

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.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
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. Each  
 31 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use Form 51,  
 32 "Rabies Vaccination Certificate," of the National Association of  
 33 State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form  
 34 approved by the local government that contains all the  
 35 information required by NASPHV Form 51. The veterinarian who  
 36 administers the rabies vaccine to an animal as required under  
 37 this section may affix his or her signature stamp in lieu of an  
 38 actual signature. ~~which must contain at least the following~~  
 39 ~~information:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 ~~(j) the signature or signature stamp of the licensed~~  
 52 ~~veterinarian.~~

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

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

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

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

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