



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

March 20, 2015

R&R BOH15-02

Proposed No. BOH15-02.1

Sponsors

1 A RULE AND REGULATION for the protection of the
2 public health against the spread of rabies; amending R&R
3 04-01, Section 2 (part), as amended, and BOH 8.04.003,
4 R&R 04-01, Section 2 (part), as amended, and BOH
5 8.04.005, R&R 30, Section 1, as amended, and BOH
6 8.04.010, and R&R 30, Section 4, as amended, and BOH
7 8.04.040; enacted pursuant to RCW 70.05.060, including
8 the latest amendments or revisions thereto.

9 BE IT ADOPTED BY THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

10 SECTION 1. R&R 04-01, Section 2 (part), as amended, and BOH 8.04.003 are
11 each hereby amended to read as follows:

12 **Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless
13 the context clearly requires otherwise:

14 A. "Animal control authority" means the county or municipal animal control
15 agency, acting alone or in concert with other municipalities, having authority for the
16 enforcement of the animal control laws, ordinances or regulations of the state, county or
17 municipality, and the shelter and welfare of animals.

18 B. "Caretaker" means the owner or any person authorized by the owner to
19 provide daily management of an animal, including but not limited to maintaining the

20 animal in a controlled or confined manner in accordance with applicable statutes and
21 regulations, and providing the animal with food, water, shelter, sanitary services and
22 health care as required.

23 C. "Cat" means an animal of the ((~~genus~~)) species *Felis domesticus*, and excludes
24 felid hybrid animals.

25 D. "Dog" means an animal of the ((~~genus~~)) species *Canis familiaris* and excludes
26 ((~~wolf-dog~~)) canid hybrid animals.

27 E. "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method that involves
28 instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death or by a method that causes painless
29 loss of consciousness and death during the loss of consciousness.

30 F. "Exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal" or "suspected rabies
31 exposure" includes probable or suspected contact with saliva through a bite, through an
32 open cut in skin or onto mucous membranes.

33 G. "Ferret" means an animal of the ((~~genus~~)) species *Mustela furo*.

34 ((~~G~~)) H. "Livestock" means farm animals, excluding birds, raised for food or
35 fiber production or kept for recreational purposes, including but not limited to horses,
36 donkeys, mules, cattle, sheep, llamas, alpacas, goats((~~;~~)) and pigs.

37 ((~~H~~)) I. "Mammal" means any of a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals
38 that nourish their young with milk secreted by mammary glands((~~;~~)) and have skin
39 generally covered with hair, and includes bats.

40 ((~~I~~)) J. "Owner" means any person ((~~having legal ownership~~)) responsible for the
41 care and actions of an animal.

42 K. "Terrestrial rabies" means rabies occurring in mammals that primarily live on
43 the ground, such as raccoons, skunks, bobcats, foxes or coyotes.

44 SECTION 2. R&R 04-01, Section 2 (part), as amended, and BOH 8.04.005 are
45 each hereby amended to read as follows:

46 **Rabies vaccination required.** ~~((All owners of dogs, cats and ferrets four months~~
47 ~~of age or older shall have their animals vaccinated against rabies. Regardless of the age~~
48 ~~of the animal at initial vaccination, a booster vaccination shall be administered one year~~
49 ~~later and thereafter))~~

50 A. An owner of a dog, cat or ferret shall have the animal vaccinated against
51 rabies by four months of age, and revaccinated on a schedule according to the type of
52 vaccine used, as determined by a licensed veterinarian and vaccine manufacturer
53 instructions.

54 B. ((All owners)) An owner of livestock having frequent contact with humans
55 other than ~~((their owners and caretakers))~~ its owner and caretaker, including, but not
56 limited to, an animal((s)) exhibited to the public at a petting zoo((s)), fair((s,)) or other
57 location((s)) or event((s)), shall have ~~((such))~~ the livestock evaluated by a licensed
58 veterinarian and vaccinated against rabies if the veterinarian recommends ~~((such))~~ the
59 vaccination.

60 C. All rabies vaccinations shall be performed by or under the direct supervision
61 of a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the standards contained in the Compendium
62 of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, ~~((as amended))~~ 2011, published by the
63 National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

64 SECTION 3. R&R 30, Section 1, as amended, and BOH 8.04.010 are each
65 hereby amended to read as follows:

66 **Management of animals that ((bite)) potentially expose humans to rabies.**

67 A. ~~((Reporting of Animal Bites. Whenever))~~ In accordance with chapter 246-101
68 WAC, whenever an animal infected or suspected of being infected with rabies has bitten
69 a human, the ~~((incident))~~ suspected rabies exposure shall be reported immediately to the
70 director by any health care provider~~((, medical)),~~ health care facility~~((, school, childcare~~
71 ~~facility or other persons or entities having direct knowledge of the incident))~~ or licensed
72 veterinarian. ~~((Incidents))~~ Suspected rabies exposures other than bites shall be
73 immediately reported by the same persons to the director when there is concern about the
74 potential for rabies transmission to a human. ~~((Such incidents))~~ Those exposures include,
75 but are not limited to, exposure to a bat or exposure of mucous membranes or an open cut
76 in the skin to the saliva of an animal capable of transmitting rabies if there is reasonable
77 cause to suspect the animal may be ~~((infected with rabies))~~ rabid. ~~((Reasonable cause to~~
78 ~~suspect rabies infection includes, but is not necessarily limited to, abnormal behavior,~~
79 ~~neurologic signs, or insufficient knowledge of the history or medical condition of the~~
80 ~~animal))~~ For the purposes of this section, an animal suspected of being rabid includes any
81 bat unavailable for rabies testing, any wild, mammalian carnivore exhibiting clinical or
82 behavioral signs suggestive of rabies that is unavailable for rabies testing or any wild,
83 mammalian carnivore from a geographic area with terrestrial rabies.

84 B. Whenever the director has knowledge of or reasonable certainty that a dog, cat
85 or ferret has bitten a human or otherwise exposed mucous membranes or an open cut in
86 the skin to the animal's saliva, ~~((he or she is authorized))~~ the director may order that the

87 animal be confined for ~~((a period of not less than))~~ at least ten ((10)) days from the date
88 of the bite or other exposure. ~~((If the animal is over four (4) months of age and~~
89 ~~unvaccinated for rabies, the director is authorized to order that the confinement be at the~~
90 ~~city or county animal control authority in its animal shelter or, upon request and at the~~
91 ~~expense of the owner, at a veterinary hospital. If the animal is under four (4) months of~~
92 ~~age or currently vaccinated, at the discretion of the director, confinement may be at the~~
93 ~~home of the animal's owner or caretaker.))~~ The ~~((owner or))~~ caretaker having possession
94 of the confined animal shall observe the animal daily during the confinement period and
95 report any illness or abnormal behavior immediately to the director, who ~~((shall have the~~
96 ~~authority to))~~ may order the animal be examined by a licensed veterinarian. If the
97 veterinarian determines signs suggestive of rabies are present, the director may order the
98 ~~((owner or))~~ caretaker to have the animal euthanized immediately and tested for rabies.
99 If the ~~((biting))~~ dog, cat or ferret is unwanted or a stray or is severely injured or medically
100 unstable as determined by a licensed veterinarian, the director may order the animal to be
101 euthanized immediately and tested for rabies virus.

102 C. The director ~~((is authorized to))~~ may notify in writing the ~~((owner or))~~
103 caretaker of an animal that the animal is subject to a confinement order. Delivery of a
104 copy of the confinement order to some person of suitable age and discretion residing
105 upon the premises where ~~((such))~~ the animal is found ~~((shall be))~~ constitutes sufficient
106 notice of the confinement. The director ~~((is authorized to))~~ may notify the city or county
107 animal control authority and ~~((other))~~ police officers of the jurisdiction of the
108 confinement order, and to request their assistance to enforce ~~((such))~~ the order.

109 D. ~~((Other Animals.))~~ Whenever the director has knowledge of or reasonable
110 certainty that a mammal other than a dog, cat or ferret has bitten a human or otherwise
111 exposed mucous membranes or an open cut in the skin to the animal's saliva, the director
112 ~~((is authorized to))~~ may assess the risk for rabies transmission and may order that the
113 animal be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies virus.

114 E. ~~((According to the provisions of this chapter, unless))~~ Unless otherwise
115 ordered by the director, confinement shall consist of housing the animal at the facilities of
116 the animal control authority or a licensed veterinarian, or restriction of the animal to the
117 premises of the ~~((owner or))~~ caretaker of the animal in a secure manner so as to prevent
118 escape and with no direct contact with other animals or humans other than the animal's
119 ~~((direct))~~ caretaker.

120 F. When an animal is to be euthanized and tested for rabies virus, euthanasia
121 shall be accomplished in such a way as to maintain the integrity of the brain so that the
122 laboratory can recognize the anatomical parts, and the whole animal or animal head kept
123 under refrigeration and not ~~((frozen or))~~ chemically fixed during storage and shipping.

124 SECTION 4. R&R 30, Section 4, as amended, and BOH 8.04.040 are each
125 hereby amended to read as follows:

126 **Management of animals exposed to suspected or confirmed ~~((rabies-~~**
127 **~~infected))~~ rabid animals.**

128 A. Any mammal ~~((having direct contact with an animal found to be rabid by~~
129 ~~appropriate laboratory tests, or having suspected exposure to rabies virus from a wild,~~
130 ~~carnivorous mammal or bat unavailable for testing, shall be regarded as having been~~
131 ~~exposed to rabies and shall be subject to the requirements of this section, as applicable))~~

132 exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal is subject to the requirements of this
133 section, as applicable. For the purposes of this section, an animal suspected of being
134 rabid includes any bat unavailable for rabies testing, any wild, mammalian carnivore
135 exhibiting clinical or behavioral signs suggestive of rabies that is unavailable for rabies
136 testing or any wild, mammalian carnivore from a geographic area with terrestrial rabies.
137 ~~((For purposes of this chapter, suspected exposure to rabies shall include probable or~~
138 ~~suspected contact with saliva of a wild, carnivorous mammal or bat through a bite wound,~~
139 ~~open cut in skin, or onto mucous membranes.))~~

140 ~~((A. Unvaccinated Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets.))~~ B. The director ~~((is authorized to))~~
141 may order that any unvaccinated dog, cat~~((;))~~ or ferret exposed to a suspected or
142 ~~((known))~~ confirmed rabid animal be euthanized immediately or placed in ~~((strict))~~
143 isolation, at the option of the owner of the animal. If isolation is chosen, the owner of the
144 exposed animal shall have the animal placed ~~((in strict isolation with no direct animal or~~
145 ~~human contact,))~~ at a location and under conditions approved by the director, for not less
146 than one hundred eighty ~~((180))~~ days from the date of rabies exposure as determined by
147 the director, and vaccinated with rabies vaccine ~~((thirty (30) days before the end of the~~
148 ~~isolation period))~~ either upon entry into isolation or up to twenty-eight days before
149 release. At the end of the isolation period, the director ~~((is authorized to))~~ may require
150 the owner of the animal ~~((shall))~~ to have the animal evaluated by a licensed veterinarian
151 for signs of rabies~~((;))~~ and ~~((shall))~~ to submit to the director a written report prepared by
152 ~~((such))~~ the veterinarian as to the animal's health status. Any person observing signs
153 suggestive of rabies during or at the end of the isolation period shall report or have a
154 licensed veterinarian report ~~((such))~~ the signs immediately to the director, who ~~((shall~~

155 ~~have authority to~~) may order that ~~((such))~~ the animal be euthanized and tested for rabies
156 virus. For the purposes of this subsection, "isolation" means confinement in an enclosure
157 that precludes direct contact with people and other animals.

158 ~~((B. Vaccinated Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets.))~~ C. The director ~~((is authorized to))~~
159 may order the ~~((owner or))~~ caretaker of any currently vaccinated dog, cat or ferret
160 exposed to a suspected or ~~((known))~~ confirmed rabid animal to have the dog, cat or ferret
161 revaccinated immediately with rabies vaccine, and kept ~~((securely))~~ confined for forty-
162 five ~~((45))~~ days for observation. Any person observing signs suggestive of rabies
163 during or at the end of the confinement period shall report or have a licensed veterinarian
164 report such signs immediately to the director, who ~~((shall have authority to))~~ may order
165 that such animal be euthanized and tested for rabies virus. The director ~~((is authorized~~
166 ~~to))~~ may determine the management of dogs, cats and ferrets with expired rabies
167 vaccinations on a case-by-case basis.

168 ~~((C. Livestock.))~~ D. The director ~~((is authorized to))~~ may order the ~~((owner or))~~
169 caretaker of any unvaccinated livestock that has been exposed to a suspected or
170 ~~((known))~~ confirmed rabid animal to have such livestock immediately ~~((slaughtered))~~
171 euthanized or kept under ~~((close))~~ confinement and observation for not less than one
172 hundred eighty ~~((180))~~ days from the date of rabies exposure as determined by the
173 director, at the option of the owner of the livestock. The ~~((owner or))~~ caretaker of
174 livestock that has been exposed to a suspected or ~~((known))~~ confirmed rabid animal and
175 currently vaccinated with a vaccine approved by the United States Department of
176 Agriculture for that species shall have ~~((such))~~ the livestock revaccinated against rabies

177 immediately and ~~((kept under close observation))~~ observed for not less than forty-five
178 ~~((45))~~ days.

179 ~~((D. Other Animals.))~~ E. The director ~~((is authorized to))~~ may order that
180 mammals, other than dogs, cats, ferrets~~((;))~~ and livestock, exposed to a suspected or
181 ~~((known))~~ confirmed rabid animal be euthanized immediately~~((, except that the director is~~
182 ~~authorized to determine, on a case-by-case basis, the management of such animals~~
183 ~~maintained in research facilities registered or licensed by the United States Department of~~
184 ~~Agriculture, or in accredited zoological parks))~~.

185 SECTION 5. Severability. If any provision of this rule or its application to any

186 person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the rule or the application of the
187 provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

188

R&R BOH15-02 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 3/19/2015,
by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Mr. Licata, Ms. Clark, Mr. Baker, Dr. Danielson, Mr.
McDermott, Ms. Wales, Mr. Dembowski and Dr. Delecki

No: 0

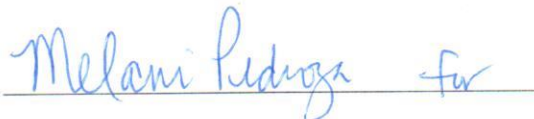
Excused: 2 - Ms. Lambert and Ms. Sawant

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None