



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB0128

Introduced 1/17/2025, by Sen. Julie A. Morrison

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

510 ILCS 5/8

from Ch. 8, par. 358

Amends the Animal Control Act. In a provision regarding an exemption for rabies inoculation if a licensed veterinarian determines in writing that a rabies inoculation would compromise an animal's health, provides that the determination is valid for one year but may be annually renewed thereafter by a licensed veterinarian.

LRB104 07382 BDA 17422 b

1 AN ACT concerning animals.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Animal Control Act is amended by changing
5 Section 8 as follows:

6 (510 ILCS 5/8) (from Ch. 8, par. 358)

7 Sec. 8. Rabies inoculation.

8 (a) Every owner of a dog 4 months or more of age shall have
9 each dog inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian.
10 Every dog shall have a second rabies vaccination within one
11 year of the first. Terms of subsequent vaccine administration
12 and duration of immunity must be in compliance with USDA
13 licenses of vaccines used.

14 (b) Every owner of a cat that is a companion animal and is
15 4 months or more of age shall have each cat inoculated against
16 rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Every cat that is a
17 companion animal shall have a second rabies vaccination within
18 one year of the first. Terms of subsequent vaccine
19 administration and duration of immunity must be in compliance
20 with USDA licenses of vaccines used. This subsection (b) does
21 not apply to feral cats; however, if a feral cat is presented
22 to a licensed veterinarian for sterilization, the feral cat
23 shall be inoculated against rabies, unless the person

1 presenting the feral cat for care provides an inoculation
2 certificate showing that the feral cat has been inoculated
3 against rabies, and the cost of the inoculation shall be paid
4 by the person presenting the feral cat to a licensed
5 veterinarian for care.

6 (c) A veterinarian immunizing a dog, cat, or ferret
7 against rabies shall provide the Administrator of the county
8 in which the dog, cat, or ferret resides with a certificate of
9 immunization. Evidence of such rabies inoculation shall be
10 entered on a certificate the form of which shall be approved by
11 the Board and which shall contain the microchip number of the
12 dog, cat, or ferret if it has one and which shall be signed by
13 the licensed veterinarian administering the vaccine. Only one
14 dog, cat, or ferret shall be included on each certificate.

15 (d) Veterinarians who inoculate a dog shall procure from
16 the County Animal Control in the county where their office is
17 located serially numbered tags, one to be issued with each
18 inoculation certificate. The Board shall cause a rabies
19 inoculation tag to be issued, at a fee established by the Board
20 for each dog inoculated against rabies.

21 (e) A veterinarian who inoculates a cat that is a
22 companion animal shall issue an inoculation certificate to the
23 owner which shall comply with any registration requirements
24 adopted by the county under Section 3 of this Act. The owner
25 shall pay any fee imposed by the county under Section 3 of this
26 Act. A veterinarian who inoculates a feral cat shall issue an

1 inoculation certificate to the person who presented the feral
2 cat for veterinary care. The registration requirements or any
3 fee imposed by the county under Section 3 of this Act shall not
4 apply to feral cats.

5 (f) Rabies vaccine for use on animals shall be sold or
6 distributed only to and used only by licensed veterinarians.
7 Such rabies vaccine shall be licensed by the United States
8 Department of Agriculture.

9 (g) If a licensed veterinarian determines in writing that
10 a rabies inoculation would compromise an animal's health, then
11 the animal shall be exempt from the rabies inoculation
12 requirement for the period described in this subsection;
13 however, the owner is still responsible for the tag fees. A
14 determination under this subsection is valid for one year but
15 may be annually renewed thereafter by a licensed veterinarian.

16 (h) If a bite occurs from an exempt animal, the exempt
17 animal shall be treated as an unvaccinated animal. If the
18 animal is exempt, the animal shall be re-examined by a
19 licensed veterinarian on no less than an annual basis and be
20 vaccinated against rabies as soon as the animal's health
21 permits.

22 (Source: P.A. 101-299, eff. 1-1-20.)