

# Rabies Control Requirements



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## 1. Definitions

**“Anamnestic response”** means the rapid reappearance of antibody in the blood following introduction of an antigen to which the subject had previously developed a primary immune response.

**“Animal”** means any warm-blooded mammal.

**“Appropriate documentation”** means a record of a rabies vaccination that contains a positive identification for each mammal that shows the most recent vaccination by a licensed veterinarian with an approved vaccine for the species and expiration date of the rabies vaccine.

**“Assistance dog”** means any guide dog, hearing assistance dog or service dog as defined in K.S.A. 39-1113 and amendments thereto.

**“Cat”** means any animal belonging to the *Felis catus* species.

**“Confinement” or “confined”** means isolation away from people and other animals, except for contact necessary for the animal’s care. The location of the confinement is determined by the secretary or local health officer and may include the owner’s home, veterinary premises, or licensed pound or shelter.

**“Currently vaccinated against rabies”** means properly immunized by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian with an anti-rabies vaccine licensed and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture for use in that animal species. The animal shall be considered currently vaccinated 28 days after the date of the initial vaccination, and for a period of 365 days from the date of vaccination, in accordance with the vaccine label. Thereafter animals shall continue to receive booster vaccinations at intervals according to the vaccine label. An animal that has received at least one rabies vaccine in its lifetime, but has not received a booster vaccination by the expiration date of its last rabies vaccination, will be considered currently vaccinated immediately following administration of a rabies vaccine for the duration indicated on the vaccine label.

**“Dog”** means any animal belonging to the *Canis familiaris* species.

**“Euthanize”** means induction of death in an animal in a manner that is as rapid, painless, and stress-free as possible, is consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia of animals, and is in accordance with K.S.A. 47-1718 and amendments thereto.

**“Exotic animal”** means any animal not identified in the definition of “cat”, “dog”, “ferret”, “horse”, “hybrid”, “livestock”, or “native wildlife” that is native to a foreign country or of foreign origin or character, is not native to the United States, or was introduced from abroad.

**“Exposed to rabies”** means a bite, scratch or abrasion by a known or suspected rabid mammal, or open wound or mucous membrane contact with the saliva or neural tissue from a known or suspected rabid mammal as defined in K.S.A. 75-5661 and amendments thereto.

**“Ferret”** means any animal belonging to the *Mustela putorius furo* species.

**“Horse”** means any animal in the *Equus* genus (e.g. horses, donkeys, mules).

**“Hybrid”** means an offspring of a wild animal crossbred with a domestic animal.

**“Immune response”** means the reaction of the cells and fluids of the body to the presence of a substance that is not recognized as a constituent of the body itself.

**“Livestock”** means any domestic species of cattle, sheep, swine, goats or llamas.

**“Native wildlife”** means any animal not normally adapted to live in intimate association with humans nor raised for consumption by humans. In this requirement native wildlife includes, but is not limited to, skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and bats.

**“Observation” or “observed”** means monitoring of an animal for any changes in behavior or health consistent with rabies infection in a manner determined by the secretary or local health officer.

**“Owner”** means any person who: a) has a right of property in a dog, cat, or other animal; b) keeps, harbors, cares for, or acts as the custodian of a dog or cat or other animal; or c) knowingly permits a dog or cat or other animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him or her.

**“Person”** means a human being, i.e., a hominid of the *Homo sapiens* species.

**“Pound or shelter”** means a facility which is used or designated for use to house, contain, impound or harbor any seized stray, homeless, relinquished or abandoned animal as defined in K.S.A. 47-1701. A license for a pound or shelter must be obtained from the commissioner as defined in K.S.A. 47-1704 and amendments thereto.

**“Quarantine”** means confinement of an animal exposed to rabies. The animal’s needs for ambient temperature control, water, nutrition, elimination, and space to comfortably stand up and lie down must be adequately provided for. The animal shall not be permitted to leave or taken off the property for any reason except when being transported for veterinary medical care. Contact with other animals shall be prohibited. Contact with people shall be minimized to only those needed for immediate care.

**“Rabies vaccine”** means a rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture. The vaccine must be given by a licensed veterinarian or a person acting under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian as defined in K.S.A. 21-1213 and amendments thereto.

**“Sign”** means any abnormality indicative of disease, discoverable on examination of the animal.

**“Unvaccinated”** means any animal whose owner cannot provide proof of at least one previous rabies vaccination.

**“Veterinarian”** means a person who is validly and currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine by the state in which they practice. In Kansas a ‘licensed veterinarian’ is defined in K.S.A. 47-816 and amendments thereto.

**“Veterinary premises”** means any premises or facility where the practice of veterinary medicine occurs, including, but not limited to, an outpatient clinic, satellite clinic or veterinary hospital or clinic, but shall not include the premises of a veterinary client.

**“Zoo”** means any zoological park licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

## 2. Rabies Control, General Information

Any of the requirements specified for observation or quarantine may be altered by the secretary or the local health officer if the secretary or local health officer determines that alteration is necessary for the greater protection of public health, safety, or welfare. The requirements for altered observation or quarantine shall be based on current veterinary medical knowledge of rabies and may include consideration of the following factors:

- Incubation period
- Communicable period
- Mode of transmission
- Susceptibility
- Length of delay in vaccination
- Severity of exposure
- Current health status of the animal
- Local rabies epidemiology

Prior rabies vaccination of an animal may not preclude the necessity for euthanasia and testing if the period of viral shedding is unknown for that species.

## 3. Management of a dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person

### A. Owned or wanted dog, cat, or ferret.

- i. An owned or wanted dog, cat, or ferret shall be observed for signs of rabies for 10 days following the bite incident at one of the following locations as determined by the secretary or local health officer:

- At the residence of the owner of the dog, cat, or ferret
- On a veterinary premises

**OR**

- At a facility holding a current state pound or shelter license
- ii. Any law enforcement officer or local health officer, upon private or public property, may take up any mammal which has exposed to rabies a person or other mammal as defined by K.S.A. 75-5661 and amendments thereto.
- iii. During this 10-day observation period, the secretary or local health officer shall determine if the dog, cat, or ferret is suffering from rabies infection, and if not, the secretary or local health officer shall authorize the release of the dog, cat, or ferret at the end of the 10 day observation period and, if applicable, upon payment of boarding fees by the owner.
- iv. If a dog, cat, or ferret develops any signs of rabies during the 10 day observation:
  - The local health officer shall be immediately notified and the animal shall be euthanized and the head or entire brain (including brainstem) shall be submitted for rabies testing
- v. The owner of the animal shall not sell, give away, transfer, transport to another area, or otherwise dispose of the animal that is known to have bitten a person until it is released by the secretary or local health officer following the 10 day observation.
- vi. Dogs, cats, and ferrets that are unvaccinated or not currently vaccinated shall be vaccinated against rabies on the final day of the 10 day observation period prior to discharge or as soon as practicable thereafter. To avoid confusing signs of rabies with rare adverse vaccine reactions, animals shall not be vaccinated against rabies during the 10 day observation period.

#### **B. Stray, unclaimed, or unwanted dog, cat, or ferret.**

- Stray, unclaimed, or unwanted dog, cat, or ferret shall be euthanized immediately and the head or entire brain (including brainstem) shall be submitted for rabies testing.

### **4. Management of non-bite exposure from a dog, cat, or ferret**

- Non-bite exposure from a dog, cat, or ferret shall be managed on a case by case basis as determined by the secretary or local health officer.

### **5. Management of other animals that bite a person**

#### **A. Livestock or horse**

- i. Livestock or horse that bites a person shall be observed for signs of rabies for 10 days following the bite incident at a location as determined by the secretary or local health officer.
- ii. Any law enforcement officer or local health officer, upon private or public property, may take up any mammal which has exposed to rabies a person or other mammal as defined by K.S.A. 75-5661 and amendments thereto.
- iii. If the animal develops any signs of rabies during observation:
  - The local health officer shall be immediately notified and the animal shall be euthanized and the head or entire brain (including brainstem) shall be submitted for rabies testing
- iv. If the animal is unable to be observed for 10 days the animal shall be euthanized and the head or entire brain (including brainstem) shall be submitted for rabies testing.
- v. The owner of the animal shall not sell, give away, transfer, transport to another area, or otherwise dispose of the animal that is known to have bitten a person until it is released by the local health officer following the 10 day observation.
- vi. To avoid confusing signs of rabies with rare adverse vaccine reactions, the animal shall not be vaccinated against rabies during the observation period.

**B. Native wildlife (including but not limited to; skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and bats)**

- Native wildlife that bite a person shall be euthanized immediately and the head, entire brain (including brainstem), or the entire bat shall be submitted for rabies testing.

**C. Hybrid and exotic animals (including non-human primates)**

- Hybrid and exotic animals that bite a person shall be in accordance with the judgement of the secretary or local health officer.

**D. Rodents and lagomorphs**

- i. Small rodents including mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, chipmunks, and squirrels and lagomorphs (hares and rabbits) are not required to be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing, unless the circumstances of the potential exposure to rabies, in the judgment of the secretary or local health officer, indicate there is a risk of rabies transmission.
- ii. Large rodents including muskrats and beaver shall be euthanized immediately and the head, entire brain (including brainstem), shall be submitted for rabies testing.

## E. Mammals maintained in a zoo

- Mammals maintained in a zoo that bite a person shall be managed on a case by case basis as determined by the secretary or local health officer.

## F. Management of non-bite exposures from other animals

- Management of non-bite exposures to a person from other animals shall be managed on a case-by-case basis as determined by the secretary or local health officer.

# 6. Management of animals exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal

## A. General Information

- i. Wild mammalian carnivores or bats, not available or suitable for rabies testing, that expose another animal, should be regarded as rabid animals.
- ii. The secretary or local health officer shall be immediately notified of any illness in an exposed animal.
- iii. If signs suggestive of rabies develop (e.g., paralysis or seizures), the animal shall be euthanized and the head or entire brain (including brainstem) shall be submitted for rabies testing.

## B. Post-exposure management of dog, cat, or ferret exposed to rabies

- i. Dog, cat, or ferret currently vaccinated against rabies
  - Dog, cat, or ferret currently vaccinated against rabies shall be evaluated by a veterinarian, receive a rabies booster vaccination within 96 hours of exposure, and be observed for signs of rabies for 45 days following the exposure to rabies.
- ii. Dog, cat, or ferret that has never been vaccinated against rabies
  - Dog, cat, or ferret that has never been vaccinated against rabies shall be euthanized immediately  
**OR**



- Dog or cat shall be placed in quarantine for 4 months and a ferret shall be placed in quarantine for 6 months at a location determined by the secretary or local health officer.
    - Rabies vaccine shall be administered upon entry into quarantine but not to exceed 96 hours from exposure.
    - If rabies vaccination is given greater than 96 hours after exposure, the quarantine period for the dog or cat shall be 6 months following the exposure.
    - The local health officer shall authorize the release of the dog, cat, or ferret at the end of the quarantine period and, if applicable, upon payment of the boarding fee by the owner.
    - It is recommended the veterinarian administer two additional vaccinations, one at day 7 and another anytime between day 21 and day 28 to potentially increase the animals chance to mount an immune response to prevent rabies infection.
- iii. Dog or cat that is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination with appropriate documentation of receiving at least one previous rabies vaccination
- Dog or cat that is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination shall provide appropriate documentation of receiving at least one previous rabies vaccination to the secretary or local health officer.
  - The dog or cat shall receive a rabies booster vaccination within 96 hours of exposure to rabies.
  - The dog or cat shall be kept under the owner's control, and observed for signs of rabies for 45 days.
  - The owner shall immediately notify the local health officer if any signs of rabies are observed.
  - If the rabies booster vaccination is given more than 96 hours following rabies exposure, the observation period shall be determined by the secretary or local health officer.
- iv. Dog or cat that is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination without appropriate documentation of receiving at least one previous rabies vaccination

There are two options for managing a dog or cat that is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination and do not have appropriate documentation of receiving at least one previous rabies vaccination:

Option 1: Treat as unvaccinated

1. Shall be placed in quarantine for 4 months.
2. Rabies vaccine shall be administered upon entry into quarantine but not to exceed 96 hours from exposure.
3. If rabies vaccination is given after 96 hours from exposure, the quarantine period for the dog or cat shall be 6 months.
4. The local health officer shall authorize the release of the dog or cat at the end of the quarantine period and, if applicable, upon payment of any boarding fee by the owner.

Option 2: Prospective serologic monitoring

1. Prior to administration of the rabies vaccine booster within 96 hours of exposure, the attending veterinarian shall contact the local health officer for guidance in the possible use of prospective serologic monitoring.
2. Serologic monitoring means drawing paired serum samples to document prior vaccination by providing evidence of an anamnestic response to the rabies vaccine booster.
3. If an adequate anamnestic response is documented, the dog or cat shall be observed for signs of rabies for 45 days.
4. If there is inadequate evidence of an anamnestic response, the animal is considered to have never been vaccinated and shall be quarantined for 4 months.
5. The dog or cat shall remain in quarantine until the final results of the serologic monitoring are available.
6. The local health officer shall authorize the release of the dog or cat at the end of the observation period or quarantine period and, if applicable, upon payment of the boarding fee by the owner.

v. **Ferret overdue for a rabies booster vaccination**

- Ferret overdue for a rabies booster vaccination shall be evaluated case-by-case to determine the need for euthanasia, immediate revaccination and 45-day observation, or 6-month quarantine based upon:
  - Severity of exposure
  - Time elapsed since last vaccination
  - Number of previous vaccinations
  - Current health status
  - Local rabies epidemiology

C. **Post-exposure management of livestock and horses exposed to rabies**

i. **General Information**

- The Kansas Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) shall be notified if exposures occur in animals intended for commercial use.
  - Exposed animals shall not be presented for slaughter at a USDA-FSIS-regulated establishment until the animal has been released from quarantine by the local health officer and it has been 8 months since the exposure.
  - Exposed animals can be slaughtered immediately after exposure (<48 hours) at a state licensed establishment or slaughtered at home.
    - If the animal is euthanized >48 hours post-exposure the carcass shall be condemned.
    - The animal can be slaughtered at the conclusion of the 45 day observation or 6 month quarantine after release by the local health officer.
  - If livestock or horse develop any signs of rabies during quarantine
    - The local health officer shall be immediately notified and the animal shall be euthanized and the head or entire brain (including brainstem) shall be submitted for rabies testing.
- ii. Horse, cow or sheep that is currently vaccinated against rabies
- Horse, cow, or sheep that is currently vaccinated against rabies shall be revaccinated within 96 hours of exposure, and kept under the owner's control and observed for signs of rabies for 45 days.
- iii. Horse, cow or sheep that is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination
- Horse, cow, or sheep that is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine need for euthanasia, immediate revaccination, 45-day observation, or 6-month quarantine based upon:
    - Severity of exposure
    - Time elapsed since last vaccination
    - Number of previous vaccinations
    - Current health status
    - Local rabies epidemiology
- iv. Horse, cow or sheep that is not vaccinated against rabies or is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination without appropriate documentation

- Horse, cow or sheep that is not vaccinated against rabies or is overdue for a rabies booster vaccination without appropriate documentation shall be euthanized immediately or shall be quarantined for 6 months.

#### D. Post-exposure management of other animals exposed to rabies

##### i. Livestock other than cow or sheep:

- Livestock other than cow or sheep shall be euthanized immediately or shall be quarantined for 6 months.

##### ii. Hybrid and exotic animals (including non-human primates)

- Hybrid and exotic animals shall be managed on a case-by-case basis as determined by the secretary or local health officer.

##### iii. Mammals maintained in a zoo or a USDA-licensed research facility

- Mammals that are maintained in a zoo or a USDA-licensed research facility shall be managed on a case-by-case basis as determined by the secretary or local health officer.