



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**April 21, 2017**

**R&R BOH17-03**

**Proposed No. BOH17-03.1**

**Sponsors**

1 A RULE AND REGULATION amending the rabies  
2 vaccination requirements for dogs, cats, ferrets and  
3 livestock; amending R&R 04-01, Section 2 (part), as  
4 amended, and BOH 8.04.003, R&R 04-01, Section 2  
5 (part), as amended, and BOH 8.04.005 and R&R 30,  
6 Section 4, as amended, and BOH 8.04.040; enacted  
7 pursuant to RCW 70.05.060, including the latest  
8 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.**

13 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context  
14 clearly requires otherwise:

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

19 B. "Caretaker" means the owner or any person authorized by the owner to

20 provide daily management of an animal, including but not limited to maintaining the  
21 animal in a controlled or confined manner in accordance with applicable statutes and  
22 regulations, and providing the animal with food, water, shelter, sanitary services and  
23 health care as required.

24 C. "Cat" means an animal of the species *Felis domesticus*, and excludes felid  
25 hybrid animals.

26 D. "Confine" means to keep the animal under the owner's or caretaker's control  
27 and ensure the animal does not come into contact with people or animals outside of the  
28 owner's or caretaker's household.

29 E. "Dog" means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris* and excludes canid  
30 hybrid animals.

31 ((E-)) F. "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method that  
32 involves instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death or by a method that causes  
33 painless loss of consciousness and death during the loss of consciousness.

34 ((F-)) G. "Exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal" or "suspected rabies  
35 exposure" includes probable or suspected contact with saliva through a bite, through an  
36 open cut in skin or onto mucous membranes.

37 ((G-)) H. "Ferret" means an animal of the species *Mustela furo*.

38 ((H-)) I. "Livestock" means farm animals, excluding birds, raised for food or  
39 fiber production or kept for recreational purposes, including but not limited to horses,  
40 donkeys, mules, cattle, sheep, llamas, alpacas, goats and pigs.

41 ((I-)) J. "Mammal" means any of a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals that  
42 nourish their young with milk secreted by mammary glands and have skin generally

43 covered with hair, and includes bats.

44 ~~((J.))~~ K. "Owner" means any person responsible for the care and actions of an  
45 animal.

46 ~~((K.))~~ L. "Terrestrial rabies" means rabies occurring in mammals that primarily  
47 live on the ground, such as raccoons, skunks, bobcats, foxes or coyotes.

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

50 **Rabies vaccination required.**

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

55 B. An owner of livestock having frequent contact with humans other than its  
56 owner and caretaker, including, but not limited to an animal exhibited to the public at a  
57 petting zoo, fair or other location or event, shall have the livestock evaluated by a  
58 licensed veterinarian and vaccinated against rabies if the veterinarian recommends 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, ~~((2011))~~ 2016, published by the National  
63 Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

64 SECTION 3. R&R 30, Section 4, as amended, and BOH 8.04.040 are each  
65 hereby amended to read as follows:



66           **Management of animals exposed to suspected or confirmed rabid animals.**

67           A. Any mammal exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal is subject to  
68 the requirements of this section, as applicable. For the purposes of this section, an animal  
69 suspected of being rabid includes any bat unavailable for rabies testing, any wild,  
70 mammalian carnivore exhibiting clinical or behavioral signs suggestive of rabies that is  
71 unavailable for rabies testing or any wild, mammalian carnivore from a geographic area  
72 with terrestrial rabies.

73           B. The director may order that any unvaccinated dog, cat or ferret exposed to a  
74 suspected or confirmed rabid animal be euthanized immediately or placed in isolation, at  
75 the option of the owner of the animal. If isolation is chosen, the owner or caretaker of the  
76 exposed animal shall have the animal vaccinated immediately with rabies vaccine and  
77 placed at a location and under conditions approved by the director(~~(, for not less than one~~  
78 ~~hundred eighty days from the date of rabies exposure as determined by the director, and~~  
79 ~~vaccinated with rabies vaccine either upon entry into isolation or up to twenty-eight days~~  
80 ~~before release)). The isolation period for an exposed, unvaccinated dog or cat shall be  
81 not less than four months from the date of rabies exposure as determined by the director,  
82 and the isolation period for an exposed, unvaccinated ferret shall be not less than six  
83 months from the date of exposure as determined by the director. At the end of the  
84 isolation period, the director may require the owner or caretaker of the animal to have the  
85 animal evaluated by a licensed veterinarian for signs of rabies and to submit to the  
86 director a written report prepared by the veterinarian as to the animal's health status. Any  
87 person observing signs suggestive of rabies at any time during ~~((or at the end of))~~ the  
88 isolation period shall report or have a licensed veterinarian report the signs immediately~~

89 to the director, who may order that the animal be euthanized and tested for rabies virus.  
90 For the purposes of this subsection, "isolation" means confinement in an enclosure that  
91 precludes direct contact with people and other animals.

92 C. The director may order the owner or caretaker of any currently vaccinated  
93 dog, cat or ferret exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal to have the dog, cat or  
94 ferret revaccinated immediately with rabies vaccine, and kept confined for not less than  
95 forty-five days for observation. Any person observing signs suggestive of rabies at any  
96 time during (~~(or at the end of)~~) the confinement period shall report or have a licensed  
97 veterinarian report such signs immediately to the director, who may order that such  
98 animal be euthanized and tested for rabies virus. The director may determine the  
99 management of (~~((dogs, cats and))~~) ferrets with expired rabies vaccinations on a case-by-  
100 case basis.

101 D. The director may order the owner or caretaker of any dog or cat overdue for a  
102 rabies vaccination and exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal to have the dog  
103 or cat revaccinated immediately with rabies vaccine and kept confined for observation.  
104 Any person observing signs suggestive of rabies at any time during the confinement  
105 period shall report or have a licensed veterinarian report such signs immediately to the  
106 director, who may order that such animal be euthanized and tested for rabies virus. If the  
107 director orders confinement, the confinement period shall be not less than four months  
108 from the date of suspected or confirmed rabies exposure as determined by the director,  
109 except that the confinement period may be less than four months but not less than forty-  
110 five days if:

111 1. The owner or caretaker of the dog or cat submits documentation, to the



112 satisfaction of the director, that the dog or cat previously received a rabies vaccine  
113 licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture; or

114 2. The attending veterinarian submits documentation, to the satisfaction of the  
115 director, that prospective serologic monitoring of paired blood samples demonstrates an  
116 adequate anamnestic response to booster vaccination and enables the director to consider  
117 the dog or cat to have previously received a rabies vaccination. The attending  
118 veterinarian must notify the director and initiate the prospective serologic monitoring  
119 within ninety-six hours of the exposure, and perform the monitoring in accordance with  
120 protocols approved by the director.

121 E. The director may order the owner or caretaker of any unvaccinated livestock  
122 that has been exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal to have such livestock  
123 immediately euthanized or kept under confinement and observation for not less than  
124 ~~((one hundred eighty days))~~ six months from the date of rabies exposure as determined by  
125 the director, at the option of the owner of the livestock. The owner or caretaker of  
126 livestock that has been exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal and currently  
127 vaccinated with a vaccine ~~((approved))~~ licensed by the United States Department of  
128 Agriculture for that species shall have the livestock revaccinated against rabies  
129 immediately and observed for not less than forty-five days. The director may determine  
130 the management of livestock with expired rabies vaccinations on a case-by-case basis.

131 ~~((E))~~ E. The director may order that mammals, other than dogs, cats, ferrets and  
132 livestock, exposed to a suspected or confirmed rabid animal be euthanized immediately.

133 SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this rule or its application to any  
134 person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the rule or the application of the

135 provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

136

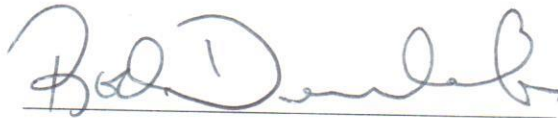
R&R BOH17-03 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 4/20/2017,  
by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Baker, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. McDermott,  
Mr. Dembowski, Dr. Delecki, Ms. Honda, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Gonzalez  
and Ms. Juarez

No: 0

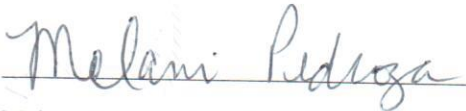
Excused: 2 - Dr. Danielson and Ms. Wales

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Board

**Attachments:** None