

**MAHONING COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
RABIES CONTROL REGULATION**

A REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER AUTHORITY OF SECTION 3709.21 OHIO REVISED CODE BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE MAHONING COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF RABIES THROUGH REQUIREMENTS FOR RABIES VACCINATION OF DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS; FOR REPORTING OF ALL ANIMALS THAT BITE PERSONS; QUARANTINE OF ANIMALS THAT BITE PERSONS, REPORTING AND HANDLING OF SUSPECTED RABID AND EXPOSED ANIMALS; ESTABLISHMENT OF A RABIES CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PRESCRIBING THE DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER; AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE REGULATION AND PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF ITS PROVISIONS.

Cross References

Rabies quarantine - Ohio Revised Code 955.26

Reimbursement for rabies bite - Ohio Revised Code 955.42

Report of bite of dog or other animal - Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-28

Biting animal to be confined; veterinarian to report - Ohio Administrative Code 3701-329

Report of suspected rabid animal - Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-30

Importation of dogs into state - Ohio Administrative Code 901:1-17-05

Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

Section 1 - Definitions

"Board of Health" means the Board of Health of the Mahoning County General Health District.

"Cat" means any domestic feline animal of the species Felis catus.

"Dog" means any domestic canine animal of the species Canis familiaris.

"Exposure" means an animal bite or scratch that breaks human skin, or contact of animal saliva with a break in human skin or any mucous membrane.

"Quarantine" means isolation or confinement of an animal to the premises of the owner or in a suitable pound, kennel, veterinary hospital or animal shelter in such a way that human contact other than with the owner cannot occur and for a sufficient period of time to observe the development of clinical signs of rabies in an infected animal of the species.

"Ferret" means a carnivorous mammal of the species Mustela putorius furo.

"Health Commissioner" means the Health Commissioner of the Mahoning County General Health District or his or her authorized representative.

"Owner" means any person who has right of property to a dog, cat or ferret, keeps, feeds or harbors a dog, cat or ferret, has a dog, cat or ferret in his care or shelter,

or permits a dog, cat or ferret to remain on or about premises owned or occupied by him.

"Stray" means any animal whose owner cannot be identified or any animal that cannot be apprehended and quarantined for observation.

"Veterinarian" means a graduate veterinarian who is duly licensed to diagnose and medically treat animal injuries and diseases.

Section 2 - Vaccination of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets Required

2.1 Initial Vaccination

Any person who owns a dog, cat or ferret in the Mahoning County General Health District shall have these animals vaccinated against rabies within thirty (30) days after these animals have reached three (3) months of age using a vaccine and method listed in the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

2.2 Revaccination

Each dog, cat, or ferret shall be revaccinated one (1) year after the initial rabies vaccination and thereafter at no more than one (1) or three (3) year intervals according to recommendations of the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control for the vaccine used.

2.3 Vaccination to be Administered by a Veterinarian

Rabies vaccine shall be administered only by a veterinarian or under the supervision of a veterinarian.

2.4 Contraindications to Vaccination

If rabies vaccination of dogs, cats or ferrets is contraindicated for medical reasons, these reasons shall be documented in writing by a veterinarian, a copy of which shall be given to the owner.

2.5 Imported Animals

Each dog, cat or ferret imported into the Mahoning County General Health District must be accompanied by proof of current rabies vaccination. This requirement does not apply to transient animals.

2.6 Laboratory Animals

Dogs, cats or ferrets confined for the purpose of research are exempt from rabies vaccination requirements as long as the person or agency conducting the research is licensed under the Federal Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

Section 3 - Vaccination Record Required

3.1 Rabies Vaccination Certificate

- (A) Each veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat or ferret against rabies shall complete a rabies vaccination certificate. This certificate shall include the following information:
- Name, address and telephone number of owner.
 - Rabies tag number.
 - Age, sex, species and name or general description of animal.
 - Vaccine manufacturer and vaccine serial (lot) number.
 - Duration of immunity (one or three years).
 - Date of vaccination.
 - Veterinarian's name, address and telephone number.
- (B) Each veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat or ferret against rabies shall provide the owner a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The veterinarian shall forward within five (5) business days a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate to the Mahoning County Dog Warden and shall hold the rabies vaccination certificate for the interval between vaccinations.

3.2 Vaccination Tag Required

- (A) Each veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat or ferret shall issue to the owner a rabies vaccination tag. Tags shall be serially numbered and stamped with the year of rabies vaccination and a phone number at which the animal's rabies vaccination status can be verified.
- (B) Each owner shall affix the rabies vaccination tag to the collar or harness of a vaccinated dog. The tag shall be worn at all times except when the dog is confined in a secure enclosure or when participating in competition or exhibitions.

3.3 Impoundment of Animals without Valid Rabies Vaccination Tags

- (A) The Mahoning County Dog Warden may impound any dog found off the owner's premises without a valid rabies vaccination tag. A vaccinated dog may be redeemed by its owner by furnishing proof of current rabies vaccination and complying with all other requirements for redemption of an impounded animal. An unvaccinated dog may be redeemed by furnishing proof of compliance with the rabies vaccination requirements of this Regulation within seventy-two (72) hours of the dog's release and complying with all other requirements for redemption of an impounded animal. Persons buying or receiving unredeemed and unvaccinated dogs shall furnish proof of compliance with the rabies vaccination requirement of this Regulation within seventy-two (72) hours of the dog's release.
- (B) No person harboring or providing shelter to dogs, cats, or ferrets shall

permit the redemption, donation or sale of a dog, cat, or ferret without first furnishing proof of compliance with the rabies vaccination requirements of this Regulation to the Mahoning County Dog Warden within seventy-two (72) hours of the animal's release.

Section 4 - Report of Animal Bites Required

4.1 Persons Required to Report

Whenever a person is bitten, scratched or otherwise exposed by an animal, the physician in attendance, person in charge of a hospital, dispensary, clinic, or other institution providing care or treatment, person bitten, or any individual having knowledge of a bite shall report the bite within twenty-four (24) hours to the Health Commissioner.

4.2 Content of Report

This report shall include the name, age, address and telephone number of the person bitten, the part of the body where the bite was inflicted, a description of the biting animal, and, if known, the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the biting animal.

Section 5 - Quarantine of Biting Animals

5.1 Quarantine of Dogs and Cats

- (A) Whenever it is reported that a dog or cat has bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed a person, the Health Commissioner shall quarantine that animal at the expense of the owner for a period of ten (10) days from the date of the exposure. During quarantine the animal may be permitted to leave the premises if it is under leash or under the control of a responsible person.
- (B) Quarantined animals shall be examined at the end of the ten day quarantine period for signs of rabies by a veterinarian. The veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner the conclusions reached as a result of the examination. The Health Commissioner shall prescribe a form for this purpose. The examination shall be at the expense of the owner.
- (C) No dog or cat shall be released from quarantine unless and until it has been examined by a veterinarian and properly vaccinated against rabies.
- (D) If the dog or cat is a stray, the Health Commissioner shall either:
 - (1) quarantine the animal for ten (10) days from the date of exposure.
 - (2) direct the sacrifice of the animal by a suitable humane method that does not damage the animal's head. The Health Commissioner

shall provide for the removal of the animal's head by a veterinarian and submit the head to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination.

- (E) If a quarantined dog or cat dies before the end of the quarantine period, the owner shall inform the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner shall provide for the removal of the animal's head at the owner's expense and submit the head to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination.

5.2 Quarantine of other Animals

- (A) Whenever it is reported that any other animal that is known to transmit rabies has bitten, scratched or otherwise exposed a person, the Health Commissioner shall either:
 - (1) direct the immediate sacrifice of the animal by a suitable humane method that does not damage the animal's head. The Health Commissioner shall provide for the removal of the animal's head by a veterinarian at the owner's expense and submit the head to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination, or
 - (2) quarantine the animal for a period to be determined by the Health Commissioner. If the animal dies before the end of the quarantine period, the owner shall inform the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner shall provide for the removal of the animal's head by a veterinarian at the owner's expense and submit the head to the Ohio Department of Health laboratories for rabies examination.

5.3 Prohibition against Killing Quarantined Animals

No person shall kill a quarantined animal until the quarantine period has been completed and the animal has been examined for signs of rabies by a veterinarian, except that this prohibition shall not apply to the humane killing of an animal to prevent further injury or suffering if the animal is diseased or seriously injured or to the sacrifice of a stray animal if its sacrifice is directed by the Health Commissioner.

5.4 Prohibition against Removal of Quarantined Animals

No person shall remove a quarantined animal from the Mahoning County General Health District until the quarantine period has been completed.

5.5 Prohibition against Transfer of Quarantined Animals

No person shall transfer ownership of a quarantined animal until the quarantine period has been completed except that a person may transfer an animal to the Mahoning County Dog Warden or veterinarian in Mahoning County.

Section 6 - Handling of Suspected Rabid or Exposed Animals

6.1 Handling of Animals Bitten by or Exposed to Rabid or Suspected Rabid Animals

Any animal which is bitten by or exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal shall be managed in accordance with recommendations contained in the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

6.2 Report of Suspected Rabid Animal Required

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 the animal in suitable quarters and shall report this event within twenty-four (24) hours to the Health Commissioner. The 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 action as is necessary to prevent the occurrence of rabies in persons or animals known or presumed to have been exposed to the rabid animal.

Section 7 - Rabies Control Advisory Committee

7.1 Rabies Control Advisory Committee Established; Members

The Health Commissioner shall establish a Rabies Control Advisory Committee which shall be composed of all Health Commissioners in Mahoning County, a member of the Board of Health, a representative of the local veterinary medical association, a representative of the Mahoning County Humane Society, a representative of the Mahoning County Medical Society, a representative of Animal Charity, the Mahoning County Dog Warden, a representative of the Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and two members of the public, one of whom must be a dog, cat or ferret owner.

7.2 Duties of the Rabies Control Advisory Committee

The Rabies Control Advisory Committee shall meet at least once each year to review rabies activity and rabies control efforts in Mahoning County, the State of Ohio and neighboring states, and to make recommendations to boards of health within Mahoning County as to rabies control measures.

Section 8 - Effect of Partial Invalidity

Should any part of this Regulation be declared invalid or unconstitutional for any reason, the remainder of this Regulation shall not be affected thereby.

Section 9 - Penalties

Any person violating any provisions of this Regulation shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 3709.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 10 - Repeal and Date of Effect

All regulations and parts of regulations of the Board of Health in conflict with this Regulation are hereby repealed and this Regulation shall be in full force as of its effective date.

This Regulation shall be effective on or after the 21st day of October, 1994.

Adopted on the 21st day of July, 1994 by the Board of Health of the Mahoning County General Health District.

Leonard A. Pery
President

Matthew A. Stefanak
Secretary, Ex-Officio

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Dr. Fredric D'Amato	Absent
Dr. Amelia Tunanidas	Yes
James McCollum	Yes
Diana Campana	Absent
Leonard Pery	Yes