

Adopted June 27, 2012

NORTHEAST COLORADO HEALTH DEPARTMENT RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL REGULATIONS

Section 1: Title and Policy

- 1.1 **Titles:** These regulations shall be known as the Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) Rabies Prevention and Control Regulations.

- 1.2 **Policy and Purpose:** The purpose of these regulations is to protect the public health by establishing uniform regulations for the prevention and control of rabies in animals in the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction. Such prevention and control measures include but are not limited to: monitoring the epidemiology of rabies in wildlife and domestic animals, consultation and education for the residents regarding prevention, and cooperating with local animal control agencies and state agencies. Authority for enforcement of this policy is provided under the Colorado Rabies Control Statutes, 25-4-601 et. Seq. C.R.S 1973, as amended. This law includes provisions for the confinement of biting or suspected rabid animals, enactment of local vaccination and running-at-large ordinances, emergency powers of the department, duty of law enforcement agencies to assist and penalties for violations. These regulations shall apply to every person in the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction, non-resident and resident, and shall be enforced by the Northeast Colorado Health Department via the local animal control officers representing the County Sheriff's office, municipal police departments, Animal Control Agency, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Section 2: Definitions. When used in the regulation, the following words and terms, unless the context indicates a different meaning, shall be interpreted as follows:

- 2.1 **"Animal Control Officer":** shall mean any person assigned by the Department or other governmental authority to enforce animal control duties; this may include sheriff's officers, police officers, and Animal Control Agency or designated Humane Society staff, as applicable.

- 2.2 **"Animal Control Agency":** shall mean any agency assigned or contracted to enforce the animal control duties.

- 2.3 **"Bite":** shall mean any physical injury which results in puncturing or laceration, scratching or compromise to the integrity of the skin or mucous membranes.

- 2.4 **"Bodily Injury"**: shall mean any physical injury that results in severe bruising, muscle tears, or skin lacerations requiring professional medical treatment or fracture of any bone or injury that requires corrective or cosmetic surgery. (See Section 8: Vicious or Dangerous Animals)
- 2.5 **"Cat"**: shall mean a domestic feline of either sex, including one neutered or sterilized. This term does not include feral cats.
- 2.6 **"Compendium"**: Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. A compendium of recommendations on rabies vaccines and their use, published annually by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Incorporated.
- 2.7 **"Confined, Confinement, Quarantine"**: Shall mean under restraint by chain in a fully fenced yard, closed cage, or paddock and out of all possible contact with other animals or humans.
- 2.8 **"Currently Vaccinated"**: A mammal (dog, cat or ferret) with one documented rabies vaccine, if the vaccine was given >28 days but ≤12 months prior to the exposure, OR a mammal with two or more documented rabies vaccines, if the most recent is current (i.e., administered within the time frame specified by the vaccine manufacturer—e.g. either one, three or four years). For the purposes of this definition an animal's vaccination status is based on the vaccine used and date administered, not on whether the animal is current under the local rabies vaccination ordinances.
- 2.9 **"Department"**: shall mean the Northeast Colorado Health Department and its authorized representatives.
- 2.10 **"Expired Vaccination"**: refers to a mammal with two or more documented rabies vaccines, if the most recent is not current. Reference Currently Vaccinated.
- 2.11 **"Dog"**: shall mean a domestic canine of either sex, including one neutered or sterilized.
- 2.12 **"Domestic Animal"**: shall include all species of animals commonly and universally accepted as being domesticated including pets or livestock mammals, but shall not include any offspring of crossbred domestic/wild animals or feral cats.
- 2.13 **"Feral Cat"**: shall mean an untamed or undomesticated cat.
- 2.14 **"Harboring"**: shall mean the act of keeping and caring for an animal by an owner or keeper.
- 2.15 **"High Risk Pet"**: A pet with no documented rabies vaccines, OR a pet with one documented rabies vaccine given <28 days or >12 months prior to the exposure. See Table 1, Colorado Rabies Resource Guide, 2011 .

- 2.16 **"Home Quarantine"**: Mammals placed under home quarantine must be physically confined to the owner's property for the duration of the quarantine period by a fully enclosed fence, chain, paddock or closed cage, or confined indoors. Contact with humans and other animals should be minimized. **An animal under Home quarantine cannot leave the owner's property for any reason** except when being transported for veterinary medical care. Any bites to humans or any symptoms consistent with rabies must be reported to the Department immediately. If the owner is unable to, *for any reason*, or fails to confine the animal to their property, the mammal will be quarantined in a facility approved by the Department for the remainder of the quarantine period.
- 2.17 **"Humanely Euthanized "**: shall mean the death of an animal by a method which: (a) rapidly produces unconsciousness and death without visible evidence of pain or distress: or (b) utilizes anesthesia produced by an agent which causes painless loss of consciousness and death following such loss of consciousness.
- 2.18 **"Inoculation, Vaccination, Vaccination for Rabies"**: the proper administration by a licensed veterinarian with a rabies vaccine licensed for use in that species by the United States Department of Agriculture, and which is listed in the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control for use in the prevention of rabies.
- 2.19 **"Keeper"**: a person who has been given custodial or supervisory authority or control over a stray animal or an animal owned by another person.
- 2.20 **"Livestock Mammal"**: Other non-wildlife mammal for which there is a U.S. Department of Agriculture approved injectable vaccine labeled for use in that species as listed in the current version of the NASPHV Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (e.g. horses, cattle, sheep, camelid). Other livestock mammals will be considered as meeting this definition, as determined on a case-by-case basis, by the State Veterinarian or designee at the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- 2.21 **"Owner"**: means any person who has a right of property in a dog, cat, ferret, other pet animal, or other mammal.
- 2.22 **"Pet Animal"**: shall include dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, rodents and any other species of animal which is sold or retained as a household pet but shall not include skunks, non-human primates and any other species of wild, exotic or carnivorous animal. Other domestic animals that are not livestock mammals will be considered as meeting this definition, as determined on a case-by-case basis, by the State Public Health Veterinarian or designee from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. This term does not include feral cats.

- 2.23 **"Running at Large"**: shall pertain to an animal off the premises of the owner and not under the physical control of the owner or their authorized representative, or is not trained to respond to commands from the owner(s) or their authorized representative(s) and is not within their visible observation. An animal on property that is not owned by the animal's owner or keeper without permission from the property owner or their legal representative shall be termed "running at large". An animal confined within an automobile or other vehicle of its owner or keeper is not deemed "running at large".
- 2.24 **"Stock Animal"**: shall include any species of horse, cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, swine or camelid species. See Livestock Mammal.
- 2.25 **"Stray Animal"**: shall mean any animal for which there is no identifiable owner or keeper.
- 2.26 **"Veterinarian"**: shall mean a person who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine.
- 2.27 **"Vicious Animal"**: shall mean any pet or wild animal that inflicts unprovoked bodily injury upon or has caused the death of a person or domestic animal at any place, whether on public or private property.
- 2.28 **"Wild Animal"**: shall include all species of mammals which exist in a natural, unconfined state and are usually not domesticated, and which shall include all offspring of crossbred domestic/wild animals. This term shall include feral cats.

Section 3: Rabies Prevention and Control Through Vaccination of Domestic Animals

3.1 Vaccinations:

- (a) Every owner or keeper of a dog, cat or ferret three months of age or older shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. All dogs, cats and ferrets first vaccinated at three months of age or older shall be revaccinated within one year following the primary vaccination and thereafter at intervals recommended in the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control.
- (b) Any person owning or keeping an animal that has moved into the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction from a location outside shall comply with these regulations within 30 days after their arrival. If a dog, cat or ferret presented for vaccination has inflicted a bite on any human within the last 10 (ten) days, the owner or keeper of said dog or cat or ferret shall report such fact to the veterinarian, and no rabies vaccination shall be administered until after the 10-day observation period.

3.2 Certification of Vaccination: Upon vaccination, the veterinarian shall execute and furnish to the owner of the dog, cat or ferret as evidence thereof, a legible and valid Rabies Vaccination Certificate.

The veterinarian shall retain a duplicate copy for his/her files. Such Rabies Vaccination Certificate shall contain the following information:

- (a) The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the vaccinated dog or cat.
 - (b) The date of vaccination.
 - (c) The expiration date of the vaccine.
 - (d) The type of rabies vaccine used (1 yr/3 yr/4 yr), brand name or manufacturer, lot number.
 - (e) The breed, age, color, gender, approximate weight, and name (if known) of the vaccinated dog, cat or ferret.
 - (f) The signature of the veterinarian administering the vaccine.
- 3.3 Proof:** It shall be unlawful for any person who owns or keeps a vaccinated dog, cat or ferret to fail or refuse to exhibit his copy of the Certificate of Rabies Vaccination upon demand to any person charged with the enforcement of these regulations.

A STATEMENT OF SELF VACCINATION OF PETS, MANUFACTURER LABELING OR ANY OTHER VACCINE RECEIPT OR PROOF OF PURCHASE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS VALID PROOF OF VACCINATION.

Section 4: Reporting Bites from Mammals Susceptible to Rabies; Related Procedures

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) statutes, 25-1-122 C.R.S. outline reporting requirements and provide for access to medical records for certain diseases and medical conditions including rabies and mammal bites. The associated Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Epidemic and Communicable Disease Control (6 CCR-1009-1) specifically define the manner in which such reports are to be made. These laws require anyone having knowledge of a person bitten by a dog, cat, ferret or any wild mammal to report that fact to the local health department or county health officer. For bats, skunks, and other wild carnivores, such report must be made within 24 hours. The report should include the name, age, gender and physical location of the person bitten and, if known, the owner's name, contact information and location of the biting animal. Reporting agencies may use the NCHD Animal Bite Report Form or the agency's own bite report form as long as all of the above mentioned information is provided.

4.1 Duty to Report:

- (a) Any person having knowledge that a dog, cat, ferret or other mammal (excluding livestock mammals) that has bitten a human outside the boundaries of an incorporated area in the Northeast Colorado Health

Department's jurisdiction shall immediately report the incident to the County Sheriff's Animal Control Officer. The County Sheriff Animal Control Officer or the officer's designated representative shall complete a bite incident report form provided by the Northeast Colorado Health Department on each reported animal bite. A fully completed copy of this form and any supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the Regional office of the Northeast Colorado Health Department at 700 Columbine Street, Sterling, CO 80751 or faxed to (970)522-1412 within two (2) days for domestic animals and 24 hours for wild animals.

- (b) Any person having knowledge that a dog, cat, ferret or other mammal (excluding livestock mammals) has bitten a human inside the boundaries of an incorporated area in the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction shall immediately report the incident to the Police Department. The Chief of Police, the department's designated representative, or the Animal Control Agency shall complete a bite incident report form provided by the Northeast Colorado Health Department on each reported animal bite. A fully completed copy of this form and any supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the Regional office of the Northeast Colorado Health Department at 700 Columbine Street, Sterling, CO 80751 or faxed to (970)522-1412 within two (2) days for domestic animals and 24 hours for wild animals.

In incorporated/unincorporated areas not having a Police Department, the bite shall be reported to the appropriate County Sheriff's Office or Animal Control Agency as provided in 4.1 (a).

- (c) Every physician or other medical practitioner who treats a person or persons for animal bites shall, within twenty-four hours, report such treatment to the Animal Control Officer, Animal Control Agency, and/or Northeast Colorado Health Department. A fully completed Animal Bite Report Form and any supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the Regional office of the Northeast Colorado Health Department at 700 Columbine Street, Sterling, CO 80751 or faxed to (970)522-1412 within two (2) days for domestic animals and 24 hours for wild animals.

4.2 Confinement or Quarantine of Dogs, Cats or Ferrets:
(C.R.S. 25-4-604, amended 1973)

ONLY domestic dogs, cats, or ferrets involved in a human bite must be quarantined for a 10-day observation period. The 10-day quarantine period is required regardless of the animal's vaccination status.

During the confinement or quarantine period, the animal may not be removed from the ordered quarantine location. It may not be taken for a walk, taken on vacation, sold, given away, euthanized, killed, relocated or allowed contact with humans or animals other than those with whom it resides.

- (a) Any dog, cat or ferret which has bitten a human shall be confined and observed at the owner's/keeper's expense for a period of 10-days from the date of the bite at: an animal control facility; or, if authorized by the

Department or its representative, the confinement may be at a veterinary clinic, hospital or kennel within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction under the supervision of a veterinarian of the owner's or keeper's choice; or, placed under home-based quarantine in the owner's or keeper's residence.

- (b) If the animal has no documented rabies vaccines, OR a pet with one documented rabies vaccine given <28 days or >12 months prior to the exposure or otherwise not currently vaccinated as evidenced by a current and valid Rabies Vaccination Certificate, it **shall not** be placed under home-based confinement at the owner's or keeper's residence.
- (c) At the end of the 10-day confinement period, if a dog, cat or ferret shows no symptoms of rabies and is currently vaccinated, it may be released. (See Section 4.5) However, if the dog, cat or ferret shows no symptoms of rabies but was not currently vaccinated at the time of the bite incident, or is without a valid Rabies Vaccination Certificate, it shall be vaccinated at the owner's or keeper's expense by a Colorado licensed veterinarian of their choice within 14 days of the animal's release. A copy of the valid Rabies Vaccination Certificate shall immediately be provided to the responding Animal Control Agency and Northeast Colorado Health Department by the animal's owner or keeper.
- (d) The owner or keeper of any animal that has been reported to have inflicted a bite on any human shall immediately produce said animal for quarantine as prescribed in this section. Refusal to produce said dog, cat, or ferret constitutes a violation of this regulation, and each day of such refusal shall constitute a separate and individual violation.
- (e) Any animal which exhibits signs of illness during confinement shall be reported to Northeast Colorado Health Department by the owner or keeper, the Animal Control Agency or veterinarian. The ill animal shall be immediately presented to a Colorado licensed veterinarian of the owner's or keeper's choice within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction, and at the owner or keeper's expense for examination and diagnosis. The findings of the examination shall be immediately reported to the Northeast Colorado Health Department by the owner or keeper and veterinarian. Animals confined at the owner's or keeper's residence may be inspected by the Northeast Colorado Health Department, its officers or assigned agents at any time deemed necessary, with or without notice.
- (f) Any stray dog or cat which has bitten a human shall be impounded and quarantined at a county or municipal Animal Control Facility, Humane Society, or a veterinary hospital within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction under the supervision of a Colorado licensed veterinarian for a period of 10 days from the date of the bite and/or, if deemed necessary by order of the Department, be humanely euthanized and the head submitted for rabies examination and testing.

- (g) Any stray animal which exhibits signs of illness during confinement shall be reported to the Department by the animal control facility or veterinarian. The ill animal shall be immediately presented to a Colorado licensed veterinarian within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction for examination and diagnosis. The findings of the examination shall be immediately reported to the Northeast Colorado Health Department by the keeper and veterinarian.
- (h) Any cost associated with the confinement of stray animals shall be at the expense of the responsible agency, which will be determined by the locale where the bite occurred. Stray animals within the jurisdiction of the Northeast Colorado Health Department that inflict bites within the boundaries of an incorporated area having a police department will be confined at the expense of that incorporated area. Bites inflicted in the remainder of the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction will be confined at sites designated by the Department Public Health Administrator within its jurisdiction and at the expense of the Department.

4.3 Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets that Die or are Euthanized Between the Bite Date and the End of Confinement Period:

- (a) The owner or keeper of the deceased animal shall immediately keep the carcass cool (**between 35-40°F, DO NOT FREEZE**) and present the carcass to a Colorado licensed veterinarian of the owner's or keeper's choice, within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction, to have the head removed and prepared for submission to a qualified laboratory for rabies examination and testing. If animal is impounded and/or quarantined within a facility, the impounding authority shall preserve the body and present it to a Colorado licensed veterinarian within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction. (**DO NOT FREEZE CARCASS OR SPECIMEN**).
- (b) The owner or keeper and veterinarian shall notify the Northeast Colorado Health Department immediately of the quarantined animal's death.
- (c) The Northeast Colorado Health Department may assist in coordinating the transportation and submittal of the animal's head for rabies examination and testing.
- (d) The owner or keeper of the animal shall be responsible for all costs associated with the removal of the animal's head, the transportation, and the laboratory testing.

4.4 Stray Dogs, Cats or Ferrets that Die or are Euthanized Between the Bite Date and the End of the Confinement Period:

- (a) The keeper of the deceased animal shall keep the carcass cool (**between 35-40°F, DO NOT FREEZE**) and present the carcass to a Colorado licensed veterinarian, within the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction, to have the head removed and prepared for submission to a qualified laboratory for rabies testing.

- (b) The veterinarian and keeper of the animal shall notify the Northeast Colorado Health Department at once of the animal's death.
- (c) The Northeast Colorado Health Department may assist in coordinating the transportation and submittal of the animal head for rabies testing.
- (d) The Northeast Colorado Health Department's Public Health Administrator shall determine the amount payable for the removal and preparation of a stray animal's head by a Colorado licensed veterinarian within the jurisdiction of the Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD). The department will arrange transportation of the specimen to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment laboratory or other designated labs for evaluation and testing. NCHD will pay costs directly associated with head removal and transportation only when no other funding source is available, including responsible outside agencies, County or municipal governments.

4.5 Removal of Animals From Confinement:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to remove from any place of confinement an animal which has been confined, as authorized, without the consent of the Animal Control Officer, Animal Control Agency, or the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

4.6 Handling Bites from Mammal Species:

- (a) The Northeast Colorado Health Department or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment shall be notified immediately of any mammal, whether domestic or wild, which is suspected of having rabies and has bitten a human, dog, cat, or other animal. When the situation warrants, NCHD holds the discretionary authority to authorize quarantine in an approved, secured facility other than a home residence. Further recommendations will be issued upon notification.

Section 5: Documents

- 5.1 **False and Stolen Documents:** it shall be unlawful for any person to make use of stolen, counterfeit or forged rabies vaccination certificates or rabies vaccination tags.

Section 6: Place of Confinement

- 6.1 **Animal Control Facility:** The Northeast Colorado Health Department or its representative will designate a suitable placement to be utilized for the purpose of boarding and caring for any animal impounded and/or quarantined under the provisions of these regulations.

Section 7: Disposition of Quarantined Dogs, Cats and Ferrets

- 7.1 Within 24 hours after quarantine, a Notice of Quarantine shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the designated site for the duration of the quarantine period.
- 7.2 If the owner or keeper of the animal can be determined from the tags or other identification attached to the animal or any other information given to the animal control facility, the animal control facility shall provide notice by telephone or mail to the owner or keeper. Any quarantined animal may be redeemed by the owner or keeper after the 10-day quarantine period and upon payment of fees, care and feeding charges, rabies vaccination fee, and such other costs as established by the quarantining or impounding agent. Owned animals not claimed by the end of confinement, shall be considered abandoned and may be placed for adoption subject to payment of fees as established by the quarantining agency, or the agency may humanely euthanize the animal. If the stray animal is deemed to be unacceptable for rehabilitation and adoption following the quarantine, the agency may humanely euthanize the animal.

Section 8: Vicious or Dangerous Animals

- 8.1 It shall be unlawful to own a vicious or dangerous animal within the jurisdiction of the Northeast Colorado Health Department. See C.R.S. 25-4-610 (1973) and C. R. S. A. § 18-9-204.5: Unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog. The Animal Control Officer or the Department shall consider the severity and specific circumstances of any attack, including the Rabies vaccination status at the time of the attack. If determination is made that the animal poses a threat or is deemed dangerous or vicious, the owner of the vicious animal in question shall fully demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Health Officer that they can and will humanely and safely care for the animal in a closed cage or paddock out of possible contact with other animals or humans for the remainder of the life of the animal. Without exception, in every bite instance involving a suspected vicious or dangerous animal, the 10 day quarantine shall be observed. (See Section 4.2)
- 8.2 In every situation where an animal has inflicted bodily injury, is determined to be a vicious animal or is in violation of any order concerning a vicious animal, the owner of said animal may be subject to the fines or penalties set forth in C.R.S. 25-4-614 (1973), as amended, and/or C. R. S. A. § 18-9-204.5 (1986), as amended.

Section 9: Animals Running at Large

- 9.1 **Restraining:** It shall be unlawful for an owner or keeper of a dog to permit such animal to run at large.

Section 10: Enforcement

- 10.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder or prevent the Department and its authorized representatives from discharging the duties prescribed in these regulations or to violate any provision of these regulations.
- 10.2 Penalties:
- (a) Any person found guilty of violating this regulation or any lawful orders or notices of the Department pertaining to these regulations shall be subject to the fines or penalties prescribed in C.R.S. 25-4-614 (1973) as amended and notated in 10.2(b).
- (b) Any person refusing to comply with the provisions of this regulation or violating any of the provisions hereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100), or imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days for each offense. Upon referral from the Department, the District Attorney or Special Counsel appointed by the Department shall bring any action, civil or criminal, requested by the Department to abate the condition which exists in violation of, or to restrain or enjoin any action which is in violation of, or to prosecute for the violation of any of the provisions in this regulation. Reference C.R.S. 25-4-614 (1973) as amended.
- 10.3 The Northeast Colorado Health Department shall enforce the provisions of this regulation with the aid of the Sheriff's Office, Police Department in each incorporated municipality, Animal Control Agency, and/or the Division of Wildlife or Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Section 11: Savings Clause

- 11.1 If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this regulation is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this regulation.

Section 12: Emergency Clause

- 12.1 The Northeast Colorado Health Department Board of Health hereby finds, determines and declares this regulation to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and welfare of the inhabitants in the Northeast Colorado Health Department's jurisdiction in accordance with C.R.S. 25-4-601, et. seq., as amended.

Section 13: Further Municipal or County Restrictions Not Prohibited

- 13.1 Nothing in this regulation shall be construed to limit the power of any municipality or county within the Northeast Colorado Health Department jurisdiction to regulate and control, and to enforce additional measures for the restriction and control of rabies.

Section 14: Liability for Accident or Subsequent Disease From Inoculation

- 14.1 The Northeast Colorado Health Department, its employees, representatives, or anyone enforcing the provisions of these regulations shall not be held responsible for any accident or subsequent disease that may occur in connection with the administration and enforcement of this regulation.

Colorado Revised Statutes
Title 25, Article 4, Part 6
RABIES CONTROL
et. seq. C.R.S. 1973, as amended

25-4-601- Definitions. As used in this part 6, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "County board of health" means the body acting as the board of health of a county under the provisions of section 25-1-608.
- (2) "Health department" means the department of public health and environment or any county or district health department organized and maintained under the provisions of part 5 of article 1 of this title.
- (3) "Health officer" means the person appointed as the health officer of a county, city, or town under the provisions of section 25-1-610.
- (4) "Inoculation against rabies" means the administration of the antirabies vaccine as approved by the department of public health and environment or the county or district department of health.
- (5) "Owner" means any person who has a right of property in a dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal, or who keeps or harbors a dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal, or who has it in his care or acts as its custodian.

25-4-602 - Notice to health department or officer if animal affected or suspected of being affected by rabies.

Whenever a dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal 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 of the dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal, or any person having knowledge thereof, shall forthwith notify the health department or health officer in the county, city, or town in which such animal is located, stating precisely where such animal may be found.

25-4-603 - Report of person bitten by animal to health department or health officer.

Every physician after his first professional attendance upon a person bitten by a dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal, or any person having knowledge thereof, shall report to the health department or health officer in accordance with the provisions of section 25-1-122 (1).

25-4-604 - Animal attacking or biting person to be confined - examination.

The health department or health officer shall serve notice upon the owner of a dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal which has attacked or bitten a person to confine the animal at the expense of the owner upon his premises or at a pound or other place designated in the notice for a period designated by the department of public health and environment. The health department, health officer, or his representative shall be permitted by the owner of such dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal to examine the animal at any time within the period of confinement to determine whether such animal shows symptoms of rabies. No person shall obstruct or interfere with the authorized person in making such examination.

25-4-605 - Animals bitten by animals known or suspected of having rabies to be confined.

The health department or health officer shall serve notice in writing upon the owner of a dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal known to have been bitten by an animal known or suspected of having rabies requiring the owner to immediately treat and confine such animal by procedures outlined by the department of public health and environment.

25-4-606 - Animals to be confined to prevent spread of rabies.

Whenever the board of health of a health department or the county board of health has reason to believe or has been notified by the department of public health and environment that there is imminent danger that rabies may spread within that county or district, such board shall serve public notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in such county or district covered by such department requiring the owners of dogs, cats, other pet animals, or other mammals specified to confine such dogs, cats, pet animals, or mammals for such period as may be necessary to prevent the spread of rabies in such county or district.

25-4-607- Order of board of health requiring inoculation of animals - veterinarian waiver of order.

(1) (a) When it is deemed advisable in the interest of public health and safety, the board of health of an organized health department or a county board of health may order that all dogs, cats, other pet animals, or other mammals in the county or district be vaccinated against rabies, such vaccination to be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), a board of health of an organized health department or a county board of health shall not order the inoculation of dogs, cats, or ferrets against rabies any more frequently than is recommended in the "Compendium of Animal Rabies Control" as promulgated by the national association of state public health veterinarians.

(2) A veterinarian, with the written consent of an animal's owner, may issue a written waiver pursuant to the rules of the health department, exempting an animal from a rabies vaccination order if the veterinarian, in his or her professional opinion, determines that the rabies inoculation is contraindicated due to the animal's medical condition.

(3)(a) The executive director of the health department shall enact rules allowing for the exemption of an animal from a rabies vaccination due to the medical condition of the animal.

(b) The owner of an animal seeking an exemption from a rabies vaccination for his or her animal must provide the veterinarian with written consent for the exemption.

(c) A veterinarian supplying a waiver exempting an animal from a rabies vaccination, county and municipal health departments, their assistants and employees, the health department, health officers, and anyone enforcing this part 6 shall not be liable for any subsequent accident, disease, injury, or quarantine that may occur as a result of an animal exempted from a rabies vaccination pursuant to the rules of the health department.

(4) A waiver executed pursuant to this section shall be accepted and recognized by any local or regional authority issuing licenses for the ownership of animals.

25-4-608 - Notice of order requiring inoculation of animals.

The order of a board of health of a health department or a county board of health requiring inoculation of all dogs, cats, other pet animals, or other mammals shall not become effective until twenty-four hours after notice of adoption of the order requiring inoculation of all dogs, cats, other pet animals, or other mammals has been published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or district.

25-4-609 - Effect of order requiring inoculation of animals.

Sections 25-4-610 and 25-4-611 shall be in force and effect only in those counties, districts, or portions of counties or districts where an order requiring inoculation of all dogs, cats, other pet animals, or other mammals is in effect.

25-4-610 - Uninoculated animals not to run at large - impounding and disposition of animals.

It is unlawful for any owner of any dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal which has not been inoculated as required by the order of the county board of health or board of health of a health department to allow it to run at large. The health department or health officer may capture and impound any such dog, cat, other pet animal, or other mammal found running at large and dispose of such animal in accordance with local program policy. Such power to impound and dispose shall extend to any and all animals unclaimed and found or suspected to be affected by rabies, whether wild or domestic. The division of wildlife shall cooperate with and aid the health department or health officer in the enforcement of this section as it affects animals found or suspected to be affected by rabies when such animals are in its care, jurisdiction, or control.

25-4-611 - Report to state department.

Each health department or health officer shall furnish information to the department of public health and environment concerning all cases of rabies and the prevalence of rabies within the county at any time such information is requested by the department of public health and environment.

25-4-612 - Enforcement of part 6.

The health officer or health department shall enforce the provisions of this part 6, and the sheriff and his deputies and the police officers in each incorporated municipality and the division of wildlife shall be aides and are instructed to cooperate with the health department or health officer in carrying out the provisions of this part 6.

25-4-613 - Liability for accident or subsequent disease from inoculation.

The health departments, their assistants and employees, the department of public health and environment, health officers, or anyone enforcing the provisions of this part 6 shall not be held responsible for any accident or subsequent disease that may occur in connection with the administration of this part 6.

25-4-614 - Penalties.

Any person who refuses to comply with or who violates any of the provisions of this part 6 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty days for each offense.

25-4-615 - Further municipal restrictions not prohibited.

(1) Nothing in this part 6 shall be construed to limit the power of any municipality within this state to prohibit dogs from running at large, whether or not they have been inoculated as provided in this part 6; and nothing in this part 6 shall be construed to limit the power of any municipality to regulate and control and to enforce other and additional measures for the restriction and control of rabies.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, no municipality shall require any animal to be inoculated against rabies any more frequently than is recommended in the "Compendium of Animal Rabies Control" as promulgated by the national association of state public health veterinarians.

References

1. *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011.*
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc
2. *Colorado Rabies Resource Guide, 2011.* last updated July 18, 2011.
The Colorado Rabies Task Force
3. State of Colorado: *Rabies Prevention and Control Policy*, June 2009. Management of Domestic Dogs, Cats and Ferrets Involved in Human Bites.
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program
4. State of Colorado: *Rabies Prevention and Control Policy*, November 3, 2009. Management of Domestic Animals Exposed to Rabies. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program
5. State of Colorado: *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Epidemic and Communicable Disease Control.* 6 CCR 1009-1. Regulation 8. Reporting of Diseases Among Animals and Waiver Process for Rabies Inoculation. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division
6. State of Colorado: *Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated. Title 18. Criminal Code.*
C. R. S. A. § 18-9-204.5. Unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog. eff. July 1, 2004.