

LANGLADE COUNTY RABIES CONTROL PLAN

Purpose: To promote the health, safety, and general welfare of persons in Langlade County reducing the risk of the transmission of rabies infection.

The Langlade County Rabies Control Plan shall be the implementation of the WI State Rabies Control Plan as specified in Section 95.21 of the WI State Statutes.

In addition, Langlade County shall establish and coordinate an Animal Bite Surveillance System. This System is a cooperative effort of the City of Antigo Police Department, the Langlade County Sheriff's Department, the Antigo Veterinary Clinic, and the Langlade County Health Department.

The Langlade County Health Department shall also provide a prevention component which shall include community health education on rabies and efforts toward encouraging rabies vaccination of dogs and other domestic animals.

Program Procedure:

1. The City/County Sheriff's Department receives all reports of animal bites.
2. The City/County Sheriff's Department initiates a written incident report.
(See Attachment B: Rabies Investigation Report.)
- 3.. The protocol for unvaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets is as follows:
 - If an **unvaccinated** dog, cat, or ferret bites a person, an officer will order that animal be quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. The "officer" can be a public health official, a law enforcement officer, a DNR warden, or a humane officer.
 - Within 24 hours, the Health Department will be notified by telephone regarding the initiation of a quarantine order. Within 24 hours after the quarantine order is issued, the unvaccinated dog, cat, or ferret must be delivered to an isolation facility (e.g., veterinary clinic, humane society shelter, pound) for a 10-day observation period.
 - During the 10-day quarantine, the dog, cat, or ferret can/shall be held under strict isolation at the isolation facility and examined by a licensed veterinarian on the first day, the last day, and one intervening day of the observation period.
 - The quarantine may be released after the veterinarian certifies that the animal has exhibited no signs of rabies during the 10-day quarantine period.
 - The veterinarian may extend the quarantine if clinical signs warrant the extension.

- After the quarantine is released, the animal can be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations are not to be administered during the observation period.
 - In the event that an animal under quarantine does exhibit signs of rabies, state statute requires that the animal is humanely killed and the brain submitted for rabies testing.
 - The owner of the animal is responsible for all expenses incurred in connection with the quarantine. Refusal to comply with the order of quarantine shall result in a fine not less than \$100 nor more than \$1000 or imprisoned not more than 60 days or both as required by WI State Statute 95.21(10)(b).
 - The owner may be required to forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 according to WI State Statute 95.21(10)(a) for refusal to vaccinate.
4. The protocol for **vaccinated** dogs, cats, and ferrets is as follows:
- If a vaccinated dog, cat, or ferret (as shown by a valid rabies certificate) bites a person, an officer will order that animal quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. (See Attachment C: Animal Quarantine Order.) The “officer” can be a public health official, a law enforcement officer, a DNR warden, or a humane officer.
 - Vaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets may be quarantined on the premises of the owner if the animal is kept in an escape-proof enclosure or in the home and walked on a leash by a responsible adult. If quarantine cannot be adequately maintained on the premises of the owner, an officer may order a vaccinated dog, cat, or ferret to be quarantined at an isolation facility. Within 24 hours, the Health Department will be notified by telephone regarding the initiation of a quarantine order.
 - During the 10-day quarantine, a veterinarian must examine the dog, cat, or ferret on the first day, the last day, and one intervening day of the observation period. This is the only time the animal may leave the owner’s premises.
 - If the animal displays signs of illness or a change in behavior, it is crucial that the owner notify the veterinarian immediately.
 - The quarantine may be released if the veterinarian certifies that the animal has exhibited no signs of rabies during the 10-day quarantined period.
 - The veterinarian may extend the quarantine if clinical signs warrant.
 - Rabies vaccinations are not to be administered during the observation period. In the unlikely event that an animal under quarantine does exhibit signs of rabies, state statute requires that the animal is humanely killed and the brain submitted for rabies testing.
 - The owner of the animal is responsible for all expenses incurred in connection with the quarantine. Refusal to comply with an ordered quarantine shall result in a fine not less than \$100 nor more than \$1000 or imprisoned not more than 60 days or both according to WI State Statute 95.21(10)(b).
5. Reports of the State Lab test results and copies of the Incident Reports are submitted to the Langlade County Health Department.
6. Follow-up of rabies treatment and case dispensation is completed by Langlade County Health Department.
7. When a potentially rabid stray animal has been brought to the Veterinary Clinic, expenses incurred for the quarantine or euthanasia and the preparation of the specimen to be submitted to the State Lab are the responsibility of the Langlade County Health Department. Expenses incurred for quarantine or euthanasia of a privately owned animal are the responsibility of the

owner. A typical rabies quarantine period is 10 days. Euthanasia at the end of this period may be performed if necessary.

8. In any case involving human exposure to rabies by a stray/wild animal the veterinarian will notify the Lantlade County Health Department Director for permission to submit prepared tissue to the State Lab of Hygiene under the Fee Exempt Status for rabies testing of a stray animal.

Holly Matucheski, Health Officer
Langlade County Health Dept.

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