

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS OF THE SENECA COUNTY
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

RABIES VACCINATION

(This is a regulation establishing mandatory rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets in Seneca County. This regulation fixes responsibility of vaccination upon the pet owners.)

ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATION

WHEREAS, the Seneca County Board of Health has the authority under the provision of Section 3709.01 Ohio Revised Code to adopt regulations relative to rabies control and the control of vicious and dangerous dogs for the health and safety of the public, and the prevention or restriction of disease within the jurisdiction of the Seneca County General Board of Health District; and

WHEREAS, wild animals have been shown to be the primary source of rabies for domestic animals and human beings, and a reliable means of immunizing wild animals is not available at the present time; and

WHEREAS, protecting dogs, cats, and ferrets from rabies by mandatory immunizations creates an effective buffer in protecting human populations from the disease; and

WHEREAS, there are no currently existing regulations to address such incidents; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Seneca County General Health District as follows:

- Section I Definitions
- Section II Quarantine
- Section III Reports, Observations, Examinations, and Disposition
- Section IV Immunization
- Section V Administration
- Section VI Wild, Exotic, and Feral Animals
- Section VII Unconstitutionality Clause
- Section VIII Enforcement
- Section IX Penalties

Section I: Definitions

- 1.01 "Animal bite" or "bites" shall mean a "rabies exposure" as defined in 1.16.
- 1.02 "Contact" shall mean any susceptible animal that has come in contact with a rabid, or suspected rabid animal, in a manner which could transmit the rabies virus.
- 1.03 "Dangerous Animal" means an animal that, without provocation, has chased or approached in either a menacing fashion or an apparent attitude of attack, or has attempted to bite or otherwise endanger any person, or has bitten another animal, while the former animal is off the premises of its owner, keeper or harbinger and not under the reasonable control of its owner, keeper, harbinger or some other responsible person, or is on the premises of its owner, keeper or harbinger and not physically restrained or confined in a building, locked pen, locked fenced yard or other locked enclosure sufficient to prevent it from escaping.
- A.) A "Dangerous Animal" also means an animal that is attack trained. As used in this section, "attack trained" is defined to mean an animal which has been specifically trained by the owner, breeder, trainer, animal handler or other person to take a command to attack or injure a person or animal, but does not include animals possessed and used by a law enforcement agency while on duty.
- B.) "Dangerous Animal" does not include a police dog that has chased or approached in either a menacing fashion or an apparent attitude of attack, or has attempted to bite or otherwise endanger any person while the police animal is being used to assist one or more law enforcement officers or the community services officer in the performance of their official duties.
- C.) "Menacing Fashion" means that an animal would cause any person being chased or approached to reasonably believe that the animal will cause physical injury to that person.
- D.) "Police Dog" means a dog that has been trained, and may be used, to assist one or more law enforcement officers of the community in the performance of their official duties.
- 1.04 "Domesticated" shall mean an animal that has been bred in captivity for more than three generations to live a life intimately associated with man in a tame or tamable condition
- 1.05 "Exotic Animal" shall mean other warm blooded, non-domesticated animal not indigenous to the State of Ohio, and capable of transmitting rabies.
- 1.06 "Feral" shall mean any susceptible domestic animal living in the wild state.
- 1.07 "Health Commissioner" shall mean the Health Commissioner of the Seneca County General Health District or his/her authorized representative.
- 1.08 "Human Exposure" shall mean all persons having been bitten by or having contact with a susceptible animal.

- 1.09 "Immunization" shall mean the administration of a biological product recommended in the current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., Compendium of Animal Rabies Control and licensed for the species by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and deemed adequate to provide protection to the animal so vaccinated against rabies. Such vaccination must be performed by a veterinarian duly licensed to practice veterinary medicine.
- 1.10 "Isolation" shall mean the placing of a rabid animal or suspected rabid animal or a contact separate and apart from all other susceptible animals or persons so that the transmission of rabies is impossible.
- 1.11 "Owner" shall mean any person owning, keeping, possessing, harboring, maintaining or having the care, custody or control of an animal.
- 1.12 "Person" shall mean person, firm, corporation or association.
- 1.13 "Pocket Pets" shall mean small pets such as domesticated hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, domestic rabbits, white rats, and mice.
- 1.14 "Quarantine" is the limitation of freedom of movement of rabid or suspected rabid animals or contacts for a period of time equal to the longest usual incubation period of the disease, in such manner as to prevent the spread of the rabies virus.
- Quarantine includes, but is not limited to:
- A.) The isolation of the animal.
 - B.) The control of contacts.
- 1.15 "Rabid Animal" shall mean any animal showing observable clinical signs of rabies or which has been confirmed as having rabies by a laboratory acceptable to the Health Commissioner.
- 1.16 "Rabies Exposure" shall mean any penetration of skin by the teeth of a susceptible animal or contamination of scratches, abrasions, open wounds, or mucous membranes with the saliva or potentially infectious material (such as brain tissue) of a susceptible animal.
- 1.17 "Stray" shall mean any susceptible animal whose owner cannot be determined or one that cannot be apprehended and isolated for observation.
- 1.18 "Susceptible Animal" shall mean any animal to which rabies can be transmitted.
- 1.19 "Suspected Rabid Animal" shall mean a susceptible animal showing, to a limited degree, observable clinical signs of rabies; or a susceptible animal that has bitten a person; or has come in contact with a person in such a manner that rabies could be transmitted to that person.
- 1.20 "Veterinarian" shall mean a veterinarian duly licensed under the laws of the State of Ohio.

1.21 "Vicious Animal" means an animal that, without provocation, meets any of the following:

- A.) Has killed or caused serious injury to any person;
- B.) Has caused injury, other than killing or serious injury, to any person, or has killed another domestic animal;
- C.) "Without Provocation" means that the animal was not teased, tormented or abused by a person, or that the animal was not coming to the aid or the defense of a person who was not engaged in illegal or criminal activity and who was not using the animal as a means of carrying out such activity.

1.22 "Vicious Animal" does not include either of the following:

- A.) A police dog that has killed or caused serious injury to any person or that has caused injury, other than killing or serious injury, to any person while the police dog is being used to assist one or more law enforcement officers or the community services officer in the performance of their official duties.
- B.) An animal that has killed or caused serious injury to any person while a person was committing or attempting to commit a trespass or other criminal offense on the property of the owner, keeper or harbinger of the animal.

1.23 "Wild Animal" shall mean any warm blooded, non-domesticated animal which is indigenous to the State of Ohio and capable of transmitting rabies; an offspring born to wild animals bred with a domestic animal, or offspring born to domestic animals bred with wild animals, will be considered as wild animals. Wild animal shall also mean any animal for which there has been no rabies vaccine in which the efficacy has been demonstrated, or for which the quarantine period has not been scientifically researched and defined.

- A.) Mustela putorius furo (domestic ferret) shall be considered wild unless all of the following conditions are met:
 - 1.) Shall be under the care of a licensed veterinarian, and
 - 2.) Shall be currently immunized for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and
 - 3.) Shall meet the requirements of Section I 1.05.

Section II Quarantine

2.01 Animals confined indoors must be confined to a house, building or other enclosure in such a way that human contact other than with the owner and/or owners cannot occur.

2.02 Animals confined outdoors must only be by a six (6) foot leash and under direct supervision of a qualified adult, 18 years or older, or confined in a kennel with a six (6) foot fence with an enclosed top and a secure bottom, or other enclosure suitable to the Seneca County General Health District.

- 2.03 If the Seneca County Animal Control Officer captures or confines the animal due to running-at-large or not under owner control while under quarantine, the animal will not be released until the quarantine period is over and the daily confinement cost is paid by the owner. If the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, the owner has up to 72 hours after the allotted quarantine period to show proof of a rabies vaccination from a licensed veterinarian before the animal will be released from quarantine.
- 2.04 No person shall remove an animal that has bitten a person within the jurisdiction of the Seneca County General Health District from the jurisdiction until a quarantine period as specified in Section III (3.02) has been completed.
- 2.05 Subject to Section III (3.04), no person shall kill an animal that has bitten any person until a quarantine period as specified in Section III (3.02) has been completed.
- 2.06 No animal shall be immunized against rabies as specified in Section IV (2.04) while quarantined as in Section III (3.02).

Section III Reports, Observations, Examinations and Disposition

- 3.01 Veterinarians, owners or persons caring for or harboring a rabid or suspected rabid animal shall confine and isolate said animal and report such fact to the Health Commissioner within 48 hours. The veterinarian, owner or person caring for or harboring the rabid or suspected rabid animal or contact shall give the Health Commissioner all data pertaining to the animal. THESE data shall include, but not be limited to, the name and address of the owners or persons caring for animals bitten by or having contact with the rabid or suspected rabid animal; and any other information pertinent to the Health Commissioner.
- 3.02 All suspected rabid animals and animal contacts with the exception of stray, wild, exotic and feral animals shall be held in quarantine under observation in a place suitable to the Health Commissioner for a period of not less than ten days or more than one hundred eighty days, until it is determined to the satisfaction of the Health Commissioner that the animal is not afflicted with rabies. Whenever the Health Commissioner requires a veterinarian to observe a suspected rabid animal for symptoms of rabies the owner shall report the result(s) of this observation and conclusions reached to the Health Commissioner within 48 hours. The examination by a veterinarian shall be at the expense of the owner or harborer.
- 3.03 Any stray, wild, exotic, and feral animals involved in an animal bite must be sacrificed immediately and the head submitted to the Ohio Department of Health lab for analysis.
- A.) For Mustela putorius furo, a ten day quarantine period should be sufficient but an extended quarantine period of 30-90 days may be considered, if all of the following criteria are not met:
- 1.) The domestic ferret originated from a rabies-free area and for the past six (6) months has not been exposed to any potentially rabid animals.
 - 2.) The domestic ferret was vaccinated with an approved rabies vaccine at least 30 days prior to the time of the bite.

- 3.) The victim, the owner, harbinger or keeper, and the physician understand that if a domestic ferret meets the criteria of Section II 2.03, it is at a minimal, but not zero risk of being rabid. If these criteria are not acceptable to all parties, the domestic ferret shall be sacrificed and tested, or post-exposure treatment should be given to the victim.
 - a.) A signed statement from the victim, the owner, harbinger, or keeper of the animal, and the veterinarian shall be included as part of the record of a domestic ferret bite investigation.
 - 4.) The Health Commissioner shall decide whether to establish the 30-90 day quarantine period for the animal, or to sacrifice and test the animal.
 - 5.) The animal may be quarantined on the owner's premises or in a place deemed suitable by the Health Commissioner. The licensed veterinarian who immunized the animal against rabies will see the animal within 48 hours of a bite, and again in 30-90 days. The licensed veterinarian shall make a determination of whether the animal is afflicted with rabies. The licensed veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner within 48 hours of said determination, a final report of observations. The Health Commissioner may release the animal from quarantine based upon these observations and conclusions reached.
- 3.04 All suspected rabid animals and animal contacts, shall be destroyed by some suitable and acceptable humane method by an agency or individual approved by the Health Commissioner if showing to a limited degree, observable clinical signs of rabies. The Health Commissioner shall determine if suspected rabid animals or animal contacts should be destroyed and may require all such animals to be examined by a licensed veterinarian at the expense of the owner or harbinger. The veterinarian shall report to the Health Commissioner the results of the examination and conclusion reached within 48 hours.
- 3.05 If any animal dies before the quarantine period expires, or is destroyed as in Section II 2.03 and 2.04, the veterinarian, owner, or person caring for or harboring the animal shall make arrangements with the Health Commissioner to remove the head by an approved agency or individual and to submit the head of the suspected rabid animal for examination and laboratory diagnosis to the Ohio Department of Health laboratory. Quarantine, examination and laboratory expenses for pet and wild rodents, including gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice, rabbits, rats, squirrels and chipmunks, shrews and moles or animals not implicated to the bite of a human shall be assessed to the owner or person harboring or caring for said animals.
- 3.06 The place of keeping and the premises where a rabid animal has been quartered shall be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the Health Commissioner.
- 3.07 Whenever a person is bitten by a susceptible animal, prompt reporting of such bite shall be made to the Health Commissioner within 48 hours. The report shall be made by the physician attending the person bitten, or, if such person is received at a hospital or other health care facility for treatment, the report shall be made by the person in charge of the hospital or health care facility. 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, and if known, the name, telephone number and address of the owner or person caring for the animal inflicting the bite, the date of the bite, type of animal, treatment given, rabies tag number and expiration date, whether the bite occurred off premises of the owner, harbinger or keeper, and whether the bite was provoked. When a physician was not consulted or the person bitten was not taken to a hospital or other health care facility, the report shall be made by the person bitten or any other

person who has knowledge of the facts.

- 3.08 When a report is made to the Health Commissioner of a person bitten by a susceptible animal, the Health Commissioner shall notify in writing within 48 hours the owner or a person caring for the animal inflicting the bite that this animal shall be held in quarantine and that at least one observation may be made by a health department representative, or a veterinarian, at the request of the Health Commissioner. (The quarantine shall remain in effect until a final observation is made by a veterinarian or a health department representative at the end of a defined quarantine period.) The place of quarantine may be, if suitable, the premises of the owner or the person caring for the animal, a veterinary hospital or an animal shelter approved by the Health Commissioner. All susceptible animals held under such quarantine shall be boarded and cared for at the expense of the owner or person caring for the animal.

Section IV Immunization

- 4.01 Any person who keeps or harbors dogs, cats, or ferrets, within the jurisdiction of the Seneca County General Health District shall have such dogs, cats, or ferrets immunized or reimmunized against rabies by a method listed in the current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, by a licensed veterinarian, provided the dogs, cats, or ferrets need not be immunized before reaching the age of four (4) months. Provided further that dogs, cats, or ferrets entering this jurisdiction temporarily for dog, cat or ferret shows exhibition and/or breeding purposes shall not be allowed out of the owner's, keeper's or handler's control unless properly immunized; and all dogs, cats, or ferrets entering this jurisdiction for field trials or hunting purposes, or any other purpose, shall be properly immunized. Dogs, cats, and ferrets shall be accompanied by an immunization certificate or certified acknowledgment from a licensed veterinarian that the dog, cat or ferret has been properly immunized.
- 4.02 All licensed veterinarians immunizing or reimmunizing dogs against rabies shall keep a record of such immunization or reimmunization and shall without delay give to the owner or keeper of the immunized or reimmunized a certificate of immunization which shall include a number identifying the individual record, name of owner, keeper or harbinger of the dog and his or her address, date and type of immunization or reimmunization and such other pertinent information as is needed and the signature and address of the veterinarian. The veterinarian shall also without delay forward the information required on the certificate described in this section to any agency authorized by the Health Commissioner.
- 4.03 The certificate described in (2) shall be made on forms approved by the Health Commissioner or an agency authorized by the Board of Health.
- 4.04 Nothing in this regulation shall be interpreted to mean that dogs, cats, or ferrets immunized or reimmunized shall be allowed to run at large in violation of any rabies quarantine, law, ordinance or regulation.
- 4.05 All licensed veterinarians who immunized or reimmunize a dog against rabies shall provide a tag approved by the Health Commissioner which shall be sequentially numbered and have thereon permanently affixed the year of immunization or reimmunization, and the phone number indicating the record prescribed in Section IV 4.02.

- 4.06 All licensed veterinarians immunizing or reimmunizing cats against rabies shall keep a record of such immunization or reimmunization and shall without delay give the owner or keeper of the cat immunized or reimmunized a certificate of immunization which shall include a number identifying the individual record, a complete description of the cat, place where the cat is kept or harbored, name of the owner, keeper or harbinger of the cat and his or her address, date and type of immunization or reimmunization and such other pertinent information as is needed, along with the signature and address of the veterinarian. The veterinarian shall also without delay forward the information required on the certificate described in this section to any agency authorized by the Health Commissioner.
- 4.07 The owner, keeper or harbinger of Mustela putorius furo shall have such animals vaccinated against rabies by a method and vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, by a licensed veterinarian, provided that a certificate of immunization is signed by the licensed veterinarian administering the immunization for rabies. This certificate shall be made on forms approved by the Health Commissioner or the agency authorized by the Board of Health. All licensed veterinarians immunizing or reimmunizing Mustela putorius furo against rabies shall keep a record of such immunization and shall without delay give the owner or keeper of the Mustela putorius furo immunized a certificate of immunization which shall include a number identifying the individual record, a statement certifying that the domestic ferret meets the requirement of definition 2.01 , and any other pertinent information deemed necessary by the Health Commissioner. The veterinarian shall also without delay forward the information required on the certificate described in this section to any agency authorized by the Health Commissioner.
- A.) The licensed veterinarian shall individually identify by a permanent tattoo or other means acceptable to the Health Commissioner and humanely administered, all Mustela putorius furo immunized with the same identifying number described in this section.

Section V Administration

- 5.01 The Seneca County General Health District may appoint and authorize any agency for the purpose of administration of Section IV concerning immunizations of dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies.
- 5.02 State quarantine provisions:
- A.) Whenever in the judgment of any city or general health district board of health, or persons performing the duties of a board of health, that rabies is prevalent, such board or persons performing the duties of such board, shall declare a quarantine of all dogs, cats, and ferrets in the health district, or part thereof. During such quarantine, the owner, keeper, or harbinger of any dogs, cats, and ferrets shall keep the dogs, cats, and ferrets confined to the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger, or in a suitable pound or kennel, if such a pound or kennel is provided by the city or county; provided, a dog, cat or ferret may be permitted to leave the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger if under leash or under the control of a responsible person. The quarantine order shall be considered an emergency and need not be published.

When a quarantine of dogs, cats, and ferrets has been declared, or when rabies

vaccination has been declared compulsory, in any health district, or part thereof, the Seneca County Animal Control Officer, and all other persons having the authority of police officers shall assist the health authorities in enforcing this quarantine order.

- B.) No person shall violate a rabies quarantine order issued under Section 955.26 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section VI Wolf Hybrids, Wild, Exotic, and Feral Animals

6.01 No Person Shall Be Permitted:

- A.) To harbor, feed or market, in any form wholesale or retail wild animals native to the State of Ohio including but not limited to wolf hybrids, foxes, skunks, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and weasels (Mustela).
- B.) To import into the Seneca County General Health District jurisdiction any such wild animals.
- C.) To import, market, harbor or feed, in any form wholesale or retail, within the jurisdiction of the Seneca County General Health District other type of wolf hybrid, wild, feral, or dangerous animals, including exotic animals not native to the State of Ohio.
- D.) To perform surgery or other techniques on a wolf hybrid, wild, feral, or exotic animal for the purpose of domesticating it such as but not limited to, neutering, spaying or removing scent glands. Mustela putorius furo may be neutered, spayed or descented if all condition of Section 4.07 are met.
- E.) To immunize wolf hybrid, wild, exotic, or feral animals against rabies.
 - 1.) Mustela putorius furo shall be immunized as in Section IV 4.07.

6.02 This section does not apply to the following exemptions and special provisions.

- A.) "Wild or Exotic Animals" do not include those animals native to the farm and sold at auction or by private sale, such as horses, cattle, swine, and poultry or other livestock; and those animals sold by pet dealers or by private sale, such as domestic cats, domestic dogs, domestic rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchilla, mice, hamsters, gerbils, rats, psittacine birds, and nonpoisonous, nonmaneating fish; or other animals approved by the Board of Health.
- B.) Wild or exotic animals purchased or adopted prior to the adoption of this regulation providing:
 - 1.) That a bill of sale and/or license issued by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and/or the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plan Health Inspection Service Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care, which verifies this date, as well as provide a licensed veterinarian certification which verifies that the animal is wild or exotic. Persons who presently own or harbor a wild or exotic animal may keep the animal until the animal's death. Any transfer of ownership of a wild or exotic animal is not

permitted within the jurisdiction of the Seneca County General Health District;
AND

2.) That such wild or exotic animals can be confined in a house, building, or other enclosure in such a way that human contact, other than the owner and/or owners cannot occur.

a.) Offspring of animals described in Section 602 D 2A are not exempted by this Section.

C.) "Wild or exotic" animals do not include those animals held for exhibit or use by research institutions and other governmental agencies having legal authority to possess wild animals, including public supported zoos, the Humane Society of Seneca County and other rehabilitation services, approved by the Board of Health.

6.03 Disposition of Animals:

A.) In the event of a human exposure with any wild, exotic, or feral animal, the animal shall be impounded for sacrifice as soon as possible, to permit laboratory examination for rabies.

Section VII Unconstitutionality Clause

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of the Animal Control Regulation of the Seneca County General Health District Board of Health be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of said regulation shall not be affected thereby.

Section VIII Enforcement

These Regulations shall be enforced by the Health Commissioner in accordance with regulations as written in Section 3707.48 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section IX Penalties

Each and every violation of the provision of this rule and regulation shall constitute a separate offense. Violation of this rule and regulation are punishable by Section 3709.21 and 3709.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Effective Date: _____

Adoption Date: _____

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RULES RELATING TO RABIES

3701-3-28 Report of bite of dog or other animal.

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

3701-3-29 Biting animal to be confined; veterinarian to report.

(A) Biting dog, cat or ferret

- (1)** Whenever it is reported to the health commissioner of a health district that any dog, cat or ferret has bitten a person, that dog, cat or ferret shall be quarantined under an order issued by the health commissioner of the health district in which the bite was inflicted. The dog, cat or ferret shall be quarantined by its owner or by a harbinger, or shall be quarantined in a pound or kennel. In all cases, said quarantine shall be under the supervision of the health commissioner and shall be at the expense of the owner or harbinger. Quarantine shall continue until the health commissioner of the health district in which was bite was inflicted determines that the dog, cat or ferret is not afflicted with rabies. The quarantine period hereby required shall not be less than ten days from the date on which the person was bitten. If any time during the quarantine the health commissioner requires the dog, cat or ferret to be examined for symptoms of rabies, then the examination shall be by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. The veterinarian shall report to the health commissioner the conclusions reached as a result of the examinations. The examination by a veterinarian shall be at the expense of the owner or harbinger. No dog, cat or ferret shall be released from the required quarantine unless and until it has been properly vaccinated against rabies.
- (2)** If any quarantined dog, cat or ferret died before the quarantine period expires, then the head of the dog, cat or ferret shall be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories for rabies examination.
- (3)** If the owner or harbinger of the dog, cat or ferret is unknown, the health commissioner may direct that the dog, cat or ferret be killed in which case the head of the dog, cat or ferret shall be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories for rabies examination in accordance with state law.

(B) Other biting animals.

Whenever it is reported to the health commissioner of the health district that any animal that is commonly known to transmit rabies has bitten a person, the health commissioner at his or her discretion may direct the immediate killing of said animal by a suitable humane method. The head of said animal shall then be submitted to the Ohio

Department of Health Laboratories for rabies examination.

3701-3-30 Report of suspected rabid animal.

Any veterinarian or other person who examines, treats, owns, harbors, or otherwise cares for any animal which exhibits symptoms or behavior suggestive of rabies, shall confine and isolate such animal in suitable quarters and shall report such fact within twenty-four hours to the health commissioner of the health district wherein such animal is confined. Such animal shall be confined until it has been determined that it is rabies free. 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 person or animals known or presumed to have been exposed to such rabid animal.