

WAC 246-100-196

Rabies: Measures to prevent human disease.

- (1) The purpose of this rule is to protect the public against rabies, a serious public health disease.
- (2) The definitions in this section apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

“Cat” means an animal of the species *Felis domesticus*, and excludes felid hybrid animals.

“Certificate of veterinary inspection” means a legible veterinary health inspection certificate on an official form (electronic or paper) from the state of origin or from APHIS, USDA executed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian or a veterinarian approved by APHIS, USDA. (WAC 16-54-010)

“Dog” means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris* and excludes canid hybrid animals.

“Entry permit” means prior written permission from the director of the department of agriculture. (WAC 16-54-010)

“Euthanize” means to humanely destroy an animal by a method that involves instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death or by a method that causes painless loss of consciousness and death during the loss of consciousness.

“Ferret” means an animal of the species *Mustela furo*.

“Hybrid” means any mammal which is the offspring of the reproduction between any species of wild canid or hybrid wild canid and a domestic dog or hybrid wild canid, or is represented by its owner to be a wolf hybrid, coyote hybrid, coy dog or any other kind of wild canid hybrid, or which is the offspring of the reproduction between any species of wild felid or hybrid wild felid and a domestic cat or hybrid wild felid or is represented by its owner to be a wild felid hybrid. (ACIP)

“Livestock” means horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, rabbits, llamas, alpacas, ratites, poultry, waterfowl, game birds, and other species so designated by statute. “Livestock” does not mean “wild animals” as defined in RCW 77.08.010.

“Owner” means any person having legal ownership of an animal.

“Person” means any individual, corporation, company, association, society, firm, partnership, joint stock company, or any governmental agency, or the authorized agents of these entities.

“Rabies exposure” means coming into contact with rabies virus through bite or non-bite means including when a bat is present in a residential living space.

“Research facility” means a person with a valid class R certification as a research facility under the animal welfare act, 7 USC 2132.

“Zoological park” means an accredited member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) or a person that has facilities and procedures in place related to preventing the spread of communicable animal diseases equivalent to those required for AZA accreditation.

- (3) Owners of dogs, cats and ferrets shall have their animals four months of age and older legally vaccinated per Chapter 18.92 RCW against rabies and revaccinated following veterinary and vaccine manufacture instructions.
- (4) Zoological parks or other types of public exhibits shall quarantine for a minimum of one hundred and eighty days all wild-caught mammals susceptible to rabies and intended for public exhibition.

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- (5) Restrictions on the importation and movement of certain mammals in Washington state.
- a. All persons are prohibited from acquiring, selling, bartering, exchanging, giving, purchasing, distributing, or trapping to retain any bat, skunk, fox, raccoon, or coyote, except a zoological park or research facility.
 - b. All persons are prohibited from importing into the state any bat, skunk, fox, raccoon, or coyote, except a zoological park or research facility under an entry permit issued by the director of the department of agriculture in consultation with the secretary of the department as required in WAC 16-54-065.
 - c. All persons are prohibited from importing into the state a dog, cat, hybrid, or ferret from a rabies quarantine area or an area where the state or country of origin has designated terrestrial rabies as endemic, except after obtaining an entry permit for each animal from the director of the department of agriculture. The director of the department of agriculture, in consultation with the secretary of the department of health, may deny an entry permit if the animal would pose a risk to public health.
 - d. Any person importing a dog, cat, or ferret into the state must possess a certificate of veterinary inspection for each animal and documentation of current rabies vaccination, except as exempted under WAC 16-54-170.
 - e. Any person importing a dog internationally that requires confinement according to requirements of 42 CFR, Section 71.51, shall notify the secretary of the department within seventy two hours of the animal's arrival in the state.
- (6) When a dog, cat, or ferret has been exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal, the local health officer shall require:
- a. Unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets be:
 - i. Euthanized immediately; or
 - ii. Placed in quarantine for not less than one hundred eighty days from the date of suspected rabies exposure and given the rabies vaccine upon entry into quarantine or thirty days prior to the end of the quarantine period.
 - b. Currently vaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets be revaccinated immediately with the rabies vaccine, kept under the owner's control, and observed for forty five days.
- (7) The owner or caretaker of a dog, cat or ferret that is quarantined or under observation as described in subsection (6) of this section shall report any illness in the animal to the local health officer, and if signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal shall be euthanized and then tested for rabies.
- (8) When a local health officer receives a report that a mammal has bitten or otherwise potentially exposed a person to rabies, the local health officer may institute any or all of the following:
- a. Order a healthy dog, cat, hybrid, or ferret be confined and observed daily for not less than ten days and any illness be reported to the local health officer, and if signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal shall be euthanized and tested for rabies;
 - b. Consider immediate euthanasia and testing for rabies of any stray or unwanted dog, cat, hybrid, or ferret; or
 - c. Order euthanasia and rabies testing of any other mammal that is not a livestock animal.
- (9) When a mammal other than a bat is found to be rabid, the local health officer may institute additional community-wide measures as appropriate, including but not limited to the following actions:

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- a. Issuance of orders to pick up and impound stray and unlicensed dogs, cats, hybrids and ferrets;
 - b. Issuance of orders to owners of dogs, cats, and ferrets requiring proof of rabies vaccination of animals by a veterinarian within six months;
 - c. Restriction of household mammals to owners' premises except when on leash; or
 - d. Provide public and professional outreach education.
- (10) When mammals are displaced during or after a man made or natural disaster and require emergency sheltering, the local health officer may implement and coordinate rabies prevention and control measures as described in Part I B. 8. Disaster Response of the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2008*. A copy of this publication is available for review at the department's website, www.doh.wa.gov.
- (11) A person euthanizing a mammal for the purpose of rabies testing as described in this section shall prepare, package, and transport the specimens to be tested in a manner approved by the local health officer and according to the department's *Guidelines for the Submission of Specimens for Rabies Testing*, August 2006. This publication is available from the department.

Colored Font Key

1. Black = original Wac language
2. Red = Code of KING COUNTY BOH TITLE 8 (RABIES) LANGUAGE
3. GREEN = NEW LANGUAGE CORE WORKGROUP
4. BLUE = COMPENDIA LANGUAGE
5. ORANGE = MISCELLANEOUS SOURCE
6. PURPLE = COMMENTS/CHANGES FROM INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP