

TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Rabies Control Ordinance of Evans County".

SECTION I

DEFINITIONS

- a. Domesticated animals: Animals which are kept as pets, including but not limited to, dogs and cats.
- b. Undomesticated animals: Horses, mules, cattle, goats, swine and other animals which are not domesticated.
- c. Owner: Any person owning, keeping or harboring any domesticated animal.
- d. Rabies Control Officer: An employee of the Evans County Health Department, appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Health to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance.
- e. Veterinarian: Any person who holds a license to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia.

SECTION II

EXEMPTIONS

Hospitals, clinics, and other premises operated by licensed veterinarians for the care and treatment of animals are exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance, except where expressly stated.

This Ordinance shall not apply to municipalities which already have a rabies control law unless and until such law is repealed.

SECTION III

VACCINATION

All dogs and cats shall have a current rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian.

SECTION IV

QUARANTINE OF SUSPECTED ANIMALS

Any domesticated animal which bites or scratches a person or which otherwise gives symptoms of having rabies shall be immediately reported to the rabies control officer or his deputy and shall thereupon be securely quarantined at the direction of the rabies control officer, for a period of ten (10) days, and shall not be released from such quarantine except by written permission of the rabies control officer or under his direction. At the discretion of the rabies control officer, such quarantine may be on the premises of the owner under the direction of the rabies control officer or a veterinary hospital at the owner's expense. In the case of stray animals, or in the case of animals whose ownership is not known and can not, after reasonable attempts, be determined, such animals shall be euthanized.

SECTION V

DUTY OF OWNER TO SURRENDER ANIMAL; REDEMPTION

The Owner, upon demand by the rabies control officer shall forthwith surrender any animal which has bitten a human, or which is suspected of having been exposed to rabies, for supervised quarantine, the expense of which shall be born by the owner. Said animal may be reclaimed by the owner if it is adjudged free of rabies, upon payment of fees determined therefor by the Evans County Commission.

SECTION VI

When rabies has been diagnosed in an animal under quarantine or rabies is suspected by a licensed veterinarian, or the animal dies while under such observation, the health officer shall immediately send the head of such animal to the State Health Regional Laboratory for pathological examination and shall notify the proper public health officer of reports of contacts of the animal in question with humans and domesticated animals.

SECTION VII

AREA-WIDE QUARANTINE--WHEN IMPOSED

When the report indicates a positive diagnosis of rabies, the health officer may order an area-wide quarantine for a period of sixty (60) days, and upon the invoking of such quarantine, no domesticated or pet animal shall be taken into the streets, or permitted to be in the streets, during such period of quarantine. During such quarantine, no domesticated or pet animal may be taken or shipped from Evans County without permission of the rabies control officer.

SECTION VIII

SAME--VACCINATION

During the area-wide quarantine period and as long afterward as he decides it is necessary to prevent the spread of rabies, the rabies control officer may require that all domesticated animals, three months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. All vaccinated domesticated animals shall be restricted (leashing or confinement of enclosed premises) for thirty (30) days after vaccination. During the quarantine period, the rabies control officer is hereby empowered to provide for a program of mass immunization by the establishment of temporary emergency rabies vaccination clinics strategically located in the unincorporated area of Evans County.

SECTION IX

SAME--REDEMPTION OF STRAYS RESTRICTED

No animal which has been impounded by reason of its being a stray, unclaimed by its owner, shall be allowed to be adopted from any animal shelter during the period of rabies emergency quarantine, except by special authorization of the rabies control officer.

SECTION X

EXTENSION OF QUARANTINE

In the event there are additional cases of rabies occurring during the period of area-wide quarantine, such period of quarantine may be extended for an additional period of time.

SECTION XI

DESTRUCTION, ISOLATION OF BITTEN ANIMALS

Unvaccinated domesticated animals bitten by a known or potentially rabid animal shall be humanely euthanized immediately. If the owner is unwilling to have the animal euthanized the rabies control officer may grant permission for the animal to be placed in isolation under the supervision of the rabies control officer. Such isolation shall be for a period of six (6) months. The animal shall be vaccinated for rabies one month prior to being released from isolation.

Domesticated animals which have previously been vaccinated for rabies and then bitten by a known or potentially rabid animal shall be revaccinated immediately and confined and observed for forty-five (45) days. Such confinement and isolation shall be under the supervision of the rabies control officer.

SECTION XII

DESTRUCTION, REMOVAL OF RABID ANIMALS

No person shall kill, or cause to be killed, any rabid animal, any animal suspected of having been exposed to rabies, or any animal biting a human, except as herein provided, nor remove such animal from Evans County without written permission from the rabies control officer.

SECTION XIII

SURRENDER OF CARCASS

The carcass of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall upon demand be surrendered to the health officer.

SECTION XIV

REPORT OF BITE CASES

It shall be the duty of every physician, or other medical practitioner, to report to the rabies control officer the names and addresses of persons treated for bites inflicted by animals, together with such other information as will be helpful in rabies control.

SECTION XV

REPORT OF SUSPECTED CASES

It shall be the duty of every licensed veterinarian to report to the rabies control officer any animal considered by him to be a rabies suspect.

SECTION XVI

FAILURE TO OBEY

No person shall fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or destruction as required herein when demand is made therefor by the rabies control officer.

SECTION XVII

PENALTIES

Any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided by law.

SECTION XVIII

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any section or paragraph of this Ordinance should be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance. All parts or portions hereof not so declared unconstitutional or invalid shall remain in full force and effect as if separately adopted.

This 5th day of December, 1995

J. G. James M.D.
CHAIRMAN
Evans County Board of Health

Elizabeth Massey R.N.
WITNESS

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