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Wyoming State Veterinarian's  
**Rabies Prevention and Post Exposure Management Rules**

**CHAPTER 1**

**Section 1. Authority to create Rules.**

(a) Pursuant to the authority vested in the Wyoming State Veterinarian by virtue of W.S. §11-19-103(b) the following Rules are hereby promulgated.

**Section 2. Purpose of Rules.**

(a) The Wyoming State Veterinarian has determined that Rabies exists in domestic animals in the State of Wyoming. Rabies is an infectious and contagious disease among domestic animals. The purpose of these Rules is to protect the public health, domestic animals and their owners by establishing procedures for the Postexposure management of Rabies through coordinated efforts between the Wyoming Department of Health and Wyoming State Veterinarian. These rules are necessary to prevent the spread of Rabies in the State of Wyoming.

**Section 3. Severability.**

(a) If any portion of these rules is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the rules shall continue in effect.

**Section 4. Definitions Used in Rules.**

(a) For the purposes of implementing these Rules the following definitions exist:

(i) "Accredited Veterinarian" means an individual who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine and is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service in the state where he or she practices.

(ii) "Board" means the Wyoming Livestock Board, state agency 051, whose address is 2020 Carey Avenue-4th Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0051, (307) 777-7515.

(iii) "Canine" means a domesticated carnivorous mammal of the genus *Canis*.

(iv) "Euthanized" means the humane ending of an animal life by, or under the direction of, a Licensed Veterinarian done without physically damaging the brain.

(v) “Expose” means contact where there is potential for Rabies transmission to occur. This occurs anytime there is reasonable possibility of transmission of Rabies from an animal that may have Rabies as determined by public health authorities. Transmission may occur when saliva or nervous tissue is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in the skin, or into mucous membranes.

(vi) “Feline” means a domesticated carnivorous mammal of the genus *Felis*.

(vii) “Isolation” means placement of an animal in a cage or pen that prevents all direct contact with humans and other animals. The facilities shall be at a veterinary clinic or other facility approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian or his or her authorized representative.

(viii) “Licensed Veterinarian” means an individual who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state where they practice.

(ix) “Mustelid” means a domesticated carnivorous mammal of the genus *Mustela*.

(x) “Postexposure” means any point in time occurring after Exposure to Rabies.

(xi) “Quarantine” means an official document issued by the Wyoming State Veterinarian or his or her authorized representative that restricts the movement of specified animals and shall set forth requirements regarding their testing and Quarantine release. All associated costs shall be borne by the owner of the animal.

(xii) “Rabies” means an acute, rhabdoviral encephalomyelitis that can affect any mammal. Once clinical signs appear, it is invariably fatal. Transmission is by introduction of virus-laden saliva or nervous tissue into tissues usually by the bite of an infected animal.

(xiii) “Rabies Vaccination Certificate” means the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Rabies vaccination form (NASPHV Form #51) that can be obtained from vaccine manufacturers or a computer generated form containing the same information.

(xiv) “Vaccinated Animal” means any animal that has:

(A) Received an initial Rabies vaccine at least twenty-eight (28) days ago but not more than three hundred sixty-five (365) days ago according to the manufacturer’s written instructions, or

(B) Received a booster Rabies vaccine according to the manufacturer’s written instructions. A Rabies vaccine must be approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian prior to use.

(xv) “ Wyoming State Veterinarian” means an Accredited Veterinarian employed by the Board who serves as a veterinary official of the state authorized to supervise and perform the official animal health work of the State of Wyoming.

**Section 5. Local Rabies Control District Statutes and Animals Running at Large Statutes are Recognized.**

(a) Wyoming W.S. §11-31-211 et seq dealing with local Rabies control districts and W.S. §11-31-301 et seq statutes dealing with animals running at large, are recognized and considered in these rules.

(b) Nothing in these rules prohibit local jurisdictions from enacting their own regulations in accordance with 11-31-211 et seq.

**Section 6. Rabies Postexposure Management.**

(a) The management of Vaccinated Animals that have been Exposed to Rabies shall be:

(i) The animal shall be revaccinated against Rabies within forty-eight (48) hours by a Licensed Veterinarian, and

(ii) A Quarantine shall be issued by the Wyoming State Veterinarian or his or her authorized representative requiring the animal be kept under the owner’s immediate control and observed for forty-five (45) days.

(A) If during the forty-five (45) days, the animal shows signs of any disease it shall be examined by a Licensed Veterinarian. If the Licensed Veterinarian determines the clinical signs are consistent with Rabies, it shall be Euthanized and the brain shall be tested for Rabies at a laboratory approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian.

(B) After forty-five (45) days, the animal shall be examined by a Licensed Veterinarian for clinical signs of Rabies.

(I) If the animal is not showing any clinical signs of Rabies, and upon consultation between the Licensed Veterinarian and the Wyoming State Veterinarian, the animal shall be released from Quarantine.

(II) If the animal is showing clinical signs of Rabies, it shall be Euthanized and the brain shall be tested for Rabies at a laboratory approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian.

(b) The management of non-Rabies vaccinated Canines, Felines, Mustelids, or stray animals that have been Exposed to Rabies shall be:

(i) The animal shall be Euthanized immediately by a Licensed Veterinarian and the brain shall be tested for Rabies at a laboratory approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian.

(A) If the owner of the animal is unwilling to allow the animal to be Euthanized, the following shall be done:

(I) The animal shall be Quarantined and placed in Isolation for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days.

(1.) During the period of the Quarantine and Isolation, the animal shall be checked weekly by a Licensed Veterinarian for clinical signs of Rabies, and

(a.) If the animal shows clinical signs of Rabies, it shall be Euthanized and the brain shall be tested for Rabies at a laboratory approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian.

(2.) All associated costs shall be borne by the owner of the animal.

(II) If after one hundred fifty (150) days the animal is not showing any clinical signs of Rabies, and upon consultation between the Licensed Veterinarian and the Wyoming State Veterinarian, preparations shall be made to release the animal from Quarantine and Isolation in thirty (30) days.

(1.) The animal shall be vaccinated for Rabies thirty (30) days prior to release.

(c) The management of Vaccinated Animals, with expired Rabies Vaccination Certificates, that have been Exposed to Rabies shall be:

(i) Pursuant to W.S. §11-19-101 and W.S. §11-19-103, the Wyoming State Veterinarian in conjunction with a public health authority shall evaluate the situation and take appropriate action based on recognized medical science. This action may include, but not be limited to Quarantine, Isolation, Rabies vaccination or the animal being Euthanized.

(d) The management of other animals that have been Exposed to Rabies shall be:

(i) Pursuant to W. S. §11-19-101 and W.S. §11-19-103, the Wyoming State Veterinarian in conjunction with a public health authority and other appropriate officials shall evaluate the situation and take appropriate action based on recognized medical science. This action may include, but not be limited to: Quarantine, Isolation, Rabies vaccination, or the animal being Euthanized.

**Section 7. Management of Animals That Bite or Otherwise Possibly Expose Humans to Rabies.**

(a) The management of Vaccinated Animals that bite or otherwise possibly Expose humans to Rabies shall be:

(i) The animal shall be Quarantined and observed daily for ten (10) days by a Licensed Veterinarian or technician under the supervision and direction of a Licensed Veterinarian.

(A) If during this time, any signs of Rabies develop, the animal shall be Euthanized within twenty-four (24) hours, and the brain shall be tested for Rabies at a laboratory approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian.

(B) During this ten (10)-day Quarantine period, Rabies revaccination shall not occur.

(C) All associated costs shall be borne by the owner of the animal.

(b) The management of non-Rabies vaccinated Canines, Felines, Mustelids, or stray animals that bite or otherwise possibly Expose humans to Rabies shall be:

(i) The animal shall be Euthanized within twenty-four (24) hours by a Licensed Veterinarian and the brain shall be tested for Rabies at a laboratory approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian.

(c) The management of Vaccinated Animals with expired Rabies Vaccination Certificates that bite or otherwise possibly Expose humans to Rabies shall be:

(i) Pursuant to W.S. §11-19-101 and W.S. §11-19-103, the Wyoming State Veterinarian in conjunction with a public health authority shall evaluate the situation and take appropriate action based on recognized medical science. This action may include but not be limited to: Quarantine, Isolation, Rabies vaccination, or the animal being Euthanized.

(d) The management of other animals not vaccinated for Rabies that bite or otherwise possibly Expose humans to Rabies shall be:

(i) Pursuant to W. S. §11-19-101 and W. S. §11-19-103, the Wyoming State Veterinarian in conjunction with a public health authority and other appropriate officials shall evaluate the situation and take appropriate action based on recognized medical science. This action may include, but not be limited to Quarantine, Isolation, Rabies vaccination or the animal being Euthanized.