



## SENATE BILL 74: Update Rabies Control Laws.

2017-2018 General Assembly

---

<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	July 18, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jason Moran-Bates Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2017-106		

---

**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2017-106 requires local health directors to use the guidelines issued by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians when deciding the proper control measures for a dog, cat, or ferret that has been exposed to rabies.*

*This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** S.L. 2017-106 requires local health directors to follow the most current guidelines issued by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians when determining the proper control measures for a dog, cat, or ferret exposed to rabies.

The most recent guidelines, issued March 1, 2016,<sup>1</sup> state the proper control measures are:

- Animals with a current vaccine and animals that are overdue for a vaccine, but have documentation of previous vaccinations, should receive veterinary care, a rabies booster shot, and be kept under their owner's observation for 45 days.
- Unvaccinated animals should be euthanized; however, if the owner refuses to do so, they should receive immediate veterinary care and a rabies shot. Dogs and cats must be quarantined for four months, and ferrets must be quarantined for six months.
- Animals that are overdue for a vaccination and do not have any documentation of previous vaccinations can be treated as unvaccinated or undergo a prospective serological monitoring protocol to determine if the animal is demonstrating an adequate immune response.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/pdf/10.2460/javma.248.5.505>

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578