

DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Rabies Prevention and Control Regulation



Davis

COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

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1.0 PURPOSE

This regulation outlines a multidisciplinary approach to rabies control and prevention and standardizes procedures among Davis County jurisdiction. It establishes requirements for reporting and pre- and post-exposure management of animals and humans.

2.0 SCOPE

This regulation is applicable within all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Davis County.

3.0 AUTHORITY AND APPLICABLE LAWS

3.1 This regulation is adopted under the authority of the Davis County Board of Health in accordance with the Utah Code Annotated (UCA) *Section 26A-1-121*.

3.2 Rabies control and prevention efforts in Davis County shall comply with this regulation and with provisions contained in the following documents, which are adopted and incorporated by reference:

- 3.2.1 State of Utah. *Communicable Disease Rule R386-702-12*.
- 3.2.2 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 2008: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*.
- 3.2.3 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Post-exposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*.
- 3.2.4 Utah Department of Health and Human Services and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. *Recommendations for Quarantine of Domestic Animals Possibly Exposed to Rabies*.
- 3.2.5 American Public Health Association, Heymann, David L. *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual - 21st Edition*.
- 3.2.6 National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2016*.
- 3.2.7 American Academy of Pediatrics. *Red Book: 2021-2024 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases – 32nd Edition*.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

4.1 ANIMAL CARE OF DAVIS COUNTY: a department of the Davis County government.

- 4.2 **ANIMAL SHELTER:** The Animal Care of Davis County shelter or another facility that the health officer and Animal Care of Davis County deem acceptable.
- 4.3 **BITE:** When the skin has been punctured by an animal's tooth.
- 4.4 **CERTIFICATE:** A certificate of vaccination on a form furnished or approved by Animal Care of Davis County that meets the documentation standards within the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) form number 51, Rabies Vaccination Certificate.
- 4.5 **CUSTODIAN:** Any person having informal custody or control of an animal.
- 4.6 **DEPARTMENT:** The Davis County Health Department (DCHD), a department of the Davis County government.
- 4.7 **EXPOSED:** The rabies virus is introduced into bite wounds, into open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva or other potentially infectious material.
- 4.8 **HEALTH OFFICER:** The Director of Health (or designee) for the Davis County Health Department.
- 4.9 **LICENSE:** A document or tag that is issued by Animal Care of Davis County.
- 4.10 **OTHER ANIMAL:** Any warm-blooded animal which may be susceptible to rabies.
- 4.11 **OWNER:** Any person having an ownership interest in an animal.
- 4.12 **PEP:** Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.
- 4.13 **QUARANTINE:** A state, period, or place of confinement in which animals that have been exposed or have potentially exposed a human to the rabies virus are placed.
- 4.14 **RABIES:** An acute viral disease of mammals, transmitted by the saliva of an infected animal through a bite, affecting the central nervous system typically resulting in death.
- 4.15 **VACCINATE:** The injection of a specified dose of anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian or medical professional into the proper site of an animal or human.
- 4.16 **VACCINE:** An injectable material containing killed or attenuated rabies virus, licensed for human or animal use.
- 4.17 **VETERINARIAN:** Any person who holds a license to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in any state or territory of the United States of America and has a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.
- 4.18 **WILD ANIMAL:** An animal that is untamed or undomesticated which includes, but not limited to, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, bats, the offspring of wild animals crossbred to domestic dogs and cats, and any other carnivorous animal.

5.0 REGULATION REGARDING ANIMAL CARE

5.1 ANIMAL PRE-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT

5.1.1 RABIES VACCINATION REQUIREMENT - All dogs, cats, and ferrets shall be initially vaccinated and revaccinated in accordance with the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, as adopted and incorporated by reference in section 3.0 of this regulation and administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian. Rabies vaccination shall be a prerequisite to obtaining a license.

Any unvaccinated dog, cat, or ferret adopted or brought into this jurisdiction must likewise be vaccinated against rabies immediately (not to exceed 30 days) and revaccinated in accordance with the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, as adopted and incorporated by reference in section 3.0 of this regulation and administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.

Rabies vaccination requirements shall not apply to any animal which remains within the jurisdiction of Davis County for a period not exceeding 30 days or those exempted by a Licensed Veterinarian, regardless of the residency or location of the owner.

Animal Care of Davis County and/or the Department shall have the authority to cause the owners of other species of animals to have them vaccinated against rabies at such times and in such areas within the county upon recommendation of the Department to prevent and bring under control any outbreak of disease which might occur that poses a public health threat to the citizens of the county.

5.1.2 VACCINATION CERTIFICATION AND TAGS - It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, when vaccinating any animal for rabies, to complete a certificate of rabies vaccination, in duplicate, which includes the following information:

- (1) Owner's name, address, and telephone number;**
- (2) Description of the animal;**
- (3) Date of vaccination;**
- (4) Type of vaccine administered;**
- (5) Manufacturer's vaccine serial (lot) number;**
- (6) Next vaccination due date;**
- (7) Rabies vaccination tag number;**

- (8) Veterinarian's name and signature.

A copy of the certification shall be given or delivered to the owner or custodian of the animal and the original retained by the issuing veterinarian. The veterinarian and the owner or custodian shall retain their copies.

A metal or durable plastic rabies vaccination tag, serial numbered, shall be securely attached to the collar or harness of the vaccinated animal.

5.1.3 EXEMPTIONS - A medical exemption from any vaccination requirement of this article may be granted by the Department if the following requirements are satisfied:

- (1) A veterinarian examines the animal and certifies in writing that at the time of such examination, in his or her professional opinion, administering the vaccination would endanger the health or life of the animal. The veterinarian's certification must include the basis for his or her opinion (i.e. age, infirmity, disability, illness or other injurious condition), the anticipated duration of this condition, and the dates of administration for the last occurring series of vaccinations or a statement that this information was not available.
- (2) The animal is securely and humanely confined.
- (3) In no event shall any exemption granted pursuant to this section be in effect for more than one year without re-certification by a veterinarian. As soon as the animal's condition permits, it must be vaccinated and otherwise come into full compliance with this chapter.
- (4) The owner must contact Animal Care of Davis County upon expiration or termination of the exemption and/or the animal's condition and provide proof of compliance with all vaccination requirements within ten days.
- (5) Animal Care of Davis County shall have the authority to cause the owners of other species of animals to have them vaccinated against rabies at such times and in such areas within the county upon recommendation of the Department to prevent and bring under control any outbreak of disease which might occur that poses a public health threat to the citizens of the county.

5.1.4 IMPOUNDMENT OF ANIMALS WITHOUT CURRENT VACCINATION TAGS – Any animal found not wearing a current rabies vaccination tag shall be deemed unvaccinated and may be impounded by Animal Care of Davis County.

5.1.5 DUTY TO REPORT - Any person having knowledge of an animal or any information regarding its whereabouts, which that person knows or has reason to believe has rabies, has been exposed or potentially exposed to rabies, has bitten or been bitten by another animal or a wild animal, or has bitten a person, or is suspected of any of the foregoing, shall notify Animal Care of Davis County, or the Department immediately.

- (a) The owner or custodian of an animal that has bitten any person and any person that has been bitten by an animal shall report the incident to the

Department within 24 hours regardless of whether the animal is suspected of having rabies.

- (b) A physician or other medically qualified person who renders medical or first aid treatment to a person bitten by an animal shall report the fact of that treatment to Animal Care of Davis County within 24 hours of the treatment. The report shall include the name, sex, age, and address of the person bitten as well as the nature and location of the bite. If known, the report shall also include the name and address of the owner or custodian of the biting animal and any other relevant facts such as the location and circumstances of the biting incident.
- (c) A veterinarian or other person treating an animal which has been bitten by another animal shall report the fact of that treatment to Animal Care of Davis County. The report shall contain the name and address of the owner or custodian of the bitten animal, and, if known, the name and address of the owner or custodian of the biting animal, together with a description of the animals, the nature and location of the bite or bites, and the location and circumstances of the biting incident.

5.2 SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED RABID ANIMAL MANAGEMENT - Any animal that has rabies, shows signs of having rabies, or any animal that has been exposed or potentially exposed to rabies shall be reported to Animal Care of Davis County, immediately quarantined in a secure place, and turned over to Animal Care of Davis County upon request. Any person authorized to enforce this title may enter upon private property to seize the animal if the owner or custodian refuses to surrender the animal.

5.3 ANIMAL POST-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT

5.3.1 Animal Exposure to a Suspected/Confirmed Rabid Animal

5.3.1.1 Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets:

Unvaccinated dogs and cats exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal shall be euthanized immediately or placed in a strict 4-month quarantine at an animal shelter, veterinary boarding facility, or other agreed upon location by Animal Care of Davis County. Unvaccinated ferrets exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal shall be euthanized immediately or placed in a strict 6-month quarantine. The animal should be vaccinated at the time of entry into quarantine to bring the animal to a current rabies vaccination status. It is recommended that the period from exposure to vaccination not exceed 96 hours. If vaccination is delayed, the quarantine period for dogs and cats may be increased from four to six months. If any illness suggestive of rabies develops in the animal, the owner shall immediately report the illness to the Department and the animal shall be euthanized by veterinarian or Animal Care of Davis County officer and submitted for testing.

Dogs, cats, and ferrets with a current rabies vaccine exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal shall be revaccinated immediately by a veterinarian and placed in a 45-day quarantine. If any illness suggestive of rabies develops in the animal, the owner or custodian shall immediately notify the Department and the animal shall be euthanized by a veterinarian or Animal Care of Davis County officer and submitted for testing.

Animals overdue for a booster vaccination that have documentation of having received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine at least once previously should immediately receive a booster vaccination. The animal should be placed in a 45-day quarantine. If booster vaccination is delayed, the quarantine period may be increased with consideration for factors such as the severity of exposure, length of delay in booster vaccination, current health status, and local rabies epidemiology.

Animals overdue for a booster vaccination whose owners are unable to provide proof of receiving a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine at least once previously, should be treated as an unvaccinated animal. The animal should be immediately vaccinated and placed in a strict 4-month quarantine (for dogs and cats) or 6-month quarantine (for ferrets) at an animal shelter, veterinary boarding facility, or another agreed upon location. Alternatively, prior to the booster vaccination, a veterinarian may collect paired blood samples to document prior vaccination by providing evidence of an anamnestic response to booster vaccination. If an adequate anamnestic response is observed, the animal can be considered overdue for vaccination and complete a 45-day quarantine, following vaccination.

Domestic dogs, cats, or ferrets exposed to another domesticated dog, cat, or ferret will be evaluated by Animal Care of Davis County on a case-by-case basis and may not need to be quarantined.

5.3.1.2 Livestock:

Livestock exposed to a rabid animal and currently vaccinated shall be revaccinated immediately and placed in a 45-day quarantine.

Livestock exposed to a rabid animal and overdue for a booster vaccination should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration factors such as the severity of exposure, length of delay in booster vaccination, current health status, and local rabies epidemiology.

Unvaccinated livestock exposed to a rabid animal shall be euthanized immediately or placed in a strict 6-month quarantine.

5.3.1.3 Other Animals:

Other mammals other than dogs, cats, ferrets, and livestock exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal shall be euthanized immediately. Animals maintained in USDA-licensed research facilities or accredited zoological parks should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Health Officer.

5.3.2 Management of Animals Exposing a Human

5.3.2.1 Dogs, Cats and Ferrets:

A healthy dog, cat, or ferret that exposes a person shall be immediately quarantined in a secure place by the owner or custodian for ten days from the date of the bite. The owner or custodian shall turn the animal over to an Animal Care of Davis County officer upon demand. Rabies vaccine shall not be administered during the quarantine period. Animals showing signs of illness during confinement shall be immediately reported to Animal Care of Davis County and/or the Department and evaluated by a veterinarian. If signs suggestive of rabies develop or the animal is unable to complete the full quarantine period, a veterinarian or Animal Care of Davis County officer shall direct that the animal be euthanized and submitted for testing.

At the end of the 10-day quarantine period, a dog, cat or ferret showing no signs of rabies or illness, may be released, if appropriately vaccinated against rabies before the incident, with no further restrictions. If the animal was not appropriately vaccinated, the owner shall have the animal vaccinated within 72 hours of release.

5.3.2.2 Other Animals:

Animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets will be managed in consultation with the Department. Euthanasia and testing or quarantine may be required.

If a wild animal exposes a person, the animal shall be euthanized immediately by a veterinarian, Animal Care of Davis County, or the Division of Wildlife Resources and submitted for testing, when possible.

5.4 QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.4.1 During the quarantine period, the owner or custodian will observe the animal daily for signs and symptoms of rabies infection. If during the quarantine period the animal displays any signs of rabies, sickness, disease, injury, or unusual or otherwise notable behavior, or if the animal has escaped confinement, the custodian shall immediately notify Animal Care of Davis County.
- 5.4.2 If the animal dies within the quarantine period, the person having custody of the animal shall immediately notify Animal Care of Davis County. Animal Care of Davis County shall immediately remove the animal and submit it for testing.
- 5.4.3 It is unlawful for any person who has custody of a quarantined animal to refuse to allow any person authorized to enforce this regulation to inspect and examine the animal or place of quarantine. The Department may, at its discretion, make arrangements for the quarantine to be at another place, including a boarding facility, vet clinic, or the animal shelter.
- 5.4.4 If at the end of the observation period, a veterinarian, Animal Care of Davis County officer, or other authorized individual examines the animal and finds no indication of rabies, the animal may be released from quarantine. If the owner or custodian of the animal is unknown or fails or refuses to reclaim the animal within a reasonable time after notice, Animal Care of Davis County may dispose of the animal as provided in *Section 6.20.040 Impoundment And Disposal*.
- 5.4.5 Prior to release from quarantine, the owner or custodian shall pay any costs associated with the quarantine proceedings.
- 5.4.6 Types of Quarantine
- 5.4.6.1 **10-day:** Regardless of vaccination status, this type of quarantine pertains to animals that have exposed a human through a bite, scratch, or other exposure where the transmission of rabies could occur. The quarantine can take place at a home, animal shelter, veterinary clinic, or other pre-approved setting.
- 5.4.6.2 **45-day:** This type of quarantine pertains to currently vaccinated animals or animals with a lapsed vaccine that have documentation of being vaccinated for rabies previously that have been exposed to a suspected/confirmed rabid animal. It can take place at a home, animal shelter, veterinary clinic, or other pre-approved setting.
- 5.4.6.3 **4-month to 6-month:** This type of quarantine pertains to dogs, cats, or ferrets that are unvaccinated that have been exposed to a suspected/confirmed rabid wild animal and the owner or custodian are unwilling to euthanize the animal. The conditions of this quarantine are at the discretion of the health officer and Animal Care of Davis County officer.

5.4.7 Home Quarantine Requirements

The owner/custodian's home (or other personal property) may only be considered for quarantine if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The owner/custodian is forthcoming with all requested information;
- (2) The owner/custodian is compliant with the quarantine requirements;
- (3) The owner/custodian does NOT have a past history of non-compliance;
- (4) The owner/custodian is able to produce the animal during unannounced inspection visits and at the conclusion of the quarantine period.

5.4.8 Animal Shelter/Veterinary Clinic Quarantine Requirements

The animal shelter/veterinary clinic may be considered for all types of quarantine if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The facility must be forthcoming with all requested information;
- (2) The facility must be compliant with the quarantine requirements;
- (3) The facility must NOT have a past history of non-compliance;
- (4) The facility must be able to produce the animal during unannounced inspection visits and at the conclusion of the quarantine period.

5.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENT - A person (e.g. healthcare provider, veterinarian, bite victim, Animal Care of Davis County employee, parent/guardian) who knows of an animal exposure to an individual where rabies transmission is possible or who knows of an animal that is suspicious of being rabid, or an animal that has been exposed to a suspected rabid animal shall immediately report the incident or animal to Animal Care of Davis County and/or the Department within 24 hours.

5.6 ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY - Davis County Board of Health authorizes the Animal Care of Davis County Director, Deputy Director, and Animal Care of Davis County officers to enforce and regulate this provision regarding animals in Davis County and to investigate alleged or reasonably suspected violations of the provisions of this section.

6.0 REGULATION REGARDING HUMAN CARE

6.1 HUMAN PRE-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT - Animal Care of Davis County officers are encouraged to receive rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, as adopted and incorporated by reference in section 3.0 of this regulation. The Department shall

make available rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis for other high-risk individuals upon request.

6.2 HUMAN POST-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT

6.2.1 Rabies Post-Exposure Treatment (PEP)

6.2.1.1 Decisions on rabies PEP are ultimately made by the exposed individual and his/her health care provider, following a thorough assessment of the exposure incident and consultation with public health officials. PEP decisions should be based on as much information about the exposure incident as can be assembled in a timely fashion. Factors that should be considered in PEP decisions include: species of biting animal, the health of the biting animal, circumstance of the bite (provoked/unprovoked), the severity of the bite, implementation of immediate wound care, and the availability of the biting animal for quarantine/observation or euthanasia/testing.

6.2.1.2 Prevention of rabies following a possible exposure consists of three fundamental components: (1) local wound treatment, (2) passive immunization (human rabies immune globulin [HRIG]), and (3) active immunization (rabies vaccine). Administration of PEP shall follow current recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, as adopted and incorporated by reference in section 3.0 of this regulation.

7.0 PENALTIES

Any person who is found guilty of violating the provisions of this regulation is guilty of a class B misdemeanor pursuant to *Section 26A-1-123*, Utah Code Annotated. A person found guilty of a subsequent similar violation within two years, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor pursuant to *Section 26A-1-123*, Utah Code Annotated.

8.0 SEVERABILITY

If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this regulation or the application or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this regulation. The valid part of any clause, sentence, or paragraph of this regulation shall be given independence from the invalid provisions or application, and to this end, the provisions of this regulation are hereby declared to be severable.

9.0 FEES


Not Applicable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Davis County Board of Health has passed, approved and adopted this regulation this 12th day of November, 2013.


Effective date: 12th day of November, 2013.
Revised and Amended: 8th day of August, 2023

Davis County Board of Health

Signed: _____


Dr. Gary Alexander
Board Chairman

Attest: _____


Brian Hatch, MPH
Director of Health