

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Agriculture Committee

BILL: SB 898

SPONSOR: Senator Rich

SUBJECT: Rabies Vaccination

DATE: March 21, 2005

REVISED: 3/22/05

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Mayfield</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	Fav/1
2.	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>HE</u>	<u></u>
3.	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>CA</u>	<u></u>
4.	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5.	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
6.	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

Please see last section for Summary of Amendments

Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

I. Summary:

This bill revises requirements for frequency of rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats and ferrets 4 months of age or older. Current law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older to be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian against rabies with a vaccine that is approved by the United States Government. This bill would require the owner of each dog, cat, and ferret to have a revaccination 12 months after the initial vaccination. Thereafter, revaccination requirements would conform to the vaccine manufacturer's direction.

This bill substantially amends section 828.30 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Current law does not clearly specify revaccination requirements for dogs, cats, and ferrets. This has led to revaccinations of animals that already have up to date vaccinations. This is a result of local jurisdictions that enact more stringent vaccination requirements than the state. This bill would require dogs, cats, and ferrets to be revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination. Thereafter, revaccination requirements would conform to the vaccine manufacturer's directions.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Amends s. 828.30, F.S., to require the vaccine used in vaccinations of dogs, cats, and ferrets be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

This section also requires the owner of each dog, cat, or ferret to vaccinate the animal 12 months after the initial vaccination. Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations must conform to the vaccine manufacturer's directions.

This section also provides that evidence of circulating rabies-virus-neutralizing antibodies may not be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

Additionally, the bill requires each agency and veterinarian to use Form 51 "Rabies Vaccination Certificate," of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians or an equivalent form approved by the local government which contains all the information required by Form 51. This section also deletes a specific listing of information that must be provided on the certificate.

This bill does not limit municipalities from enacting requirements more stringent than the provisions of this section for the implementation and enforcement of rabies control. However, this section does prohibit local governments from establishing requirements that would mandate revaccination of currently vaccinated animals, except for instances involving the postexposure treatment of rabies.

Section 2. Provides legislative findings that present law does not address revaccination requirements for dogs, cats, and ferrets. The current statutory language has led to the revaccination of currently vaccinated animals in local jurisdictions that enact requirements that are more stringent. Changes under this bill would not interfere with the veterinarian's discretion to use a rabies vaccine of 1 year or 3 years' duration of immunity.

Section 3. Provides that this act shall take effect January 1, 2006.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Indeterminate.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

Barcode 882374 by Agriculture:

This amendment requires that the signature or signature stamp of the licensed veterinarian be included on the Rabies Vaccination Certificate form.

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