

2010 -- S 2246

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LC01648
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

Introduced By: Senator John J. Tassoni

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4-13-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-13 entitled "Dogs" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-13-31. Compulsory rabies vaccination.** -- (a) For the purpose of preventing the
4 introduction of rabies when rabies appears in any nearby area and its appearance creates a threat
5 of introduction into Rhode Island, or for the suppression, or for the control of rabies, the board
6 shall make regulations requiring compulsory vaccination of dogs, cats, ferrets or any other
7 domestic animal as deemed necessary against rabies in a manner specified by it in any area or
8 areas within the state, which are deemed necessary to prevent that introduction, or for the
9 purposes of suppression and control.

10 (b) The board is authorized to engage any personnel within the department of health or
11 department of environment to assist in carrying out any regulation which may be promulgated for
12 the suppression and control of rabies.

13 (c) Upon receipt of a written request from any city or town council or the mayor of any
14 town or city and with the consent and approval of the health officers of those towns and cities, the
15 board shall establish in cooperation with local and state health department authorities, public
16 clinics for the vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies. Those clinics shall be
17 conducted in accordance with provisions and regulations proposed by and under the supervision
18 of the board.

19 (d) Rabies vaccine for animals may be administered only by or under the direct and

1 specific supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

2 (e) Except as otherwise amended by board regulation, the owner or keeper of a dog, cat,
3 or ferret shall have the animal vaccinated not earlier than three (3) months of age nor later than
4 four (4) months of age and at regular intervals as prescribed by board regulations, but at no time
5 to exceed recommendations made by the most current compendium of animal rabies control.

6 (f) Any veterinarian or any person directed by a veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat,
7 or ferret against rabies must issue a rabies vaccination certificate to the animal's owner. This
8 certificate shall meet the minimum standards approved by the board, which include: the
9 veterinarian's name, the veterinarian's practice name, address and telephone number; the pet
10 owner's name and address, the pet's name, species, age coloration and sex; the rabies vaccine
11 manufacturer's name; the date of inoculation and the signature of the doctor who administered or
12 directed the administration of the rabies vaccine. For dogs, cats, and ferrets, there shall be a
13 record kept which lists the number of the rabies tag issued in conjunction with the rabies
14 vaccination certificate.

15 (g) No city or town may register or license a pet that is not vaccinated for rabies in
16 accordance with this chapter. Proof of rabies vaccination shall be a current, valid rabies certificate
17 for any species.

18 ~~(h) This chapter shall not apply to any dog or cat imported into this state strictly for
19 exhibition or breeding purposes, and which does not remain in this state for more than fifteen (15)
20 days and which is accompanied by a valid health certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection.~~

21 (i) A person who fails to have or refuses to have each dog, cat, and/or ferret owned or
22 kept by the person vaccinated against rabies violates the provisions of this chapter.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would repeal the exemption from the rabies vaccination requirement for dogs
2 and cats only briefly in the state for exhibition or breeding purposes.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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