



LAWs, REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

RELATING TO

RABIES CONTROL

N.J. (STATE) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (OF NEW JERSEY)

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THE NEW JERSEY REVISED STATUTES

Title 26 Chapter 4 Article 7

RABIES AND CONTROL OF DOGS

Section

26:4-78

Report of suspected cases of rabies

Whenever a dog, cat or other animal is affected by rabies or suspected of being affected by rabies or has been bitten by an animal known or suspected to be affected by rabies, the owner or person in charge of the animal or any person having knowledge thereof, shall forthwith notify the local board having jurisdiction of the place where the animal is located. The notification shall be in writing, signed by the person making the same and shall state where the animal may be found.

26:4-79

Report by physician attending person bitten by animal

Every physician shall, within twelve hours after his first professional attendance upon any person bitten by a dog, cat or other animal, report to the person designated by law or by the local board, under authority of law, to receive reports of reportable communicable diseases in the municipality in which the person so bitten may be, the name, age, sex, color and the precise location of the person so bitten.

26:4-80

Report by parent or guardian when child is bitten and no physician attends

The parent or guardian of a child bitten by a dog, cat or other animal, when no physician attends such child, shall within twelve hours after first having knowledge that the child was so bitten, report to the person designated by law or by the local board, under authority of law, to receive reports to reportable communicable diseases in the municipality in which the child so bitten may be, the name, age, sex, color and the precise location of the child.

26:4-81

Report when adult is bitten and no physician attends

If an adult is bitten by a dog, cat or other animal and no physician attends him, the adult, or if he is incapacitated, the person caring for him, shall report to the person designated by law or by the local board of health to receive reports of communicable diseases in the municipality in which the adult so bitten may be, the name, age, sex, color and the precise location of the adult.

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The report shall be made within twelve hours after the adult was so bitten, or if he is incapacitated, the report shall be made within twelve hours after the person caring for him shall first have knowledge that the adult was so bitten.

26:4-82

Confining animal which has attacked or bitten a person

The local board, within its jurisdiction, may serve notice upon the owner or person in charge of a dog, cat or other animal which has attacked or bitten a person, to confine the animal at the expense of the owner or person in charge of it upon the premises of the owner or person in charge or at some other place designated in the notice, for at least ten days after the animal has attacked or bitten a person.

26:4-83

Killing or confining animal bitten by another

The local board, within its jurisdiction, shall serve a notice, in writing, upon the owner or person in charge of a dog, cat or other animal known or suspected to have been bitten by an animal known or suspected of being affected by rabies requiring the owner or person in charge of the animal to kill it or confine it for a period of not less than six months.

26:4-84

Confining animals to prevent spread of rabies

Whenever the local board or any officer or inspector thereof has reason to believe or has been notified by the State Department that there is danger that rabies may spread within the jurisdiction of such board, such board, officer or inspector shall serve a notice, in writing, upon all persons within the jurisdiction of such board, so far as the same may be known to the board or to such officer or inspector thereof, owning or having charge of any dog, requiring such person to confine such dog, or such board, officer or inspector in lieu of serving such notice in writing, may cause a notice to be published in the official newspaper of such municipality. Other animals may be included in the order whenever, in the opinion of such board, this is necessary.

Whenever the State Department has knowledge that any case of rabies exists among dogs or other domestic animals, within the State, and in its judgment the disease is liable to spread, the Department may issue an order requiring any local board to order animals confined as provided in this section, and to cause its provisions to be enforced, by appropriate proceedings either in law or in equity.

26:4-85

Permit to release animals

An animal confined under order to the local board shall not be released until a certificate of release has been issued by the board.

Examination of animals by local board

The local board or the duly authorized agent of such board, within its jurisdiction, shall be permitted by the owner or person in charge of a dog, cat or other animal which has attacked or bitten a person, to examine the animal at any time, and daily if desired, within a period of ten days after the animal has attacked or bitten a person, to determine whether the animal shows symptoms of rabies.

No person shall refuse, obstruct, or interfere with the local board in making the examination.

26:4-87

Local board to report prevalence of rabies

Each local board shall furnish information to the state department concerning the prevalence of rabies within its jurisdiction whenever or as often as requested to do so by the State Department.

26:4-88

Circular on rabies, distribution

The State Department shall prepare a circular containing a description of the symptoms, the methods of transmission, the treatment, and the preventive measures to be taken against the spread of rabies, and, upon application, shall provide sufficient copies of the circular for distribution.

The circulars shall be furnished to the person empowered under the law to license dogs, and if there is no provision for such person within the jurisdiction of the local board of health, the local board is empowered to act. Such person or board shall apply to the State Department for a sufficient number of such circulars and shall, at the time of licensing, furnish a copy of the circular to each person who may obtain a dog license.

26:4-89

Free Pasteur treatment

Each local board may furnish without charge the Pasteur treatment for any indigent person, residing within its jurisdiction, who has been bitten by an animal known or suspected to be affected by rabies.

Any expense thus incurred shall be provided for by the governing body having charge of the finances of the municipality in which the indigent person resides in the same manner as the regular funds of the board are provided for.

26:4-90

Killing of unmuzzled dog running at large

The mayor of any city, town, borough, the president of any village, and the township clerk of any township, with the consent of the governing body of such municipality, may, whenever the public safety may require such action, issue a proclamation authorizing the killing of any dog found running at large within the limits of such municipality without being properly muzzled with a wire muzzle securely fastened about the nose.

Section  
26:4-91

Appointment of a dog killer, restrictions on killing dogs

The governing body of any municipality may appoint one or more persons to kill dogs running at large after the issuance of a proclamation as provided in section 26:4-90 of this title, and any such person or persons so appointed shall have full power and authority and are hereby authorized to kill any such dogs found running at large. No dog shall be killed until notice of the proclamation has been given for one day by written or printed handbills, and no dog shall be killed which is accompanied by its owner.

26:4-92

Compensation of dog killer

Such governing body may fix the compensation to be paid to any person so appointed, and may pay him out of any moneys in the treasury of the municipality.

26:4-93

Blank

26:4-94

Penalties; recovery as amended by Chapter 41, P. L. 1942

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this article except sections 26:4-90 to 26:4-92, or any notice served thereunder, shall be liable to a penalty of five dollars (\$5.00) for the first offense, and not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each subsequent offense to be recovered in an action at law brought by and in the name of the state department or a local board. Proceedings for the recovery of penalties hereunder shall conform to the practice and procedure contained in sections 26:3-72 to 26:3-82, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes.

26:4-95

Powers of municipalities not affected

Nothing in this article shall be construed to change or affect the provisions of any law authorizing the mayor or governing body of a municipality to enforce measures for the restriction and control of rabies.

NEW JERSEY STATUTES ANNOTATED

Title 4 Chapter 19 Article 2

REGISTRATION AND TAGS: INJURIES TO ANIMALS & POULTRY

Section  
4:19-15.1

Definitions

"Dog" shall mean any dog, bitch or spayed bitch.

"Dog of licensing age" shall mean any dog which has attained the age of seven months or which possesses a set of permanent teeth.

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"Kennel" shall mean any establishment wherein or whereon the business of boarding or selling dogs or breeding dogs for sale is carried on, except a pet shop.

"Pet shop" shall mean any room or group of rooms, cage or exhibition pen, not part of a kennel, wherein dogs for sale are kept or displayed.

"Pound" shall mean an establishment for the confinement of dogs seized either under the provisions of this act or otherwise.

"Shelter" shall mean any establishment where dogs are received, housed and distributed without charge.

"Owner" when applied to the proprietorship of a dog shall include every person having a right of property in such dog and every person who has such dog in his keeping. L.1941, c. 151, p. 495.

4:19-15.2

Dogs; license and metal registration tag required; placing tag on dog

Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a dog of licensing age shall in the month of January, one thousand nine hundred and forty-two, and annually thereafter, apply for and procure from the clerk of the municipality or other official designated by the governing body thereof to license dogs in the municipality in which he resides, a license and official metal registration tag for each such dog so owned, kept or harbored, and shall place upon each such dog a collar or harness with the registration tag securely fastened thereto. L.1941, c. 151, p. 495.

4:19-15.3

Fees; renewals, expiration date of licenses; "Seeing eye" dogs; license in one municipality to be accepted in others

The persons applying for the license and registration tag shall pay the fee fixed or authorized to be fixed in section twelve of this act, and the sum of twenty-five cents (\$.25) for the registration tag fee of each dog; and for each annual renewal, the fee for the license and for the registration tag shall be the same as for the original license and tag; and said licenses, registration tags and renewals thereof shall expire on the last day of January in each year.

Only one license and registration tag shall be required in any licensing year for any dog owned in New Jersey and such license and tag shall be accepted by all municipalities as evidence of compliance with this section.

Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "seeing eye" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs hereinabove provided for, except that the owner or keeper of such dog shall not be required to pay any fee therefor.

Section

License forms and uniform official metal registration tags designed by the State Department of Health shall be furnished by the municipality and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the year of issuance and the name of the municipality. L.1941, c. 151, p. 496.

4:19-15.4 Time for applying for license

The owner of any newly-acquired dog of licensing age or of any dog which attains licensing age, shall make application for license and registration tag for such dog within ten days after such acquisition or age attainment. L.1941, c. 151, p. 496.

4:19-15.5 Application; contents, preservation of information

The application shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings of the dog for which license and registration are sought, and whether it is of a long- or short-haired variety; also the name, street and post-office address of the owner and the person who shall keep or harbor such dog. The information on said application and the registration number issued for the dog shall be preserved for a period of three years by the clerk or other local official designated to license dogs in the municipality. In addition he shall forward to the State Department of Health each month, on forms furnished by the said department an accurate account of registration numbers issued or otherwise disposed of. Registration numbers shall be issued in the order of the applications. L.1941, c. 151, p. 496, as amended L.1952, c. 37.

4:19-15.6 Dogs brought into state

Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into this State any dog licensed in another State for the current year, and bearing a registration tag, and shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within the State for a period of more than ninety days shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag for each such dog unless such dog be licensed under section eight of this act.

Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into this State any unlicensed dog and shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within the State for a period of more than ten days shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag for each such dog unless such dog be licensed under section eight of this act. L.1941, c. 151, p. 497.

4:19-15.7 Removing tag from dog without owner's consent; attaching tag to another dog

No person, except an officer in the performance of his duties shall remove a registration tag from the collar of any dog without the consent of the owner, nor shall any person attach a registration tag to a dog for which it was not issued. L.1941, c. 151, p. 497.

4:19-15.8 License for kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound

Any person who keeps or operates or proposes to establish a kennel,

a pet shop, shelter or a pound shall apply to the clerk or other official designated to license dogs in the municipality where such establishment is located, for a license entitling him to keep or operate such establishment.

The application shall describe the premises where the establishment is located or is proposed to be located, the purpose or purposes for which it is to be maintained, and shall be accompanied by the written approval of the local municipal and health authorities showing compliance with the local and State rules and regulations governing location of and sanitation at such establishments.

All licenses issued for a kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound shall state the purpose for which the establishment is maintained and all such licenses shall expire on the last day of January of each year, and be subject to revocation by the municipality on recommendations of the State Department of Health or the local board of health for failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the State Department or local board governing the same after the owner has been afforded a hearing by either the State Department or local board.

Any person holding such license shall not be required to secure individual licenses for dogs owned by such licensee and kept at such establishments; such licenses shall not be transferable to another owner or different premises. L.1941, c. 151, p. 497.

4:19-15.9 License fees for kennels and pet shops; no fee for shelter or pound

The annual license fee for a kennel providing accommodations for ten or less dogs shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) and for more than ten dogs twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The annual license fee for a pet shop shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). No fee shall be charged for a shelter or pound. L.1941, c. 151, p. 498.

4:19-15.10 Kennels, pet shops, shelters or pounds, permitting dogs to go off premises

No dog kept in a kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound shall be permitted off such premises, except on leash or in a crate or other safe control. L.1941, c. 151, p.498.

4:19-15.11 Disposition of fees collected

License fees and other moneys collected or received under the provisions of sections three, eight, nine and sixteen of this act, except registration tag fees, shall be forwarded to the treasurer of the municipality within thirty days after collection or receipt and shall be placed in a special account separate from any of the other accounts of the municipality and which shall be used for the following purposes only: for collecting, keeping and disposing of dogs liable to seizure under this act or under local dog-control ordinances; for local prevention and control or rabies; for providing anti-rabic treatment

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under the direction of the local board of health for any person known or suspected to have been exposed to rabies, for payment of damage to or losses of poultry and domestic animals, except dogs and cats, caused by a dog or dogs and for administering the provisions of this act. Any unexpended balance remaining in such special account shall be retained therein until the end of the third fiscal year following and may be used for any of the purposes set forth in this section. At the end of the said third fiscal year following, and at the end of each fiscal year thereafter, there shall be transferred from such special account to the general funds of the municipality any amount then in such account which is in excess of the total amount paid into said special account during the last two fiscal years next preceding.

The registration tag fee of twenty-five cents (\$.25) for each dog shall be forwarded within thirty days after collection by the clerk or other official designated to license dogs to the State Department of Health which department shall forward said sum to the State Treasurer who shall place all such moneys in a special account for use only by the State Department of Health in administering this act and for the prevention and control of rabies throughout the State, and such account is hereby declared to be a trust fund not subject to legislative appropriation. At the end of the third fiscal year following the adoption of this act and at the end of each fiscal year thereafter, there shall be withdrawn from this trust fund and transferred to the general funds of the State any amount then in such fund which is in excess of the total amount paid into such fund during the last two fiscal years next preceding. L.1941, c. 151, p. 498.

4:19-15.12 License fee may be fixed by ordinance; fee otherwise

The governing body of each municipality may, by ordinance, fix the sum to be paid annually for a dog license and each renewal thereof, as required by section three of this act, which sum shall be not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than three dollars (\$3.00). In the absence of such a local ordinance, the license fee shall be one dollar (\$1.00). L.1941, c. 151, p. 499, as amended L.1954, c.118.

4:19-15.13 List of licensed kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds

The clerk or other official designated to license dogs in the municipality shall forward to the State Department of Health a list of all kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds licensed within thirty days after the licenses therefor are issued, which list shall include the name and address of the licensee and the kind of license issued. L.1941, c. 151, p. 499.

4:19-15.14 Rules and regulations for kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds

The State Department of Health shall, within six months of the approval of this act and with the co-operation and assistance of the State Department of Agriculture, prepare and promulgate rules and

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regulations governing the sanitary conduct and operation of kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds, to preserve sanitation therein and prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases of dogs within and from such establishments.

Such rules and regulations shall be enforced by the State Department of Health and by local boards of health. L.1941, c. 151, p. 500.

4:19-15.15 Canvass of dogs in municipality; report

The chief of police of each municipality, or the chairman of the police committee thereof, if the office of chief of police does not exist, or any person appointed for the purpose by the governing body of the municipality, shall annually cause a canvass to be made of all dogs owned, kept or harbored within the limits of their respective municipalities and shall report, on or before May first of each year, to the clerk or other person designated to license dogs in the municipality and to the local board of health, and to the State Department of Health the result thereof, setting forth in separate columns the names and addresses of persons owning, keeping or harboring unlicensed dogs, the number of unlicensed dogs owned, kept or harbored by each of said persons, together with a complete description of each of said unlicensed dogs. L.1941, c. 151, p. 500, as amended L.1952, c. 37.

4:19-15.16 Impounding or taking dogs into custody; grounds; notice; destruction

The chief of police of a municipality, or the chairman of the police committee if the office of chief of police does not exist, or any person appointed for the purpose by the governing body of the municipality, shall take into custody and impound or cause to be taken into custody and impounded, and thereafter destroyed or disposed of as provided in this section:

- (a) Any dog off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog which said official or his agent, or agents have reason to believe is a stray dog;
- (b) Any dog off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog without a current registration tag on his collar;
- (c) Any female dog in season off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog.

If any dog so seized wears a collar or harness having inscribed thereon or attached thereto the name and address of any person or a registration tag or the owner or the person keeping or harboring said dog is known, the chief of police or chairman of the police committee, or any person authorized by him in that behalf, shall forthwith serve on the person whose address is given on the collar, or on the owner or the person keeping or harboring said dog, if known, a notice in writing stating that the dog has been seized and will be liable to be disposed of or destroyed if not claimed within seven days after the service of the notice.

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A notice under this section may be served either by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served, or by leaving it at the person's usual, or last known place of abode, or at the address given on the collar, or by forwarding it by post in a prepaid letter addressed to that person at his usual or last known place of abode, or to the address given on the collar.

When any dog so seized has been detained for seven days after notice, when notice can be given as above set forth, or has been detained for seven days after seizure, when no notice has been given as above set forth and if the owner or person keeping or harboring said dog has not claimed said dog and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, including maintenance not exceeding fifty cents (\$.50) per day, and if the dog be unlicensed at the time of the seizure and the owner or person keeping or harboring said dog has not produced a license and registration tag for said dog, the aforesaid chief of police of the municipality, or the chairman of the police committee, or any person authorized by him in that behalf, may cause the dog to be destroyed in manner causing as little pain as possible. L.1941, c. 151, p. 500.

4:19-15.17 Seizure of dogs; going on premises for

Any officer or agent authorized or empowered to perform any duty under this act is hereby authorized to go upon any premises to seize for impounding any dog or dogs which he may lawfully seize and impound when such officer is in immediate pursuit of such dog or dogs, except upon the premises of the owner of the dog if said owner is present and forbids the same. L.1941, c. 151, p. 502.

4:19-15.18 Interfering with persons performing duties under act

No person shall hinder, molest or interfere with anyone authorized or empowered to perform any duty under this act. L.1941, c. 151, p. 502.

4:19-15.19 Violations of act or rules; penalty

Any person who violates or who fails or refuses to comply with sections two, four, six, seven, eight, ten or eighteen of this act or the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Department of Health pursuant to section fourteen of this act, shall be liable to a penalty of not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense, to be recovered by and in the name of the Director of Health of the State of New Jersey, or by and in the name of the local board of health of the municipality, or by and in the name of the municipality, as the case may be, except that for the first offense in cases of violations of sections two, four and six of this act, the penalty shall be not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), to be recovered in the same manner. L.1941, c. 151, p. 502, as amended L.1942, c. 132, p. 417.

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4:19-15.20 Penalty to be paid to plaintiff; disposition

Any penalty recovered in an action brought under the provisions of this act shall be paid to the plaintiff therein. When the plaintiff is the Director of Health of the State of New Jersey, the penalty shall be paid by said director into the treasury of the State. When the plaintiff is a local board of health the penalty shall be paid by the local board into the treasury of the municipality within which the local board has jurisdiction. L.1941, c. 151, p. 502.

4:19-15.21 Process; issuance; jurisdiction; form; contents; amendment; service

Every district court, justice of the peace, and police magistrate is empowered upon the filing of a complaint in writing by any person authorized by the Director of Health of the State of New Jersey, when the plaintiff is the Director of Health, or by any person authorized by the local board of health, when the plaintiff is the local board of health, or by the chief of police of the municipality or by the chairman of the police committee, if the office of chief of police does not exist, or by any person appointed for the purpose by the governing body of the municipality, when the plaintiff is the municipality, alleging that a violation of section two, four, six, seven, eight, ten or eighteen of this act or of a rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to section fourteen of this act as occurred, which complaint may be made upon information and belief, to issue process at the suit of the Director of Health of the State of New Jersey or of the local board of health, or of the municipality, as the case may be, as plaintiff. The process shall be either in the nature of a summons or warrant, which warrant may issue without any order of the court first being obtained against the person so charged, which process when in the nature of a warrant, shall be returnable forthwith, and when in the nature of a summons shall be returnable in not less than five nor more than fifteen entire days. The process shall state what provision of the law or rules and regulations is alleged to have been violated by the defendant or defendants. The court, justice or magistrate, may, at all times, amend all defects and errors in the complaint and process.

Any officer authorized by law to serve and execute process in the court in which the proceeding is brought shall serve and execute all process in proceedings for violations of any of the provisions of this act. L.1941, c. 151, p. 502.

4:19-15.22 Summary hearing

On the return of process issued pursuant to section twenty-one of this act or at any time to which the trial shall be adjourned, the court without the filing of any pleadings shall proceed in a summary manner, without a jury, to hear the testimony and to give judgment for plaintiff for the penalty and cost, or for the defendant. L.1941, c. 151, p. 503.



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The conviction shall be signed by the judge of the district court, justice of the peace or police magistrate before whom the conviction is had. In case the defendant is committed to jail in default of payment of the penalty, a commitment in the following form shall be added to the conviction, beneath the signature of the judge, justice of the peace or police magistrate:

"And the said C.D. neglecting and refusing to pay the amount of the penalty above mentioned, with costs, it is hereby ordered that the said C.D. be, and he hereby is committed to the common jail of the county of . . . . . for the period of . . . . . days, unless the said penalty and costs are sooner paid."

This commitment shall also be signed by the judge, justice or magistrate, and in case of commitment of any defendant to jail, the conviction and commitment shall be signed in duplicate, and one of the duplicate copies shall serve the purpose of a warrant of commitment.

The clerk of a district court or magistrate's court may sign and seal any process required to be issued under the provisions of this act, except a warrant of commitment. The costs recoverable in any such proceeding shall be the same as costs taxed in the district court. Execution may issue for the collection of a judgment and costs, against the goods and chattels and body of the defendant without any order first obtained for such purpose. L. 1941, c. 151, p. 504.

4:19-15.26 Compulsory Inoculation not authorized by act

No provision of this act shall be construed as giving any authority for the compulsory inoculation of dogs with anti-rabic vaccines. L.1941, c. 151, p. 506.

4:19-15.27 Act inapplicable to veterinarians' establishments

No provision of this act shall be construed to apply to any establishment wherein or whereon dogs are received or kept for diagnostic, medical, surgical, or other treatments, owned by and operated under the immediate supervision of a graduate veterinarian licensed in the State of New Jersey. L.1941, c. 151, p. 506.

4:19-15.28 Statutes repealed

Sections 4:19-10, 4:19-11, 4:19-12, 4:19-13, 4:19-14, 4:19-15, 40:52-5, 40:52-6 of the Revised Statutes are hereby repealed. L.1941, c. 151, p. 506.

Title 4 Chapter 19 Article 3

PERSONAL INJURIES

Section

4:19-16 Liability of owner regardless of viciousness of dog

The owner of any dog which shall bite a person while such person is on or in a public place, or lawfully on or in a private place, including the property of the owner of the dog, shall be liable for such damages as may be suffered by the person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of such dog or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness.

For the purpose of this section, a person is lawfully upon the private property of such owner when he is on the property in the performance of any duty imposed upon him by the laws of this state or the laws or postal regulations of the United States, or when he is on such property upon the invitation, express or implied, of the owner thereof.

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Pursuant to the authority vested in it under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.14 of the State Department of Health on November 1, 1941 established these:

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
the operation and maintenance of  
Kennels, Pet Shops, Dog Shelters and Dog Pounds

1. All kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds shall be so located, constructed, arranged and conducted that they are not a nuisance and so that dogs kept in these establishments cannot come in contact with other dogs.
2. Rooms containing animals shall be kept clean, well ventilated and free from foul odors.
3. Clean, dry, comfortable quarters for each animal shall be provided.
4. An adequate supply of clean, fresh water shall be available at all times.
5. Facilities for segregation of dogs shall be provided. Diseased dogs or dogs which have been exposed to disease, females in season, ill-tempered dogs and all dogs which have had contact with a known or suspected rabid animal shall be segregated. Quarters used for segregation shall be thoroughly disinfected before re-use.
6. Any person operating or employed at a kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound who observes an animal which he suspects of being rabid shall at once notify by telephone or telegraph the executive officer of the local Board of Health or the State Department of Health.

7. Dog shelters and dog pounds shall be provided with facilities for humane destruction of animals and proper disposition of carcasses.
8. Beginning January 1, 1942, there shall be kept at each kennel, pet shop and shelter a record of all dogs received and/or disposed of. Such record shall state the date each dog was received, description of dog, license number, breed, age and sex; name and address of person from whom acquired; date disposed of and name and address of person to whom sold or otherwise transferred. These records shall be kept at the licensed premises for twelve months after the date the dog is removed from the establishment and shall be available to any agent of the municipal government, the local Board of Health or the State Department of Health.
9. Any person who violates or who fails or refuses to comply with the above Rules and Regulations shall be liable to a penalty as prescribed in Chapter 151, Laws of 1941.

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#### General Information Concerning Rabies

Unleashed dogs off owner's premises and nuisances caused by actions, odors, or noises from dogs or kennels are matters within the jurisdiction of Local Boards of Health and municipal authorities, R.S. 40:48-1.8.10.11, 26:3-45, except when rabies is present and quarantine is ordered by State Department of Health R.S. 26:4-84.

## R A B I E S

Rabies is an acute infection of the central nervous system to which warm-blooded animals (those which do not change their temperature with their environment) are susceptible. While it is found somewhat more frequently among meat-eating animals -- dogs, foxes, wolves, etc. -- other animals are also susceptible to it. They include rats, squirrels, skunks, cats, cattle, hogs, sheep and human beings. The causative organism is a specific virus. The virus reaches the salivary glands of an infected animal, multiplies, and then becomes distributed through the animal's saliva. When an infected animal bites another animal, some of the infected animal's saliva is deposited into the fresh wound and with it the virus of rabies. The means of transmission is almost always through the bite of an infected animal.

### Immunization Possible

It is possible to give immunity to dogs against rabies prior to exposure. It is also possible to render the virus of rabies inactive in a human being if the preventive vaccination is begun promptly after the victim is bitten by an infected animal. If the virus is not neutralized and begins to propagate, immunization efforts will fail and the victim will die. Once rabies develops, it is without exception fatal. The value of immunization measures lies in their neutralization of the virus before it develops into clinical rabies.

The amount of rabies is related directly to the number of unsupervised dogs which circulate in the community and to the number of dogs which has not been immunized against rabies. The unsupervised, uncared for, unlicensed dog is likely to be a dog that has not been immunized against rabies. There are, however, some owners of dogs, who are otherwise considerate of them, who do not give their pets the protection of immunization measures.

### Reservoirs of Infection

Long experience has established that homeless, uncared for, stray dogs are the chief spreaders of rabies. To reduce the population of such dogs, in a humane way either by finding a good master for them or in some other humane way, is to reduce the incidence of rabies. Veterinarians refer to non-immunized dogs as "reservoirs of infection." That simply means that since they have not been immunized, they can be and are carriers of infection. Wild animals are also reservoirs of infection. In recent years, a number of rabid foxes has been found in Pennsylvania and other states. The principal threat to domestic animals, however, is from the possible development of rabies in non-immunized dogs which run at large and which could infect several animals and humans before the disease was diagnosed.

Cats are also susceptible to rabies. The bite or scratch of a cat should be regarded with concern equal to that of the bite of a dog. Medical advice should be promptly sought when any person is bitten by an animal.

## Incubation

The incubation period of rabies -- the time between exposure and the development of symptoms -- varies considerably. In dogs, the incubation is seldom less than 10 days or more than 90. Symptoms usually develop within 20 - 60 days following exposure. Longer incubation periods have been reported. It is unlikely that the virus is present in the saliva more than seven days prior to the onset of evident symptoms of the disease. During this period, the animal may appear quite normal to the casual observer.

## Two Types

Two types of rabies are observed among dogs. One is termed furious rabies; the other, dumb or paralytic rabies. Some infected dogs show symptoms of both types.

## Furious Rabies

In the early stages, the symptoms are mild and usually pass unnoticed by the owner. The dog may show unusual affection toward members of the household, but may display violent resentment to being handled. Within a day or two, increased irritability causes the dog to move about continually. Unprovoked, incessant barking is characterized by change of tone, ending in a peculiar howl. The dog chases other animals and poultry, and may be observed snapping at real or imaginary objects. The pupil of the eye will be dilated irregularly and there is a glary expression. The dog may refuse his customary food, but will pick up and swallow such indigestible material as sticks, stones and feathers. During this stage, the dog may leave home and travel many miles, attacking persons and animals in its path. Finally, through exhaustion and encroaching paralysis, the dog develops a staggering gait which ultimately ends in complete paralysis and death. The course of this form of rabies is 7 to 8 days.

## Dumb Rabies

The beginning stage of dumb rabies is characterized by sleepiness and melancholia (sadness). The dog shows no signs of irritability nor tendency to bite. Paralysis of the jaw (dropped jaw), muscles of the throat and of the extremities is an outstanding symptom. The dog seldom lives more than 3 days following the onset of the disease.

## Diagnosis

(1) Microscopic Study of Brain Tissue - If an observed animal manifests all the clinical symptoms of rabies to the satisfaction of a veterinarian, it is desirable to make an effort to confirm the diagnosis through microscopic study of the animal's brain tissue for the presence of **Negri bodies**. Their presence is accepted as positive evidence of the animal's having been rabid. Since the clinical diagnosis is conclusive in a limited number of cases of suspected rabies, microscopic examination of the brain is imperative.

(2) Animal Inoculation - Recent investigation indicates that Negri bodies are absent in approximately 10 per cent of cases suspected of being rabid. This information sustained the concept that when a person has been exposed to infection and intracytoplasmic inclusion bodies are not discernable by the microscope, Swiss white mice are inoculated with a specimen of the suspect's brain substance. If the mice develop rabies symptoms and die and Negri bodies can be demonstrated microscopically, all doubt concerning the presence of virus is removed.

The Division of Laboratories of the State Department of Health, State House, Trenton, New Jersey, will accept the brain of a suspected animal for study. If the animal is a large one -- cow, horse, pig, sheep, etc. -- the brain only is acceptable. If the animal is a small one, the Division of Laboratories will accept the whole head if it is properly packed and shipped.

Some municipal laboratories will accept for examination the heads of suspected animals found within the municipality.

Specimens submitted for study should be refrigerated and delivered promptly to the laboratory by messenger. If possible, allow the animal to die naturally.

If direct means of delivery are not available, the American Railway Express Company will accept animal heads for shipment under the following conditions:

The head of the dog or other animal must be placed in a tin or metal container, which will not permit the leakage of fluids; such container shall then be placed in a second wood or metal container with ice packed around it; such outside container must be so constructed that it will not permit the leakage of the ice water.

All such packages must be labeled:

"CAUTION: THIS PACKAGE CONTAINS THE HEAD OF A DOG (OR OTHER ANIMAL) SUSPECTED OF HAVING DIED OF RABIES."

If Sundays or holidays are likely to intervene and retard prompt delivery of the shipment, the shipper should be requested to pack in ice and hold until there is reasonable assurance that delivery will be made without delay at destination.

The following information should accompany each shipment of specimens to the laboratory:

Sender's name .....Address.....  
Health Officer's name.....Address.....  
Name of owner of animal.....Address.....  
Description of animal.....  
Where the animal was found.....  
Whether the animal was killed or allowed to die.....Period of illness.....  
Diagnosis from symptoms.....  
Mention other animals bitten by this one.....  
Names of persons bitten.....  
State to whom report is to be sent and whether by telegraph (collect) or mail.

## Rabies in Man

The incubation period of rabies in man may be as short as 10 days or as long as 7 or more months; but it is rarely less than 15 days or more than 5 months. The average incubation period is about 42 days. Long incubation periods are largely dependent on a temporary arrest of virus multiplication, either at the site of infection or at some place in the nervous system.

The onset of the disease is marked by 2 to 4 days of such symptoms as fever, headache, nausea, loss of appetite, and sore throat. Most patients exhibit increasing irritability, sleeplessness and apprehension. Itching about the site of infection is common. The patient may complain of drafts, noise, bright light, or bed clothes. There is usually increased salivation and excessive perspiration. A sense of impending death is frequent. The term hydrophobia, or fear of water, is related to the act of swallowing. When fluid comes in contact with the narrow passage from the mouth of the pharynx, it is expelled with considerable force due to the painful spasmodic contractions of the muscles of swallowing which are stimulated thereby. Subsequently, the sight, smell, sound, or suggestion of a drink may precipitate these spasms. Convulsive seizures are common and death sometimes occurs during their course. Increasing paralysis develops and death usually is due to respiratory paralysis or heart failure.

### Preventive Treatment in Exposed Persons

(1) Local Treatment - The first and most important step in the treatment of a bite wound inflicted by a rabid animal or an animal suspected to be rabid is to cleanse the wound thoroughly with soap or detergent and running water immediately. A physician should then be consulted as soon as possible.

(2) Observation of the Biting Animal - Any biting animal suspected of being rabid should not be killed immediately. The animal should be confined and kept under observation for 10 days. If the animal shows no signs of illness or symptoms of rabies during this period, it can be safely assumed that the animal was not infected at the time of biting.

### Treatment with Antirabies Vaccine

When a person has been severely bitten or scratched by an animal suspected to be rabid, the decision whether to administer antirabies vaccine is a medical one. The physician will weigh such factors as to whether there has been an actual diagnosis in the suspected dog, whether the dog was under observation or disappeared, the nature of the wound or other type of infection, and even where in the anatomy the bite occurred.

The physician's decision is tempered on the one hand by a desire to prevent the bitten person from getting rabies and by his knowledge that sometimes the administration of the vaccine has a severe reaction on the patient not related to rabies itself. Under such circumstances, and with all available facts in his possession, the physician recommends the course of action which seems to him most likely to protect the health of the patient. Where the biting animal is definitely determined to be rabid, preponderant medical opinion holds that it is better to risk vaccination reaction in an effort to protect the patient against development of rabies. Once it develops as stated before, rabies is always fatal.

## The Protective Value of Canine Rabies Vaccination

Immunization of dogs against rabies prior to exposure does not involve the hazard involved in the administration of antirabies vaccine to humans following exposure. There is little danger to the dogs. Canine vaccination is an important element of a rabies control program, enabling the total program to be practical, acceptable, and successful in its application.

The Semple type of rabies vaccine, consisting of 20 per cent brain tissue emulsion containing killed rabies virus, is employed almost exclusively in vaccination clinics in New Jersey. Such vaccines produce in the dog an effective degree of resistance to rabies of one year or longer. Vaccine treatment of domestic animals for purely prophylactic reasons has been practiced in New Jersey on a very small scale.

Some veterinarians have observed incidences of postvaccinal complications of minor importance. None resulted in death of the animal.

Some 14,000 animal bites, mostly by dogs, are reported each year by local health officers. Approximately 30 persons per year bitten by animals receive antirabies therapy.

### Prevention and Control of Rabies

Animals other than dogs are of minor significance in the continuance of rabies in New Jersey. Ownerless, wandering, unvaccinated dogs are a menace and must be controlled through effective dog management procedure. Vaccination of dogs against rabies will provide a rabies resistant dog population; one in which the disease cannot be maintained. Vaccination plus adequate control of stray, ownerless, and unvaccinated dogs have achieved reduction of the disease.

Some municipalities in New Jersey hold an annual series of "dog vaccination clinics" throughout their areas. Owners bring their dogs to the "clinic" where the animals are vaccinated by a veterinarian. The fee for this service is borne by the municipality. The owner receives free of charge vaccine, a vaccination certificate, and an indestructible tag. Dogs so tagged are easily identified. In these areas, untagged dogs are considered to be strays and unvaccinated and are subject to impounding. The Medical Society of New Jersey, The Veterinary Medical Association of New Jersey, local health and municipal officials, and the New Jersey State Department of Health are concerned with the eradication of rabies.

Efforts implementing state-wide legislation have effectively controlled rabies. Existing New Jersey laws are adequate if control efforts are energetic and sustained.

The law now includes the following:

1. Requirement that local government jurisdictions provide for a dog and rabies control program; and
2. Requirement that these local control programs contain as minimum provisions:

- a. Licensing and registration of all dogs: This aids in the identification of the ownership of the animal, provides an index to the dog population of the State and provides funds for the entire program.
- b. Maintenance of an adequate pound system: This would include provisions for the pick-up of stray, ownerless, untagged and unvaccinated dogs; proper facilities for the care of these animals while held; provision for individual isolation facilities for known rabid or suspected rabid animals; and, provision for the humane disposition of all unwanted and unclaimed animals.

Only minimum standards are set. These may be expanded locally to meet the needs of a particular area.

There is sufficient knowledge about the cause, the mode of propagation, and the control of rabies to eliminate it. Basic to the accomplishment of this objective is coordination of local control activities into a state-wide control effort.

The focal point of these efforts rests with local health and municipal officials.