ESSENTIAL INFORMATION
March 2018

State Rabies Vaccination Laws for Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets
Prepared by CDC Public Health Law Program

SUMMARY

This map includes data on state-level pre-exposure rabies vaccination laws for domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets across the United States, as well as data on those laws referencing the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control.

ABOUT RABIES VACCINATION LAWS & THE DATA

Rabies is a fatal virus that attacks the central nervous system. It is most commonly transmitted when a rabid animal bites another animal or person. Without prophylactic measures, the infection will result in death within days of onset.

Before 1960, rabies was a persistent problem among domestic animals, such as dogs, cats, and ferrets. Today, most rabies cases occur in the wild. However, rabies transmission to domestic animals, common house pets, and humans is still a reality. Fortunately, rabies is preventable in both humans and animals. Public health professionals and lawmakers alike have employed various strategies, such as vaccination mandates and animal import regulations to prevent the spread of the disease. As a result of successful prevention strategies, the United States has witnessed a dramatic decline in human rabies-related cases and deaths: the number has fallen from 100 deaths per year in the early 1900s to three or fewer per year.

For more information please visit the CDC’s Rabies website. For the most current rabies vaccination recommendations please visit the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians’ website to review the 2016 Compendia and Recommendations.

Disclaimer: This dataset contains only state level laws please check with your local jurisdiction with questions about vaccination requirements in your city or county.

NAVIGATING THE DATA

There are two ways to navigate the data using the interactive map: by selecting a state from the map or by selecting criteria that detail the characteristics of the laws.

Option 1 – State by state: Using the map, click on the state of interest. A table will appear with details about that state’s law.

Option 2 – Multiple states: To view the law across multiple states, you may use the questions to filter through various criteria. Clicking on a question will expand the answers/criteria for you to
select. In some cases, secondary questions may appear after answering one of the primary questions — these secondary questions dig deeper into the detail of that specific area of the law. The map will change based on the criteria you select.

The primary questions addressed are:
1. Does the state have pre-exposure rabies vaccination laws for domestic dogs, cats, or ferrets?
2. Does the state have pre-exposure rabies vaccination laws for domestic dogs, cats, or ferrets entering the state?
3. Does the state’s law reference any version of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (Compendium)?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Map and Profile Legend There are a few symbols to be aware of in both Map and Profiles display modes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>Section Symbol – Clicking this symbol will open a window that displays citations to the law that correspond to the question and answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶️</td>
<td>Caution Note – Clicking on this symbol will open a small window that displays text that describes important caveats about the question and answer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATASET RESOURCES

Each dataset homepage includes the following resources available for download:

- **Data**: The Data file exports in CSV. format and may contain two tabs. The “Statistical Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset, displayed as values defined in the accompanying Codebook. The “Summary Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset in text form, as well as the accompanying citations and any caution notes that may be included. Note: if there is only one tab available for download it will be the “Statistical Data” as described above.
- **Codebook**: The Codebook defines all of the coded variables in the dataset. The Codebook lists the question, question type, variable name, variable value and variable label. The Codebook should be used in conjunction with the Statistical Data extract.
- **Research Protocol**: The Research Protocol is a comprehensive document that outlines the entire methodology of the project, including the scope, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data collection methods, definitions, coding scheme decisions, as well as the quality control process.
- **Summary Report**: The Summary Report provides a snapshot of important findings from the dataset.
Essential Information for State Rabies Vaccination Laws – March 2018

This product was developed by Dawn Pepin, JD, MPH, Public Health Analyst, Cherokee Nation Assurance Contractor, Public Health Law Program with the assistance of Jennifer Meier, MPH, Lauren Tonti, JD, MPH, and Matthew Penn, JD, MLIS, Director, Public Health Law Program (PHLP) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support. PHLP provides technical assistance and public health law resources to advance the use of law as a public health tool. PHLP cannot provide legal advice on any issue and cannot represent any individual or entity in any matter. PHLP recommends seeking the advice of an attorney or other qualified professional with questions regarding the application of law to a specific circumstance.

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iii Id.