

# 2016 Compendium of Rabies Prevention & Control

How new national recommendations  
impact rabies post-exposure management  
for dogs & cats in North Carolina

Dennis R. Joyner, MPH  
Stanly County Health Director

# Current NC Law

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

- An animal exposed to rabies shall be destroyed immediately by its owner, the county Animal Control Officer or a peace 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. As an alternative to destruction, the animal may be quarantined at a facility approved by the local health director for a period up to six months, and under reasonable conditions imposed by the local health director.

# Compendium & NC Law Comparison

<b>Rabies Vaccination Status of Dog/Cat Exposed to Rabies</b>	<b>Current 130A-197 Control measures</b>	<b>2016 Compendium Control measures</b>
<b>Currently Vaccinated</b>	Provide booster dose of rabies vaccine within 5 days of exposure	Provide booster dose of rabies vaccine immediately after exposure
<b>Overdue with appropriate documentation of prior rabies vaccination (at least one prior valid rabies vaccination certificate)</b>	A) Euthanasia or B) Immediate vaccination against rabies and place in six month quarantine	Provide rabies booster dose within 96 hours of exposure, keep under owner observation for 45 days

# Compendium & NC Law Comparison

Rabies Vaccination Status of Dog/Cat Exposed to Rabies	Current 130A-197 Control measures	2016 Compendium Control measures
<p><b>Overdue with NO documentation of prior rabies vaccination</b></p>	<p>A) Euthanasia or B) Immediate vaccination against rabies and place in six month quarantine</p>	<p>A) Euthanasia or B) Vaccinate within 96 hours of exposure against rabies and place in four month quarantine or C) Prospective serologic monitoring     a. IF evidence of prior vaccination then keep under owner observation for 45 days     b. IF NO evidence of prior vaccination then euthanize or quarantine as above</p>
<p><b>Unvaccinated (Has never been vaccinated against rabies)</b></p>	<p>A) Euthanasia or B) Immediate vaccination against rabies and place in six month quarantine</p>	<p>Euthanasia or Immediate vaccination (within 96 hours) against rabies and place in four month quarantine</p>

# Implications of 2016 Compendium Changes

- Fewer dogs and cats euthanized
- More “never vaccinated” dogs and cats placed under quarantine (instead of euthanasia) for a shorter period of time (four months instead of six months)
- Decreased emotional and financial burden on owners (i.e., dogs and cats with appropriate documentation, if immediately boosted, would be observed 45 days at home with owner)

# Addressing the Conflicts

- Change/Modify the NC Law (G.S. 130A-197) to reflect Compendium guidance
- Pass a County Board of Health Rule that adopts the Compendium guidance (a model rule is available for reference)

## Model BOH Rule for Postexposure Management of Dogs and Cats Recommended by the NC Division of Public Health

This model rule for rabies postexposure management of dogs and cats implements and particularizes the authority given to the local health director in G.S. 130A-197 to effectively and efficiently protect the public's health utilizing the most current science. Accordingly, the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Health adopts the recommendations and guidelines for rabies postexposure management of dogs and cats specified by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians in the 2016 edition of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (Part I. Rabies Prevention and Control B. Prevention and control methods in domestic and confined animals. 5. Postexposure Management). These provisions of the Compendium shall be the required control measures pursuant to G.S. 130A-197.