

April 2, 2009

H 1063. UPDATE RABIES LAW. Filed 4/2/09. *TO AMEND THE RABIES LAWS TO CONFORM WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIANS AND TO ALLOW A STRAY OR FERAL ANIMAL TO BE IMMEDIATELY EUTHANIZED AND TESTED FOR RABIES IF THE ANIMAL BITES A HUMAN.*

Amends various sections of GS Chapter 130A: (1) to define *stray* and *feral* animals; (2) to require ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies and to wear rabies vaccination tags; (3) to allow counties to charge an administrative charge and a cost for the rabies vaccine for dogs, cats, and ferrets (was, an administrative charge may not exceed four dollars per vaccination); (4) to specify what items must be included in the three-copy rabies vaccination certificate to be completed by the licensed veterinarian or certified rabies vaccinator who administers the vaccine to a dog, cat, or ferret; (5) to permit animal control officers to impound ferrets that are not wearing rabies vaccination tags or owner identification tags; (6) to require a two-week confinement of ferrets brought into NC (unless brought in for show or with a certificate showing that the ferret is free from rabies); (7) to require confinement of ferrets in an area declared under quarantine by the local health director; (8) to permit any peace officer or animal control officer to destroy uncontrolled ferrets, after a reasonable effort has been made to control the ferrets, when quarantine has been declared; (9) to require the owner of a ferret that has bitten someone to notify the local health director immediately and to require a veterinarian who has knowledge of any mammal biting someone to report to the local health director; (10) to permit the local health director or animal control officer to immediately euthanize a stray or feral dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten someone; and (11) to require the immediate destruction or quarantine of a ferret that has been exposed to rabies, unless the ferret has been vaccinated. Makes conforming changes. Effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Farmer-Butterfield, Earle, England. GS 130A

April 30, 2009

H 1063. UPDATE RABIES LAW. Filed 4/2/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Makes clarifying changes in proposed amended GS 130A-184 to the definitions of *cat*, *dog*, *feral*, *ferret*, and *stray*. Adds to the definition of *vaccination* that the rabies vaccine may also be administered by a registered veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, as well as by a licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator. Makes a conforming change to GS 130A-185.

Deletes in proposed amended GS 130A-189 (1) the list of items required to be included on the rabies vaccination certificate and (2) that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may adopt rules requiring that additional items be included on the certificate. Instead, provides that the Commission for Public Health must adopt rules establishing the specific information required to be included on the certificate.

Clarifies in GS 130A-193 that a dog, cat, or ferret brought into the state accompanied by a certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian showing that the animal is apparently free from and has not been exposed to rabies and that the animal is currently vaccinated against rabies (was, received rabies vaccine within the past year) is not subject to confinement and vaccination.

Deletes from proposed amended GS 130A-196 that a dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person may be immediately euthanized if, in the opinion of the local health director or an animal control officer, the animal is a stray or feral. Instead, provides that in the event that a stray or feral dog, cat, or ferret bites a person, the local agency responsible for animal control must make a reasonable attempt to locate the animal's owner. If the owner cannot be identified within 72 hours, the local health director may authorize euthanasia of the animal and the head of the animal must be sent immediately to the State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies diagnosis. Removes the requirement that a veterinarian who has knowledge of any mammal biting a person must report to the local health director the name, age, and sex of that person, if known, and the type and whereabouts of the mammal responsible for the bite, if known.

Provides that a dog, cat, or ferret exposed to rabies must be immediately destroyed unless the animal has been vaccinated against rabies more than 28 days (was, three weeks) prior to

being exposed and is given a booster dose of rabies vaccine within five days (was, three days) of the exposure.

Restores the current law's caption for GS 130A-195.

Makes other technical changes and a conforming change to the title.

Changes the effective date to when the act becomes law (was, July 1, 2009).

May 26, 2009

H 1063. UPDATE RABIES LAW. Filed 4/2/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Changes the effective date to October 1, 2009 (was, effective when the act becomes law).