



Public Health

Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets Exposed to Rabies: Four-Month Quarantine

§130A -197 ... Infected animals to be destroyed; protection of vaccinated animals.

When the local health director reasonably suspects that an animal required to be vaccinated under this Part has been exposed to the saliva or nervous tissue of a proven rabid animal or animal reasonably suspected of having rabies that is not available for laboratory diagnosis, the animal shall be considered to have been exposed to rabies. An animal exposed to rabies shall be destroyed immediately by its owner, the county Animal Control Officer or a police officer unless the animal has been vaccinated against rabies in accordance with this Part and the rules of the Commission more than 28 days prior to being exposed and is given a booster dose of rabies vaccine within five days of the exposure. *See link below to 2016 Rabies Compendium for additional details.* As an alternative to destruction, the animal may be quarantined at a facility approved by the local health director for a period of four months, and under reasonable conditions imposed by the local health director. (1935, c. 122, s. 14; 1953, c. 876, s. 10; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 2000-163, s. 4; 2009-327, s. 12.) <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/NASPHVRabiesCompendium.pdf>

Conditions for a 4-month quarantine:

1. The owner’s home or other private residence is not a recommended facility for quarantine.
2. The dog or cat should be placed in *strict isolation*. This means confinement in an enclosure that prevents direct contact with people and other animals.
3. At no time during the quarantine period is the animal to leave the facility or be allowed out of strict isolation.
4. Owners may visit their animal but are not to have direct contact with the animal at any time.
5. A rabies vaccine should be administered to the animal at the beginning of the four-month quarantine.
6. Standard infection control protocol should be implemented when caring for the animal. Impervious gloves should be worn by persons caring for the animal and a mask and eye protection are necessary if saliva may be aerosolized.
7. The animal should be monitored daily by a veterinarian for changes in behavior or health. If signs of rabies develop or the animal dies during the quarantine, and there has been human or domestic animal exposure to the exposed animal within 10 days before the onset of symptoms, immediately notify the Durham County Department of Public Health. The animal shall be submitted for rabies testing at the State Laboratory of Public Health.
8. Ideally, any persons caring for the animal shall have completed a rabies pre or post exposure prophylaxis vaccine series.
9. Animal control will make periodic unannounced visits for compliance with quarantine conditions and to examine the animal. At the end of the four-months, they will officially release the quarantine when animal is determined to be healthy.

By accepting a dog or cat for quarantine, the facility/animal owner agrees to abide by the guidelines listed above.

Facility Name

Dates of Quarantine

Facility Director/Vet Signature

Pet Owner Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX THIS COMPLETED REQUEST TO:

Attention of: Immunization Clinic Nurse – Clinic 6
Durham County Department of Public Health
biteforms@dconc.gov
Phone: 919-560 -7976
Fax: 919-560 -7828