

**ARTICLE XV**

**COMPULSORY ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION**

**15.1.0 – Declaration Of Policy**

It is hereby declared to be the health policy of the Rockland Health District to assure that all dogs, cats and ferrets within the County of Rockland receive compulsory anti-rabies vaccination.

**15.2.0 – Definition**

**15.2.1 Dog**

The term “**dog**” means all dogs within the County of Rockland, four months of age or older.

**15.2.2 Cat**

The term “**cat**” means all cats within the County of Rockland, four months of age or older.

**15.2.3 Ferret\***

The term “**ferret**” means all ferrets within the County of Rockland, four months of age or older.

\* added 6/16/04

**15.3.4 Owner\***

The term “**owner**” means any person keeping, harboring or having charge or control of, or permitting any dog, cat or domesticated ferret to remain on or be lodged or fed within such person’s house, yard or premises.

\* added 6/16/04

**15.3.0 – Exemptions**

The provisions of this Article shall not apply to:

15.3.1 dogs, cats and/or ferrets owned by a nonresident while passing through the County;

15.3.2 dogs, cats and/or ferrets brought into the County for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days if entered in any exhibition at any dog show therein and if confined and in immediate charge of the exhibitor;

**Rockland County Sanitary Code**

- 15.3.3 dogs, cats and/or ferrets actually confined to the premises of incorporated societies, devoted to the care or hospital treatment of lost, strayed or homeless animals;
- 15.3.4 dogs, cats and/or ferrets confined to the premises of public or private hospitals devoted to the treatment of sick animals;
- 15.3.5 dogs, cats and/or ferrets confined for the purposes of research to the premises of colleges or other educational or research institutions;
- 15.3.6 persons actually engaged in the business of breeding or raising dogs, cats and/or ferrets for profit and are so licensed as a Class A dealer under the Federal Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

**15.4.0 – Administering Vaccination**

All such vaccinations shall be conducted under the auspices of the Department of Health, however, at the owner's option, vaccinations may be performed by a duly licensed veterinarian.

**15.5.0 – Proof of Vaccination**

The owner of a dog, cat and/or ferret which is vaccinated shall be given a signed statement stating the following information:

- 15.5.1 name and address of the owner;
- 15.5.2 date or dates of the vaccination;
- 15.5.3 duration of the immunity;
- 15.5.4 manner of injection;
- 15.5.5 name of manufacturer;
- 15.5.6 lot number;
- 15.6.7 expiration date of the vaccination.

**15.6.0 – Enforcement Authority**

The owner of a dog, cat and/or ferret shall submit such dog or dogs, cat or cats and/or ferret or ferrets immediately for vaccination upon request by a:

- 15.6.1 dog control officer;
- 15.6.2 peace officer acting pursuant to his or her special duties;

**Rockland County Sanitary Code**

15.6.3 police officer;

15.6.4 health officer or representative of the Health Department.

**15.7.0 – Submission of Proof of Immunization**

The owner of a dog, cat and/or ferret shall provide proof of rabies immunization to the Department of Health upon the following events:

15.7.1 when the dog, cat and/or ferret is reported to have bitten or scratched a person;  
or

15.7.2 when the dog, cat and/or ferret is reported to have bitten or been bitten by other domestic or wild warm-blooded animals; or

15.7.3 when a representative of the Department of Health requests proof of rabies immunization.

**15.8.0 – Declaration of Policy**

The provisions of this Section shall not be deemed to prevent the operation of any other provision of Law for the control or prevention of rabies.

**15.9.0 – Effective Date**

The effective date of this Article is November 27, 1991.  
Revised: March 17, 1999, June 16, 2004.