

## **WAC 246-100-197**

### **Rabies — Measures to prevent human disease.**

- (1) The purpose of this rule is to protect the public from rabies, a deadly disease.
- (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
  - (a) "Animal exhibitor" means a person with a valid class C certification as an exhibitor under the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159.
  - (b) "Cat" means an animal of the species *Felis domesticus*, and excludes felid hybrid animals.
  - (c) "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 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) executed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian or a veterinarian approved by APHIS, USDA.
  - (d) "Dog" means an animal of the species *Canis familiaris* and excludes canid hybrid animals.
  - (e) "Entry permit" means prior written permission from the director of the department of agriculture.
  - (f) "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.
  - (g) "Ferret" means an animal of the species *Mustela furo*.
  - (h) "Hybrid" means any mammal which is the offspring of the reproduction between any species of:
    - (i) 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
    - (ii) 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.
  - (i) "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](#).
  - (j) "Owner" means any person legally responsible for the care and actions of a pet animal.
  - (k) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association, society, firm, partnership, joint stock company, or governmental agency; or the authorized agents of these entities.
  - (l) "Research facility" means a person with a valid class R certification as a research facility under the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159.
  - (m) "Zoological park" means an accredited member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA).
- (3) An owner of a dog, cat, or ferret shall have it vaccinated against rabies and revaccinated following veterinary and vaccine manufacturer instructions. This requirement does not apply to animal shelters.
- (4) Zoological parks and other types of animal exhibitors shall confine for a minimum of six months all wild-caught mammals susceptible to rabies and intended for public exhibition.
- (5) The following restrictions apply to 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, animal exhibitor, or research facility.
  - (b) All persons are prohibited from importing into the state any bat, skunk, fox, raccoon, or coyote, except a zoological park, animal exhibitor, or research facility under an entry permit issued by the director of the department of agriculture in

consultation with the secretary of the department.

(c) Any person importing a dog internationally that requires confinement according to requirements of 42 C.F.R. 71.51, shall notify the secretary of the department within seventy-two hours of the animal's arrival in the state.

(6) When a local health officer receives a report that a dog, cat, ferret, or hybrid has been exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal, the local health officer may require:

(a) Unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets be:

(i) Euthanized immediately; or

(ii) Confined in a manner considered appropriate by the local health officer for at least six months from the date of suspected rabies exposure and given rabies vaccine at least thirty days prior to the end of the confinement period.

(b) Currently vaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets be revaccinated immediately with rabies vaccine, kept under the owner's control in a manner considered appropriate by the local health officer, and observed for forty-five days for signs of illness.

(c) Hybrids be euthanized immediately.

(7) The owner or caretaker of a dog, cat, or ferret that is confined or under observation as described in subsection (6) of this section shall report any illness in the animal to the local health officer. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the local health officer may order the animal to be euthanized and 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, or ferret to be confined in a manner the local health officer considers appropriate and observed daily for at least ten days with any illness reported to the local health officer, and if signs suggestive of rabies develop, order the animal to be euthanized and tested for rabies;

(b) Order immediate euthanasia and rabies testing of any stray or unwanted dog, cat, or ferret; or

(c) Order euthanasia and rabies testing of any hybrid or 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:

(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 following veterinary and vaccine manufacturer instructions;

(c) Restriction of dogs, cats, hybrids, and ferrets to owners' or caretakers' 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 web site, at [www.doh.wa.gov](http://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 at [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov).