



PROPOSED RESCISSION OF 105 CMR 330.000: THE VACCINATION OF CATS AND DOGS

Public Health Council
January 13, 2016

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Background

- Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal.
- Rabies is characterized typically by increased salivation, abnormal behavior, and eventual paralysis and death when untreated.
- Since 1960, most animal rabies cases have involved wildlife. The number of human rabies cases has steadily declined due to the vaccination of domestic animals, treatment access following a suspected exposure, and successful national and community based outreach and educational campaigns.
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center for Veterinary Biologics regulates and licenses veterinary rabies vaccines.

Reasons to Rescind

- 105 CMR 330.000 is duplicative of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) regulation 330 CMR 10.00 Prevention of the Spread of Rabies, with the exception of two sections.
- The DAR regulation governs vaccination of cats and dog against rabies including the vaccines, who can administer the vaccines, requirements for animals that exposed to rabies etc.
- The DPH regulations overlap with DAR with the exception of 330.300: Certificate of Vaccination and 330.500: Dogs and Cats from Out-of-State. These sections specify what information should be on the vaccination certificate and the requirements for vaccinations for animals brought into the state for shows or visits.
- DAR has agreed to incorporate these two sections into their existing regulations.
- ***This will allow for a centralized system of rabies prevention and control and all animal rabies vaccination requirements will be within one regulation and one regulatory agency to simplify compliance.***

Recommendation/Next Steps

- Bureau of Infectious Disease at the Department has conducted a comprehensive review with DAR of 105 CMR 330.000 and recommends rescission.
- Based on the proposed changes to DAR regulations governing the prevention of the spread of rabies, 105 CMR 330.000 is no longer necessary.
- DPH will track the process on the DAR regulations.
- This proposed rescission will be pending until the planned amendments to DAR regulation 330 CMR 10.00 incorporating elements of 105 CMR 330.000 are finalized.