



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 21, 2009

Health Officer; please forward this information to:

Local Rabies Control Program(s)

TO: County/Public Health Veterinarians
Local Health Officers
Environmental Health Directors
County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM

The California Rabies Control Program is conducted in accordance with Sections 121575 through 121710 of the California Health and Safety Code. The Director of the Department of Public Health has declared all counties in California as "rabies areas" in 2010. This declaration is based on the ongoing cyclic nature of rabies in California wildlife, and the resulting threat of exposure to domestic animals, livestock, and humans. According to the California rabies control laws and regulations, the following programs require continued enforcement at the local jurisdiction:

- The owner of every dog over the age of four months shall ensure that their pet is currently vaccinated for rabies and licensed. Dogs less than four months of age shall be confined at home or kept under close leash supervision by the owner.
- Rabies control programs must be implemented to include an animal shelter system, animal bite reporting and investigations, stray animal control, animal rabies case investigation, quarantine of biting dogs and cats, quarantine of domestic animals potentially exposed to rabies, and other activities for the purpose of carrying out and enforcing the provisions of the California Rabies Control Program.
- The county and/or city shall provide or arrange for "actual cost" canine rabies vaccination clinics. The Department approved "actual cost" vaccination fee for 2010 is \$6.00 per dog.

In order to meet the requirements of the California Rabies Control Program, please forward the enclosed **2010 Statement of Enforcement of Local Rabies Control Activities** form to each municipality or jurisdiction in your county conducting the rabies

control program. In addition, please forward a blank copy of the enclosed **2009 Annual Report of Local Rabies Control Activities** report form (see excerpt below) to each of these jurisdictions for completion. This form requests information on animal control activities relating to both dogs and cats. Please discard all previous versions of the form and ensure that data is collected on the enclosed **2009** form version. The forms may also be downloaded at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/LocalRabiesControlActivities.aspx>.

Completion and submission of the local rabies control activities form is also required to enable municipal animal shelters to apply for state grant funds pursuant to Assembly Bill 2291 (2008) which created the Municipal Shelter Spay-Neuter Fund.

**California Code of Regulations, Title 17:
2606.4. Officially Declared Rabies Areas.**

(a) Administration and Enforcement. *For purposes of administration and enforcement of Section 121690, California Health and Safety Code, in officially declared rabies areas, the following shall apply:*

(4) Rabies Control Activities Reporting. *During such time as a county is under official declaration as a rabies area, each local official responsible for the various phases of local dog or rabies control within each city, county and city or cities, or county shall make quarterly rabies control activities reports to and on forms furnished by the Department. Such reports shall be submitted to the Department by the local officials responsible for the various phases of local dog or rabies control through the local health officer so as to reach the Department not later than 30 days following each quarter.*

Both forms should be completed, endorsed, and forwarded to the following address by **March 31, 2010**.

California Department of Public Health
Veterinary Public Health Section, MS 7308
P. O. Box 997377
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
Fax 916-552-9725
Vetph@cdph.ca.gov

Your assistance in ensuring that all local jurisdictions comply with the requirements of the California Rabies Control Program and distributing the enclosed forms is greatly appreciated. If you require additional information or clarification, please contact the Veterinary Public Health Section by telephone at (916) 552-9740.

Ben Sun, D.V.M., M.P.V.M.
State Public Health Veterinarian
Veterinary Public Health Section

Enclosures