

# MEMORANDUM

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

TO : Barbara W. Mather, City Solicitor, 1540 MSB

DATE 9/13/85

FROM : Joseph Paglia, Deputy Records Commissioner

*Joseph Paglia*

SUBJECT: REGULATION FOR REQUIRED RABIES  
IMMUNIZATION OF PET DOGS AND CATS

The above regulation, promulgated by the Health Department, was received in the Department of Records on August 13, 1985, for filing and advertising.

Inasmuch as there were no requests for hearings, this regulation became effective midnight, September 12, 1985.

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cc: Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., Health Commissioner

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REGULATION FOR REQUIRED RABIES IMMUNIZATION  
OF PET DOGS AND CATS

Pursuant to Section 6-213 of the Health Code of Philadelphia, whereby the Board of Health may, by Regulation, prescribe such restraints or controls on animals as it shall find necessary to prevent the spread of any disease transmissible from animals to human beings, the following Regulation governing rabies immunization is hereby promulgated.

JUSTIFICATION

Since rabies is a serious disease that can cause significant medical problems and death, and since rabies is spread to human beings from animals which have not been immunized with rabies vaccine, these Regulations are necessary to protect not only the health of persons who have been bitten by animals, but also the health of the public at large and the health of domestic animals in Philadelphia.

DEFINITIONS

Certificate of Immunization - The National Association of State and Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., standard form #50, "Rabies Vaccination Certificate", available from rabies vaccine manufacturers or the Department of Public Health, which certificate has been prepared by a veterinarian. The certificate is given to the owner of the animal and shall be furnished upon request to the Department of Public Health or other agencies designated by the Department.

Record of Immunization - Any official document which reflects the date of immunization such as veterinary or hospital records.

REQUIREMENTS

1. All domestic dogs and cats must be immunized against rabies by a veterinarian licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or by a designee of a licensed veterinarian as follows:
  - (a) All dogs and cats in Philadelphia must be immunized, within 90 days of the effective date of this Regulation, with U.S. Department of Agriculture licensed rabies vaccine by six months of age, but not sooner than three months of age, and must continue to be immunized with U.S. Department of Agriculture licensed rabies vaccine as needed to protect the animal against rabies virus.
  - (b) All dogs and cats which are transported into Philadelphia and are at least three months of age must be immunized with U.S. Department of Agriculture licensed rabies vaccine within three months of arrival in Philadelphia and must continue to be immunized with U.S. Department of Agriculture licensed rabies vaccine as needed to protect the animal against rabies virus.

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2. All animals which lack either a certificate of immunization for rabies or a record of immunization for rabies, which have or are reasonably suspected of having rabies, may be humanely sacrificed.

EXEMPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

Veterinary Exemption: Domestic animals need not be immunized if a veterinarian licensed of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the animal. When the veterinarian determines that immunization is no longer detrimental to the health of the animal, the animal shall be immunized.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health shall determine the procedure for the implementation of this Regulation.

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