



# **WEBER COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES**

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

### **RABIES**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/23/2009  
STANDARD NUMBER: N/A

REVIEW DATE: 03/10/2011  
APPROVED: Signature on file  
Sheriff Signature

#### **1. Purpose:**

It is the responsibility of animal control and its personnel to investigate any actual or potential exposure to the threat of rabies including investigating incidents of an animal biting a person or other animal, animals displaying symptoms of rabies, educating the public, confirming rabies vaccination of animals, taking appropriate and necessary actions to prevent the spread of and exposure to rabies, and the handling of animals subject to having or being exposed to rabies.

#### **2. Rationale**

Investigation of actual or potential exposure to rabies is required of animal control by law.

#### **3. Policy**

##### **A. Investigation**

1. Animal Control Officers are responsible for investigating all incidents involving an animal suspected to have rabies, which has bitten a person or other animal. This investigation is to be started within 24 hrs of the actual bite.
2. If the bite cannot be investigated within 24 hrs of the actual incident, the officer will notify the manager or their designee so that they can take the necessary steps regarding post exposure treatment, the issuance of a search warrant if necessary, and make other decisions as needed.
3. If the subject is a wild animal, the officer will, in compliance with state law, immediately:
  - i. Seize the animal.
  - ii. Euthanize the animal.
  - iii. Remove the animal's head.
  - iv. Deliver the head to the state for rabies testing.
4. The Facility Manager or designee should be notified if there are any questions on a bite.

B. Quarantine

1. Any animal that can transfer the rabies virus to a person or to another animal has to be quarantined, i.e. dog biting a dog, dog biting a cat, vice versa, and all human encounters.
2. Should there be any question on whether an animal needs to be quarantined; the animal control ordinance and the rabies compendium should be followed.
3. Animals subject to rabies that are not currently and legally vaccinated should be immediately impounded and quarantined at the Weber County Animal Shelter. If the owner of the animal can make arrangements with a veterinarian, the animal can be quarantined at their facility. Should the animal be quarantined at a veterinarian's office, the animal control officer will follow up and make sure that the animal in question is in compliance with quarantine requirements.

C. Current Rabies Vaccines

1. An animal can only be considered to be currently vaccinated if the owner or the animal's lawful custodian is able to show proof of current vaccination. The following information needs to be shown:
  - i. Written documentation with the date, animal information, and veterinarian's license. The vaccination must not be expired.

D. Home Quarantine

1. An animal that has bitten may be quarantined at home if it meets the following conditions:
  - i. The animal has a current rabies vaccination. Written proof is the only valid means of proof. A rabies tag by itself is not proof and will not be accepted.
  - ii. The Officer determines that the owner have the appropriate enclosure that meets the criteria for home quarantine. If the owner is not willing to follow the home quarantine rules the animal in question will be immediately taken into custody and quarantined at the Weber County Animal Shelter.

E. Quarantine Period

1. An animal must be quarantined for a period of ten (10) days.
2. If the animal is quarantined at the shelter, the animal will be checked daily for any sign of sickness. Any sign of illness will be noted and recorded as part of the animal's history.
3. If the animal is home quarantined the owners will contact the shelter and notify them of any health changes.
4. The animal that is home quarantined will be visited by animal control twice during the ten (10) day period to check on the animal and verify compliance of quarantine regulations.

F. Cost of Quarantine

1. The cost of the quarantine at the shelter will be the responsibility of the animal owner or legal custodian. The cost is a flat fee regardless of actual time spent at the shelter.

G. State Lab Testing

1. If an animal dies during the quarantine period the head of the animal will be removed and taken to the state health lab for testing. The animal's owner or legal custodian will be notified within one (1) business day of the condition of the animal.

H. Quarantine Results

1. At the end of the quarantine period the victim will be notified of the quarantine results. If the animal is determined to have rabies the victim will be contacted so that they can seek appropriate treatment.

I. Release of an Animal from Quarantine

1. The following conditions will be met before the animal is released to the owner or responsible party:
  - i. All fees must be paid.
  - ii. If the animal is required to be licensed, proof of licensing will be provided or a license agreement must be signed.
  - iii. Letters must be issued to the owner or responsible party that the animal has been declared potentially dangerous, dangerous, or vicious.
  - iv. A file created under the owner's name.
  - v. All pertinent information will be entered into the computer.

NOTE: Should the Weber County Animal Control Ordinance not cover all that is necessary in dealing with quarantine of animals the Compendium of Rabies Control issued by the CCD should be used.