

## Title 51

### PUBLIC HEALTH—SANITARY CODE

#### Part III. The Control of Rabies and Other Zoonotic Diseases

##### Chapter 1. Anti-Rabies Vaccination Requirements for Dogs and Cats

###### §101. Definitions [formerly paragraph 3:001]

A. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, the following words and terms used in this Part of the Sanitary Code and all other Parts which are adopted or may be adopted are defined for the purposes thereof as follows.

*Local Health Authority*—any parish or municipal health officer, department or other agency charged with the responsibility of preserving the public health.

*Owner*—any person who keeps in his care or who harbors or has custody of a dog or other animal.

*Prairie Dogs*—[Formerly paragraph 3:009] any burrowing rodents of the genus *Cynomys*. Prairie dogs can harbor monkeypox. Prairie dogs are also known to be a host for fleas, which carry the causative agent of Plague, the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*. These fleas have the potential to infect other wild animals, as well as domestic animals and humans. Prairie dogs are not indigenous to Louisiana.

*Vaccination*—the injection, by a licensed veterinarian, of an animal using anti-rabies vaccine approved by the state health officer.

*Wild Animal*—any animal species wherein the majority of its members are not maintained by humans for recreational, commercial food production, agricultural, research, or industrial purposes. Other than possibly endangered species, the majority of the members of such a species live primarily in a natural or non-domestic environment. Wolves, wolf hybrids, and feline species other than *Felis felis*/domestic cat hybrids, in circumstances involving rabies vaccination or rabies exposure, will be regarded as wild animals.

*Zoonotic disease*—a disease in humans caused by an infectious agent transmitted from animals to humans. Zoonotic diseases include, but are not limited to, anthrax (caused by *Bacillus anthracis*) and plague (caused by *Yersinia pestis*).

AUTHORITY NOTE: The first source of authority for promulgation of the sanitary code is in R.S. 36:258(B), with more particular provisions throughout Chapters 1 and 4 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. This Part is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:5(2), (3) and (10) together with the specific provisions of R.S. 40:4A(2)(a) and R.S. 40:1277.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1223 (June 2002), amended LR 33:650 (April 2007).

###### §103. Mandatory Vaccinations of Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets [formerly paragraph 3:002]

A. No person shall own, keep or have in his custody a dog, cat, or ferret over three months of age that has not been vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Every owner of a dog, cat, or ferret shall cause said animal to be vaccinated initially with a series of two vaccinations, the first to be administered at three months of age, the second to be administered one year after the initial vaccination. Dogs, cats, or ferrets initially vaccinated later than three months of age shall also be administered a series of two vaccines, the second vaccine to be given one year after the initial vaccination. Subsequent booster vaccines shall be administered one year after the administration of a vaccine that confers one year of immunity and three years after the administration of a vaccine that confers three years of immunity. Approved vaccines and durations of immunity are listed in the most recent *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* prepared by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:4A(2)(a), and R.S. 40:1277.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1223 (June 2002), amended LR 33:650 (April 2007).

###### §105. Human Exposure to Domestic Animal Bites [formerly paragraph 3:003]

A. When any dog, cat, or ferret bites a human being, said animal shall be confined (as described in §113) for a minimum of 10 days following the bite, or said animal shall be killed and the head submitted immediately to a laboratory of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for examination for rabies. During the observation period a rabies vaccine should not be administered to the animal to avoid confusing signs of rabies with possible side effects of vaccine administration. Any dog, cat, or ferret that develops any signs during the 10-day observation period shall be reported immediately to the local health authority and, provided such signs are compatible with rabies as determined by a licensed veterinarian or the official state public health veterinarian, the animal shall be killed and the head submitted to a laboratory of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for examination.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:4A(2)(a), and R.S. 40:1277.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1223 (June 2002), amended LR 33:650 (April 2007).

**§107. Domestic Animals Bitten by Rabid Animals  
[formerly paragraph 3:004]**

A. When bitten by a rabid animal, unvaccinated dogs, cats, or ferrets shall be destroyed immediately unless the owner is unwilling to have this done, in which case, the unvaccinated animal shall be confined (as described in §113) for six months and the animal shall be vaccinated one month before being released. Dogs, cats, or ferrets that are currently vaccinated shall be re-vaccinated immediately and confined (as described in §113) for 45 days.

B. All species of livestock exposed to a rabid animal and currently vaccinated with a vaccine approved for that species by the United States Department of Agriculture should be re-vaccinated immediately and observed for 45 days. Unvaccinated livestock should be slaughtered immediately.

C. Other mammals, including wild animals, exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized immediately.

D. Animals maintained in a United States Department of Agriculture licensed research facility or accredited zoological parks will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the official state public health veterinarian.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:4A(2)(a), and R.S. 40:1277.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1223 (June 2002), amended LR 33:651 (April 2007).

**§109. Animals Suspected of Being  
Infected with Rabies  
[formerly Paragraph 3:006]**

A. Any animal other than a dog, cat, or ferret that bites a human being, or any animal that is suspected of being infected with rabies (whether or not it has bitten anyone), may be required by the state health officer or official state public health veterinarian, for the protection of the public health, to be killed and the head of such animal examined for rabies free of charge by a laboratory of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:4A(2)(a), and R.S. 40:1277.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1223 (June 2002), amended LR 33:651 (April 2007).

**§111. Confinement of Animals  
[formerly paragraph 3:007]**

A. Where confinement is required under the provisions of this Code, the owner, veterinarian, animal shelter or other custodian of the animal shall confine said animal in a cage or in another manner such that the animal cannot contact any person or other animal. Tethering is not permitted.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:4A(2)(a), and R.S. 40:1277.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1224 (June 2002), amended LR 33:651 (April 2007).

**Chapter 3. Other Zoonotic Diseases**

Editor's Note: Renumbered and rearranged pursuant to the authority of R.S. 49:983 to make it clear that prairie dogs have nothing to do with rabies control (per request of LDHH-OHP).

**§301. Definition**

*Prairie Dogs*—[Formerly Paragraph 3:009] any burrowing rodents of the genus *Cynomys*. *Prairie dogs* can harbor the hantavirus. *Prairie dogs* are also known to be a host for fleas, which carry the causative agent of Bubonic Plague, the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*. These fleas have the potential to infect other wild animals, as well as domestic animals and humans. *Prairie dogs* are not indigenous to Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:4(A)(9) and R.S. 40:5(2)(3)(17).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 29:1098 (July 2003).

**§303. Prohibition on Importation/Sale of Prairie Dogs**

A. [Formerly paragraph 3:010] The importation and/or sale of prairie dogs in Louisiana is prohibited.

B. [Formerly paragraph 3:011] This Section shall not apply to zoos approved by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:4(A)(9) and R.S. 40:5(2)(3)(17).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 29:1098 (July 2003), amended LR 33:651 (April 2007).

