

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 927

Short Title: Rabies Vaccine/Dog Owner Admin.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Hardy; Baker, Brawley, Brown, Capps, Carpenter, Clary, Culp, Davis, Eddins, Gardner, Gulley, Hall, Hiatt, Justus, Kiser, Morris, Owens, Reynolds, Sexton, Starnes, and G. Wilson.

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Referred to: Judiciary I.

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April 14, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN DOG OWNERS TO ADMINISTER THE  
RABIES VACCINE TO THEIR OWN DOGS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 130A-185 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 130A-185. Vaccination of all dogs and cats.**

(a) The owner of every dog and cat over four months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies. The time or times of vaccination shall be established by the Commission. Except as otherwise provided in this section, Rabies-rabies vaccine shall be administered only by a licensed veterinarian or by a certified rabies vaccinator.

(b) Only animal rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and approved by the Commission shall be used on animals in this State.

(c) A person who is not a veterinarian or certified rabies vaccinator may administer the rabies vaccine to his or her own dogs only under the following conditions:

(1) The person owns four or more dogs;

(2) The State Public Health Veterinarian has certified in writing that the person has demonstrated a knowledge and procedure acceptable for the administration of rabies vaccine to animals;

- 1           (3) The rabies vaccine is administered to each dog within 15 days of  
2 purchase of the vaccine; and
- 3           (4) A rabies certificate and rabies tag are obtained from the local health  
4 director within 15 days of administration of the rabies vaccine.
- 5       (d) In order to obtain the rabies certificate and rabies vaccination tag required  
6 under this Part, an applicant for vaccination authority must provide the following to the  
7 local health director:
- 8           (1) Affidavit or other written verification signed by the applicant, under  
9 penalty of perjury, stating that:
- 10           a. The applicant is the owner of the dogs vaccinated,  
11           b. The applicant has administered the rabies vaccine to each of the  
12 dogs for which a certificate and tag are requested, and  
13           c. The date the vaccine was administered to each dog;
- 14           (2) Proof of purchase of the rabies vaccine, including the date of purchase;  
15 and
- 16           (3) A copy of the certification required under subsection (c)(2) of this  
17 section.

18       Upon verification of compliance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the local  
19 health director shall issue to the applicant the rabies certificate and rabies tag for each  
20 dog vaccinated. The fee charged to applicants for the tag, links, and rivets obtained from  
21 the Department shall not exceed one dollar per dog."

22       Section 2. G.S. 130A-186 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 130A-186. Appointment and certification of certified rabies ~~vaccinator.~~**  
24 **vaccinator; certification of others authorized to administer rabies.**

25       In those counties where licensed veterinarians are not available to participate in all  
26 scheduled county rabies control clinics, the local health director shall appoint one or more  
27 persons for the purpose of administering rabies vaccine to animals in that county.  
28 Whether or not licensed veterinarians are available, the local health director may appoint  
29 one or more persons for the purpose of administering rabies vaccine to animals in their  
30 county and these persons will make themselves available to participate in the county  
31 rabies control program. The State Public Health Veterinarian shall provide at least four  
32 hours of training to those persons appointed by the local health director to administer  
33 rabies ~~vaccine.~~ vaccine and to applicants for authorization to administer the rabies vaccine  
34 to their own dogs pursuant to G.S. 130A-185(c). The Department may charge a fee not to  
35 exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) to each applicant under G.S. 130A-185(c) for training and  
36 certification provided to the applicant. Upon satisfactory completion of the training, the  
37 State Public Health Veterinarian shall certify in writing that the appointee or applicant  
38 under G.S. 130A-185(c) has demonstrated a knowledge and procedure acceptable for the  
39 administration of rabies vaccine to animals. A certified rabies vaccinator shall be  
40 authorized to administer rabies vaccine to animals in the county until the appointment by  
41 the local health director has been terminated."

42       Section 3. G.S. 130A-189 reads as rewritten:

43 **"§ 130A-189. Rabies vaccination certificates.**

1 A licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator who administers rabies vaccine  
2 to a dog or ~~eat~~-cat, or a local health director who has authorized rabies vaccination under  
3 G.S. 130A-185(c), shall complete a three-copy rabies vaccination certificate. The  
4 original rabies vaccination certificate shall be given to the owner of each dog or cat that  
5 receives rabies vaccine. One copy of the rabies vaccination certificate shall be retained  
6 by the licensed ~~veterinarian or the~~-veterinarian, certified rabies ~~vaccinator~~-vaccinator, or  
7 local health director. The other copy shall be given to the county agency responsible for  
8 animal control, provided the information given to the county agency shall not be used for  
9 commercial purposes."

10 Section 4. G.S. 130A-190 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 130A-190. Rabies vaccination tags.**

12 A licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator who administers rabies vaccine  
13 to a dog or ~~eat~~-cat, or a local health director who has authorized rabies vaccination under  
14 G.S. 130A-185(c), shall issue a rabies vaccination tag to the owner of the animal. The  
15 rabies vaccination tag shall show the year issued, a vaccination number, the words 'North  
16 Carolina' or the initials 'N.C.' and the words 'rabies vaccine.' Dogs and cats shall wear  
17 rabies vaccination tags at all times. However, cats may be exempted from wearing the  
18 tags by local ordinance. Rabies vaccination tags, links and rivets may be obtained from  
19 the Department. The Secretary is authorized to establish by rule a fee for the rabies tags,  
20 links and rivets. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost of the rabies tags, links and  
21 rivets, plus transportation costs."

22 Section 5. G.S. 130A-191 reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 130A-191. Possession and distribution of rabies vaccine.**

24 It shall be unlawful for persons other than licensed veterinarians, certified rabies  
25 ~~vaccinators and~~-vaccinators, persons engaged in the distribution of rabies ~~vaccine~~-vaccine,  
26 and persons authorized to administer rabies vaccine under G.S. 130A-185(c), to possess  
27 rabies vaccine. Persons engaged in the distribution of vaccines may distribute, sell and  
28 offer to sell rabies vaccine only to licensed ~~veterinarians and~~-veterinarians, certified rabies  
29 ~~vaccinators~~-vaccinators, and persons authorized to administer rabies vaccine under G.S.  
30 130A-185(c)."

31 Section 6. This act becomes effective October 1, 1997.