursement of costs for returned rabies tags will be given in the event that a veterinarian or veterinary practice ceases to operate or upon approval from the Health Commissioner. Rabies tags from the current year and previous year only shall be eligible for credit or reimbursement.
- E. Nothing in this regulation shall be interpreted to mean that dogs, cats or ferrets immunized or re-immunized shall be allowed to run at large in violation of any law, ordinance, regulation, or rabies quarantine.

**709.05 WILD, EXOTIC, PROHIBITED, DANGEROUS AND FERAL ANIMALS**

- A. No person shall:
  - 1. harbor, feed or sell wild, exotic, prohibited, dangerous, or feral animals within the jurisdiction of the Franklin County District Board of Health;
  - 2. import into the Franklin County District Board of Health jurisdiction any such wild, exotic, prohibited, dangerous, or feral animals;
  - 3. perform surgery or other techniques on a wild, exotic, prohibited, dangerous, or feral animal for the purpose of domesticating it, such as but not limited to, neutering, spaying, removing scent glands, or venom sacs. Mustela Putorius Furo may be neutered, spayed or descented if all conditions of Section 709.01 (S)(1)(a-c) are met; and
  - 4. immunize wild animals against rabies.
- B. This Section does not apply to the following exemptions and special provisions:
  - 1. The term wild and exotic animal does not include pocket pets.
  - 2. Wild and exotic animals held for exhibit or use by person, research institutions, or governmental agencies having legal authority to possess wild animals, publicly supported zoos, circuses, or extensions thereof.
- C. Disposition of animals: In the event of a human exposure with any wild, exotic, prohibited, dangerous or feral animal, the animal shall be impounded for sacrifice as soon as possible, to permit laboratory examination for rabies.

**709.06 UNCONSTITUTIONALITY CLAUSE**

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of Regulation 709 of the Franklin County District Board of Health Sanitary Regulations be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of said regulation shall not be affected thereby.

**709.07 PENALTIES**

Each and every violation of the provision of this rule and regulation shall constitute a separate offense. Violation of this rule and regulation is punishable by Section 3709.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Amended 9-08-09

## **ANIMAL BITE REPORTING PROCEDURE**

1. Section 3701-3-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code requires all animal bites to be reported to the local health department.
2. When a report of a bite is received, fill out the "Animal Bite" form as completely as possible. Along with the type of animal, also get a description, i.e. long haired, brown and white toy terrier. If the rabies tag number is available, make certain the expiration date is obtained. Note the location the animal is being kept. Also note if the bite occurred off the owner's premises. If the animal is at home, it must be quarantined. If it is going to the animal shelter, or if it was picked up by the Animal Warden, the animal must stay confined at the shelter for the remainder of the quarantine period. The owner will be charged the kennel fee established by the Franklin County Department Animal Control. The animal will not be released until permission is given by the health department, and is currently up to date on rabies vaccination.
3. **Stray Animals:** if the whereabouts of the animal is not known, get as complete a description as possible. Fill out stray animal form and give to information officer. This information is faxed to the media in order to get the information to the public. It is the decision of the bitten party's physician as to the steps to be taken to ensure their safety.
4. Animals on Home Quarantine: sanitarians will fill out quarantine form with the yellow copy going to Animal Control, the pink copy is attached to the animal bite form and the white copy goes to the owner of the animal. If personal contact is not made with the owner, the sanitarian **must** follow-up with a phone call.
5. At the end of confinement (10 days from the date of the bite), either a representative of the health department or certified veterinarian must see the animal. Proof of rabies vaccination must be obtained prior to release from quarantine. Animals **may not** receive any vaccinations or medications during quarantine without permission of the Health Commissioner. Should this occur, confinement time may be extended a minimum of 30 days. The bitten party is to be notified that the determination that the animal is free of rabies cannot be made.
6. If the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, the owner is to be ordered to take the animal to a veterinarian within 24 hours after the 10th day of the bite, for examination and rabies vaccination. Note the veterinarian's name, address, and telephone number, where the animal will be taken.
7. The sanitarian will call the bitten party after the animal is released from quarantine and report the condition of the animal. If the bitten party's physician feels post-exposure vaccination is indicated, the physician writes a prescription and call the Franklin County Board of Health's Nursing Director. A purchase order is then obtained from the Franklin County Commissioners. The rabies Immune Globulin and Human Diploid Cell Vaccine is ordered and paid for by the County Commissioners. The bitten party then brings in the prescription and picks up the Rabies Immune Globulin and Human Diploid Cell Vaccine. This service is available to any resident of

Franklin County.

8. If the animal was sacrificed at the Franklin County Animal Shelter, the head is picked up by the sanitarian. The sanitarian is to sign the Franklin County Department Animal Control records. A lab slip is filled out and the head is taken to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory. (See Head Removal Procedure). After the brains have been analyzed, the lab calls this department with the results and returns the analysis form. The animal bite form is pulled, the results are recorded, and the bitten party is notified with a phone call. The date and time of the phone call is recorded on the animal bite form. The results are then logged into the computer. The animal bite form is then placed in the permanent file under the owner's last name. If the animal is a stray or wild, file card under the bitten party's name.
9. Any wild, feral, or exotic animals involved in a human bite **must** be sacrificed immediately, and the head submitted to the lab for analysis.
10. If the animal demonstrates any clinical signs of rabies, (i.e. limping, rejection of food or water, mood change, unexplained behavior changes, etc...) the animal should be sacrificed for lab analysis. The bitten party is given recommendations to begin post-exposure shots. Series can be stopped if analysis result is negative.
11. If the animal is killed or dies during quarantine, the brains **must** be submitted to the lab for analysis. If the animal "disappears", the bitten party must be notified and advised to confer with their physician regarding post-exposure shots.
12. If the bitten party has been bitten by a bat, raccoon, opossum, fox or skunk, shots are recommended to begin immediately, when the animal cannot be checked.

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RULES RELATING TO RABIES**

### **3701-3-28: REPORT OF BITE OF DOG OR OTHER ANIMAL**

Whenever a person is bitten by a dog or other animal, report of such bite shall be made within 24 (twenty-four) hours to the Health Commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred. The report herein required shall be made in the same manner and by the same persons made responsible for reporting diseases listed as Class A in Rule 3701-3-02, of the Ohio Administrative Code, or by the person bitten.

### **3701-3-29: BITING ANIMAL TO BE CONFINED; VETERINARIAN TO REPORT**

- A. Biting dog or cat.
1. Whenever it is reported to the Health Commissioner of a health district that any dog or cat has bitten a person, that dog or cat shall be quarantined under an order issued by the Health Commissioner of the health district in which the bite was inflicted. The dog or cat shall be quarantined by its owner or by a harbinger, or shall be quarantined in a pound 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. Quarantine shall continue until the Health Commissioner of the health district in which the bite was inflicted determines that the dog or cat is not afflicted with rabies. The quarantine period hereby required shall not be less than 10 (ten) days from the date on which the person was bitten. If any time during the quarantine the Health Commissioner requires the dog or cat to be examined for symptoms of rabies, then the examination shall be by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine (D.V.M. or V.M.D.). The veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner the conclusions reached as a result of the examinations. 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 properly vaccinated against rabies.
  2. 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.
  3. If the owner or harbinger of the dog or cat is unknown, the Health Commissioner may direct that the dog or cat be killed, in which case the head of the dog or cat shall be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories for rabies examination.

**3701-3-29 BITING ANIMAL TO BE CONFINED; VETERINARIAN TO REPORT (CONT)**

- B. Other biting animals.
1. Whenever it is reported to the Health Commissioner of the health district that any other animal that is commonly know to transmit rabies has bitten a person, the Health Commissioner, at his or her discretion, may direct the immediate killing of said animal by a suitable humane method. The head of said animal shall then be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories for rabies examination.

**3701-3-30 REPORT OF SUSPECTED RABID ANIMAL**

Any veterinarian or other person who examines, treats, owns, harbors, or otherwise cares for any animal which exhibits symptoms or behavior suggestive of rabies, shall confine and isolate such animal in suitable quarters and shall report such fact within twenty-four hours to the health commissioner of the health district wherein such animal is confined. Such animal shall be confined until it has been determined that it is not afflicted with rabies. If it is determined that the animal is rabid, the health commissioner shall take such position as is necessary to prevent the occurrence of rabies in persons or animals known or presumed to have been exposed to such rabid animal.