

CHAPTER 58
HB 290 - FINAL VERSION

15Feb2017... 0144h

2017 SESSION

17-0175
08/09

HOUSE BILL ***290***

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccination protocols for companion animals.

SPONSORS: Rep. J. Belanger, Hills. 27; Rep. Fraser, Belk. 1; Rep. F. McCarthy, Carr. 2; Rep. McConnell, Ches. 12; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

 This bill makes the rabies vaccination protocols for companion animals consistent with national standards.

 This bill was requested by the state veterinarian.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccination protocols for companion animals.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 58:1 Rabies Vaccinations Protocols. Amend RSA 436:106, I(b) to read as follows:

2 (b) If the owner is unwilling to destroy the dog, cat, or ferret, strict isolation of the dog,
3 cat, or ferret, in a kennel under veterinary supervision and in cooperation with the local
4 authorities[~~, for a minimum of 6 months~~] shall be enforced. ***A dog or cat shall be held in***
5 ***quarantine for a minimum of 4 months. A ferret shall be held in quarantine for a***
6 ***minimum of 6 months.*** The dog, cat, or ferret shall be vaccinated against rabies 30 days prior to
7 completion of the [6-month] impoundment. Any illness in the dog, cat, or ferret during confinement
8 or before release shall be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian. If signs suggestive of rabies develop,
9 the animal shall be euthanized and the head sent for examination to the public health laboratory,
10 department of health and human services. The expense of vaccination shall be paid in advance by
11 the owner, and the expense of impoundment shall be paid monthly in advance by the owner. In
12 case of default in payment, the local authority may euthanize the dog, cat, or ferret after a 10-day
13 grace period and the head shall be sent for examination to the public health laboratory, department
14 of health and human services. The expense of euthanizing the dog, cat, or ferret, for disposal of the
15 remains, and for preparing and shipping the head, shall be the responsibility of the owner.

16 58:2 New Paragraph; Unvaccinated Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets Bit by Rabid Animals. Amend
17 RSA 436:106 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

18 I-a. Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets with Documentation of Expired Vaccination. In the case of
19 dogs, cats, and ferrets in which prior vaccination is documented but has expired and which have
20 been bitten by a known rabid animal or have had a nonbite exposure, the dog, cat, or ferret which
21 was bitten or exposed to rabies shall be handled as follows:

22 (a) The dog, cat, or ferret shall be immediately revaccinated and confined for a period of
23 45 days following revaccination. Any illness in the dog, cat, or ferret during confinement or before
24 release shall be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the
25 animal shall be euthanized and the head sent for examination to the public health laboratory,
26 department of health and human services. The owner of the dog, cat, or ferret shall be responsible
27 for any expense incurred. The type of confinement shall be at the discretion of the local authority.
28 At the completion of confinement, the dog, cat, or ferret shall be examined by a licensed
29 veterinarian and released if found by said veterinarian to be free of any signs of rabies.

30 (b) If the dog, cat, or ferret is not revaccinated within 96 hours of the exposure, strict

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1 isolation of the dog, cat, or ferret, in a kennel under veterinary supervision and in cooperation with
2 the local authorities shall be enforced. A dog or cat shall be held in quarantine for a minimum of 4
3 months. A ferret shall be held in quarantine for a minimum of 6 months. The dog, cat, or ferret
4 shall be vaccinated against rabies 30 days prior to completion of the impoundment. Any illness in
5 the dog, cat, or ferret during confinement or before release shall be evaluated by a licensed
6 veterinarian. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal shall be euthanized and the head
7 sent for examination to the public health laboratory, department of health and human services.
8 The expense of vaccination shall be paid in advance by the owner, and the expense of impoundment
9 shall be paid monthly in advance by the owner. In case of default in payment, the local authority
10 may euthanize the dog, cat, or ferret after a 10-day grace period and the head shall be sent for
11 examination to the public health laboratory, department of health and human services. The
12 expense of euthanizing the dog, cat, or ferret, for disposal of the remains, and for preparing and
13 shipping the head, shall be the responsibility of the owner.

14 58:3 Vaccinated Companion Animals Bitten by Rabid Animals. Amend RSA 436:106, II(a) to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) The dog, cat, or ferret shall be immediately revaccinated and confined for a period of
17 [90] **45** days following revaccination. Any illness in the dog, cat, or ferret during confinement or
18 before release shall be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian. If signs suggestive of rabies develop,
19 the animal shall be euthanized and the head sent for examination to the public health laboratory,
20 department of health and human services. The owner of the dog, cat, or ferret shall be responsible
21 for any expense incurred. The type of confinement shall be at the discretion of the local authority.
22 At the completion of confinement, the dog, cat, or ferret shall be examined by a licensed
23 veterinarian and released if found by said veterinarian to be free of any signs of rabies.

58:4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 02, 2017

Effective Date: August 01, 2017