

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to rabies vaccination; amending s. 828.30,  
 3       F.S.; revising requirements for the frequency of rabies  
 4       vaccination for specified animals; revising rabies  
 5       vaccination certificate requirements; deleting an obsolete  
 6       provision; prohibiting local governments from mandating  
 7       revaccination of currently vaccinated animals except in  
 8       specified instances; providing legislative findings;  
 9       providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Subsections (1), (3), (4), and (7) of section  
 14       828.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15           828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.--

16           (1) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older  
 17       must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian against rabies  
 18       with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States Department  
 19       of Agriculture for use in those species. The owner of every dog,  
 20       cat, and ferret shall have the animal revaccinated 12 months  
 21       after the initial vaccination. Thereafter, the interval between  
 22       vaccinations shall conform to the vaccine manufacturer's  
 23       directions ~~Government-approved vaccine~~. The cost of vaccination  
 24       must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating  
 25       rabies virus neutralizing antibodies shall not be used as a  
 26       substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure  
 27       or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

28           (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed  
 29 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal  
 30 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. All  
 31 vaccination certificates shall use the National Association of  
 32 State Public Health Veterinarians' NASPHV Form 51, "Rabies  
 33 Vaccination Certificate," or an equivalent form approved by the  
 34 local government containing all the information required by the  
 35 NASPHV Form 51. The certificate ~~which~~ ~~must contain at least the~~  
 36 ~~following information:~~

37           ~~(a) The license number of the administering veterinarian.~~

38           ~~(b) The name, address, and phone number of the~~  
 39 ~~veterinarian and owner.~~

40           ~~(c) The date of vaccination.~~

41           ~~(d) The expiration date of the vaccination.~~

42           ~~(e) The species, age, sex, color, breed, weight, and name~~  
 43 ~~of the animal vaccinated.~~

44           ~~(f) The rabies vaccine manufacturer.~~

45           ~~(g) The vaccine lot number and expiration date.~~

46           ~~(h) The type and brand of vaccine used.~~

47           ~~(i) The route of administration of the vaccine.~~

48           ~~(j) The signature or signature stamp of the licensed~~  
 49 ~~veterinarian.~~

50           (4) ~~Beginning March 1, 1999,~~ Each ferret vaccinated  
 51 according to this section must be quarantined, when necessary,  
 52 according to rules of the Department of Health.

53           (7) This section does not prohibit or limit municipalities  
 54 or counties from establishing ~~enacting~~ requirements similar to  
 55 or more stringent than the provisions of this section for the

56 implementation and enforcement of rabies-control ordinances.  
57 However, local governments shall not mandate revaccination of  
58 currently vaccinated animals except in instances involving post-  
59 exposure treatment for rabies.

60 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is necessary to  
61 require that dogs, cats, and ferrets be currently vaccinated  
62 against rabies in order to protect the public from this deadly  
63 disease. The Legislature also finds that the present statute  
64 does not clearly specify requirements to revaccinate these  
65 animals which has led to unnecessary revaccination of currently  
66 vaccinated animals in local jurisdictions which enact  
67 requirements that are more stringent. The Legislature finds that  
68 in order to maximize protection and minimize risks to the  
69 animals, revaccination guidelines outlined in the Department of  
70 Health's Florida Rabies Prevention and Control guidebook must be  
71 incorporated in s. 828.30, Florida Statutes, the governing  
72 statute; however, this approach does not interfere with a  
73 veterinarian's discretion to use a rabies vaccine of either 1 or  
74 3 years' duration of immunity. The Legislature also determines a  
75 need to standardize the rabies certificate form in order to  
76 permit easier use by veterinarians and public health officials  
77 by adopting the National Association of State Public Health  
78 Veterinarians' NASPHV Form 51 or an equivalent form approved by  
79 the local government. The Legislature finds that since rabies  
80 vaccination programs are administered on a calendar year basis,  
81 an implementation date of January 1, 2006, will provide for an  
82 orderly transition.

83 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2006.