

105 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

105 CMR 330.000: VACCINATION OF DOGS AND CATS AGAINST RABIES.

Section

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330.001: Purpose

The purpose of 105 CMR 330.000 is to regulate the vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies.

330.002: Authority

105 CMR 330.000 is adopted under authority of M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 3, 6, 7 and M.G.L. c. 150, § 145B.

330.100: Vaccine Administration

Dogs and cats shall be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian, or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

330.101: Use of an Approved Rabies Vaccine

Dogs and cats shall be vaccinated with an approved virus vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

330.102: Route of Inoculation

All rabies vaccines must be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

330.200: Rabies Tag

A rabies tag of size, shape and color recommended by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and approved by the Department of Public Health shall be provided by the vaccinating veterinarian for each dog and cat vaccinated. Each such tag shall be inscribed with the words Rabies Vaccinated as well as the year, name of the veterinarian and identification number of the vaccinated dog or cat. The owner or keeper of a dog shall cause the rabies tag to be attached to the collar or harness of the dog and worn at all times in the same manner as the license tag. The owner or keeper of a cat shall either have the cat wear the tag or have the vaccination record readily available for inspection by appropriate city or town officials upon request.

330.300: Certificate of Vaccination

A certificate of vaccination must be completed in triplicate by the vaccinating veterinarian. The original copy shall be filed by the vaccinating veterinarian within 30 days with the clerk of the city or town where the dog is licensed, one copy of to be provided to the owner of the dog, and one shall be retained by the vaccinating veterinarian. The certificate shall be either the certificate recommended in the latest Compendium of Animal Rabies control published by the national Association of state Public Health veterinarians or a certificate containing at least the following information: the owner's name and address; a description of the animal, including breed, sex, age, name and distinctive markings; date of vaccination; rabies vaccination tag number; type of rabies vaccine used; route of vaccination; expiration date of the vaccine; and the vaccine lot number.

330.400: Timing of Vaccination

The owner or keeper of a dog or cat six months of age or older shall cause such dog or cat to be vaccinated against rabies. Unvaccinated dogs and cats acquired or moved into the Commonwealth shall be vaccinated within 90 days after acquisition or arrival into the Commonwealth or upon reaching the age of six months, whichever occurs last. Regardless of the age at initial vaccination, a second vaccination shall be given one year later. Subsequent vaccinations should be given according to manufacturer's guidelines.

330.500: Dogs and Cats from Out-of State

Dogs and cats that are at least six months of age, and are brought into Massachusetts for purposes of shows or because their owners are visiting the Commonwealth, must have been vaccinated in a manner consistent with the requirements of 105 CMR 330.000.

330.600: Proof of Vaccination Required at Certain Facilities

No animal hospital, veterinarian's office or boarding facility shall accept a dog or cat unless the owner or keeper of such animal shall show proof of current vaccination against rabies; provided however, that if such animal has not been so vaccinated or proof is not shown, the animal shall be vaccinated prior to being discharged if the animal's medical condition permits.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

105 CMR 330.000: M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 3, 6 and 7; M.G.L. c. 140, § 145B.