

CHAPTER 98-178

House Bill No. 3115

An act relating to animals; amending s. 828.30, F.S.; providing for the rabies vaccination of ferrets; providing for quarantine according to rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 828.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, ~~and cats, and ferrets.~~—

(1) All dogs, ~~and cats, and ferrets~~ 4 months of age or older must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian against rabies with a United States Government-approved vaccine. The cost of vaccination must be borne by the animal's owner.

(2) A dog, ~~or cat, or ferret~~ is exempt from vaccination against rabies if a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and has certified in writing that at the time vaccination would endanger the animal's health because of its age, infirmity, disability, illness, or other medical considerations. An exempt animal must be vaccinated against rabies as soon as its health permits.

(3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate which must contain at least the following information:

- (a) The license number of the administering veterinarian.
- (b) The name, address, and phone number of the veterinarian and owner.
- (c) The date of vaccination.
- (d) The expiration date of the vaccination.
- (e) The species, age, sex, color, breed, weight, and name of the animal vaccinated.
- (f) The rabies vaccine manufacturer.
- (g) The vaccine lot number and expiration date.
- (h) The type and brand of vaccine used.
- (i) The route of administration of the vaccine.
- (j) The signature or signature stamp of the licensed veterinarian.

(4) Beginning March 1, 1999, each ferret vaccinated according to this section must be quarantined, when necessary, according to rules of the Department of Health.

(5)(4) Violation of this section is a civil infraction, punishable as provided in s. 828.27(2).

(6)(5) This section does not prohibit or limit municipalities or counties from enacting requirements similar to or more stringent than the provisions of this section for the implementation and enforcement of rabies-control ordinances.

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 1999.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 1998.