

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 595

Short Title: Rabies Vaccine/Dog Owner Admin.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Owens.

Referred to: Public Health.

March 25, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN DOG OWNERS TO ADMINISTER THE
RABIES VACCINE TO THEIR OWN DOGS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 130A-185 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-185. Vaccination of all dogs and cats.

(a) The owner of every dog and cat over four months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies. The time or times of vaccination shall be established by the Commission. Except as otherwise provided in this section, Rabies-rabies vaccine shall be administered only by a licensed veterinarian or by a certified rabies vaccinator.

(b) Only animal rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and approved by the Commission shall be used on animals in this State.

(c) A person who is not a veterinarian or certified rabies vaccinator may administer the rabies vaccine to his or her own dogs only under the following conditions:

- (1) The person owns four or more dogs;
- (2) The State Public Health Veterinarian has certified in writing that the person has demonstrated a knowledge and procedure acceptable for the administration of rabies vaccine to animals;
- (3) The rabies vaccine is administered within 15 days of purchase of the vaccine; and

1 (4) For each dog vaccinated, a rabies certificate and rabies tag are obtained
2 from the local health director within 15 days of administration of the
3 rabies vaccine.

4 (d) In order to obtain the rabies certificate and rabies vaccination tag required
5 under this Part, an applicant for vaccination authority must provide the following to the
6 local health director:

7 (1) Affidavit or other written verification signed by the applicant, under
8 penalty of perjury, stating that:

9 a. The applicant is the owner of the dogs vaccinated,

10 b. The applicant has administered the rabies vaccine to each of the
11 dogs for which a certificate and tag are requested, and

12 c. The date the vaccine was administered to each dog;

13 (2) Proof of purchase of the rabies vaccine indicating the date of purchase;
14 and

15 (3) A copy of the certification required under subdivision (c)(2) of this
16 section.

17 Upon verification of compliance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the
18 local health director shall issue to the applicant the rabies certificate and rabies tag for
19 each dog vaccinated. The fee charged to applicants for the tag, links, and rivets obtained
20 from the Department shall not exceed one dollar per dog."

21 Section 2. G.S. 130A-186 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 130A-186. Appointment and certification of certified rabies ~~vaccinator.~~**
23 **vaccinator; certification of others authorized to administer rabies; fee**
24 **authorized.**

25 In those counties where licensed veterinarians are not available to participate in all
26 scheduled county rabies control clinics, the local health director shall appoint one or more
27 persons for the purpose of administering rabies vaccine to animals in that county.
28 Whether or not licensed veterinarians are available, the local health director may appoint
29 one or more persons for the purpose of administering rabies vaccine to animals in their
30 county and these persons will make themselves available to participate in the county
31 rabies control program. The State Public Health Veterinarian shall provide at least four
32 hours of training to those persons appointed by the local health director to administer
33 rabies ~~vaccine.~~ vaccine and to applicants for authorization to administer the rabies vaccine
34 to their own dogs pursuant to G.S. 130A-185(c). The Department may charge a fee not to
35 exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) to each applicant under G.S. 130A-185(c) for training and
36 certification provided to the applicant. Upon satisfactory completion of the training, and
37 payment of the fee, if any, the State Public Health Veterinarian shall certify in writing
38 that the appointee or applicant under G.S. 130A-185(c) has demonstrated a knowledge
39 and procedure acceptable for the administration of rabies vaccine to animals. A certified
40 rabies vaccinator shall be authorized to administer rabies vaccine to animals in the county
41 until the appointment by the local health director has been terminated."

42 Section 3. G.S. 130A-189 reads as rewritten:

43 "**§ 130A-189. Rabies vaccination certificates.**

1 A licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator who administers rabies vaccine
2 to a dog or ~~eat~~ cat, or a local health director who has authorized rabies vaccination under
3 G.S. 130A-185(c), shall complete a three-copy rabies vaccination certificate. The
4 original rabies vaccination certificate shall be given to the owner of each dog or cat that
5 receives rabies vaccine. One copy of the rabies vaccination certificate shall be retained
6 by the licensed ~~veterinarian or the~~ veterinarian, certified rabies ~~vaccinator~~ vaccinator, or
7 local health director. The other copy shall be given to the county agency responsible for
8 animal control, provided the information given to the county agency shall not be used for
9 commercial purposes."

10 Section 4. G.S. 130A-190 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 130A-190. Rabies vaccination tags.**

12 A licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator who administers rabies vaccine
13 to a dog or ~~eat~~ cat, or a local health director who has authorized rabies vaccination under
14 G.S. 130A-185(c), shall issue a rabies vaccination tag to the owner of the animal. The
15 rabies vaccination tag shall show the year issued, a vaccination number, the words "North
16 Carolina" or the initials "N.C." and the words "rabies vaccine." Dogs and cats shall wear
17 rabies vaccination tags at all times. However, cats may be exempted from wearing the
18 tags by local ordinance. Rabies vaccination tags, links and rivets may be obtained from
19 the Department. The Secretary is authorized to establish by rule a fee for the rabies tags,
20 links and rivets. Except as otherwise authorized in this section, the fee shall not exceed
21 the actual cost of the rabies tags, links and rivets, plus transportation costs. The Secretary
22 may increase the fee beyond the actual cost plus transportation, by an amount not to
23 exceed five cents (5¢) per tag, to fund rabies education and prevention programs."

24 Section 5. G.S. 130A-191 reads as rewritten:

25 "**§ 130A-191. Possession and distribution of rabies vaccine.**

26 It shall be unlawful for persons other than licensed veterinarians, certified rabies
27 ~~vaccinators and vaccinators~~, persons engaged in the distribution of rabies ~~vaccine~~ vaccine,
28 and persons authorized to administer rabies vaccine under G.S. 130A-185(c) to
29 possess rabies vaccine. Persons engaged in the distribution of vaccines may distribute,
30 sell and offer to sell rabies vaccine only to licensed ~~veterinarians and veterinarians~~,
31 certified rabies ~~vaccinators~~ vaccinators, and persons authorized to administer rabies
32 vaccine under G.S. 130A-185(c)."

33 Section 6. This act becomes effective October 1, 1999.