

**Local Law No.        /        of the year 2013**

**Town of Andes - County of Delaware**

**A Local Law to regulate the reporting of rabies exposure and the procedures for protecting the public**

**Be it Enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Andes, Delaware County, New York, as follows:**

The Town of Andes wishes to protect its citizens from potential injury and disease by regulating the reporting and disposition of suspected rabid animals.

**1. Reporting Incidents**

It shall be the duty of the Town Dog Control officer and of other persons with such knowledge to report to the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office the full name, address and telephone number of any person who has been scratched or bitten by any animal suspected of having rabies, as well as reporting all pertinent facts relating to such exposure. Such notification shall occur prior to starting rabies post exposure prophylaxis, except in those cases where prior notification would compromise the health of the patient.

**2. Reporting Form**

The Town of Andes hereby adopts a standard reporting form for such incidents and such forms shall be available at Town Hall, on the Town website and with the Town Dog Control Officer.

**3. Persons Reporting**

(a) It shall be the duty of a parent to notify the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office if the exposed person is a minor child. If the exposed person is an adult, such person shall himself make the report, or if incapacitated, it shall be made by whomever is caring for such person.

(b) It shall be the duty of every health care provider who has cause to believe that contact has occurred with a rabid animal or animal suspected of being rabid and who believes that rabies post exposure prophylaxis is required to notify the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office of the initiation of such treatment.

(c ) It shall be the duty of every person having knowledge of the existence of any animal exhibiting clinical signs suggestive of rabies to report immediately to the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office the existence of such animal, the place where seen, the owner's name, if known and the signs of infection suggesting rabies.

**4. Confinement of the Animal**

(a) Whenever, in accordance with this local law, the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office is notified of a person who has been exposed to any dog, cat, ferret or domestic livestock, vaccinated or not, the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office may cause the animal to be confined for ten days. Any costs associated with this confinement shall be at the expense of the animal's owner. The Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office may, subject to the approval of the owner, if known, cause the animal to be destroyed immediately and have the animal's head submitted to a laboratory approved by NY State. A dog, cat, ferret or domestic livestock whose ownership cannot be determined may be confined for 10 days, under the direction of the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office. Any costs associated with this confinement shall be an expense of the party seeking this confinement. Confinement shall be reasonable and subject to standard animal care conditions. If such conditions cannot be met, an animal whose owner cannot be found may be destroyed immediately.

(b) Should the confined animal develop signs of rabies within the 10 days, it shall be immediately destroyed and an appropriate specimen shall be submitted to an approved NYS laboratory.

**5. Disposition of other animals**

(a) Bats and any animal other than a dog, cat, ferret or domestic livestock suspected of being rabid shall not be held for observation and shall be destroyed immediately, without injury to the head, and may be submitted upon approval of the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office to a NYS approved laboratory.

(b) Any mammalian animal which has been bitten or scratched or in other direct contact with a known rabid animal or an animal suspected by the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office of being rabid shall be destroyed unless it shall be isolated for a period of six months either in a veterinary hospital or a locked enclosure approved by the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office from which it is not possible to escape. Such quarantine shall meet NYS standards, but also be reasonably assured. Any such animal which has a current vaccination, prior to exposure, may remain at large or under owner immediate control, following a booster injection of approved vaccine.

(c) Any animal under such restrictions may not leave the local health district prior to the prescribed isolation period, except by written permission of the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office.

(d) Upon the death of any animal which has or is suspected of having rabies, the local health authority may cause the head of such animal to be sent to an NYS approved laboratory, along with a history of the incident.

## **6. Action upon confirmation of the presence of rabies**

Whenever the disease rabies is confirmed by the NYS approved laboratory, the Town shall notify its residents within 30 days of the confirmation, that all cats, three months and older, residing in the Town who are not then actively immunized against rabies must be vaccinated. At the time of vaccination, the veterinarian responsible for the procedure shall give to the owner a signed statement to include the name and address of the owner, date or dates of vaccination, the type of vaccine used and its duration of immunity, amount and manner of injection, name of manufacturer, lot number and expiration date of the vaccine, or a written statement verifying that the cat is exempt because such vaccination would adversely affect the health of the cat. Compulsory vaccination shall remain in effect until one year since the last confirmed case of rabies in the Town.

## **7. Presentation of documentation**

Following such mandatory vaccination order, proof of vaccination must be shown by the owner to the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office whenever a cat bites a person. If the owner is unable to show such documentation, the Delaware County Public Health Nursing Office shall confine the animal as provided in Section 4(a) above.

This act shall take effect upon the filing with the NYS Office of the Secretary of State.