

SECTION 3 -RABIES CONTROL

3.1 Comal County adopts this section in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 826 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

3.2 VACCINATIONS: The owner of a dog or cat shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies after the age of three (3) months and before the age of four (4) months. All animals must

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receive a second rabies vaccination within one (1) year of receiving their first vaccination, regardless of the type of vaccine used or the age at which the animal was initially vaccinated. After the second rabies vaccination, the dog or cat must be vaccinated against rabies at least every three (3) years thereafter and in accordance with state rules. Any person moving into the County from a location outside of the County shall comply with this Section within ten (10) days after having moved into the County. Nothing in this section prohibits a veterinarian and owner from selecting a more frequent rabies vaccination interval.

3.3 CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION: Upon vaccination, the veterinarian shall execute and furnish to the owner of the dog or cat a certificate using a form furnished by the veterinarian. The veterinarian shall retain a duplicate copy. Such certificate shall contain the following information:

- a) The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the vaccinated dog or cat;
- b) The date of vaccination;
- c) The type of rabies vaccine used;
- d) The year and number of rabies tag; and
- e) The breed, age, color, and sex of the vaccinated dog or cat.

The information contained in the certificate or record may not include the social security number or driver's license number of the owner of the vaccinated animal.

3.4 RABIES TAG: Concurrent with the issuance and delivery of the certificate of vaccination, the veterinarian shall furnish to the owner of the vaccinated dog or cat a metal tag. The owner of the dog or cat shall attach to the collar or harness of the vaccinated dog or cat this metal tag, serial numbered to correspond with the vaccination certificate number, and bearing the year of issuance and the name of the issuing veterinarian and his/her address. The owner shall have the collar or harness, with the metal tag attached, on his/her dog or cat at all times. Any other methodology approved and accepted by the Texas Department of State Health Services for identification purposes will be considered by Animal Control.

3.5 DUPLICATE TAGS: In the event of loss or destruction of the original tag provided in Section 3.4, the owner of the animal shall obtain a duplicate tag. Vaccination certificates and tags shall be valid only for the animal for which it was originally issued. Duplicate tags may be purchased from any practicing veterinarian in Comal County.

3.6 PROOF: It shall be unlawful for any person who owns a vaccinated dog or cat to fail or refuse to exhibit his copy of the certificate of vaccination upon demand to any person charged with the enforcement of this order.

3.7 UNVACCINATED ANIMAL: It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog or cat which has not been vaccinated against rabies, as provided herein, which cannot be identified as having a current vaccination certificate.

3.8 ANIMALS EXPOSED TO RABIES:

- a) Any person who has reason to believe that any animal, whether or not currently vaccinated, has been exposed to rabies must immediately report the incident to the Animal Control Authority.

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- b) Any such animal shall be impounded and placed in isolation in a facility approved by the Animal Control Authority, for such time as is necessary, depending upon all relevant circumstances, for a licensed veterinarian to determine that the animal has not contracted rabies.
- c) If the owner of the animal cannot provide an approved isolation facility or does not agree to pay for the facility, the animal shall be humanely destroyed at the owner's expense.
- d) If the animal's owner cannot be identified or located within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of impound, not counting weekends and holidays, the animal shall be humanely destroyed.
- e) In addition to any impound fees, any costs directly associated with the examination, treatment, and/or vaccination of the animal shall be due prior to release of the animal.

3.9 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION:

- a) Any person who violates a provision of this Section may be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- b) It is a defense to prosecution under Section 3.6 that the person charged produces proof of vaccination that was valid at the time the offense is alleged to have occurred.
- c) If on the trial of an offense under this section the Court finds that the person has been previously convicted of an offense under this section, the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.