

## CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### §202. VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH AND ZONOTIC DISEASE

#### Subchapter A. PURPOSE and DEFINITIONS

##### 202.1 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this section is to provide for the protection of the public's health by requiring in the manner prescribed herein: The reporting of certain animal diseases; the reporting of animal bites; the examination, confinement, quarantine and isolation of affected and/or offending animals; and other measures which are hereby promulgated. The pertinent sections and paragraphs of Chapter 200. Subchapter F, as they relate to veterinary public health and zoonotic diseases, are incorporated herein by reference.

##### 202.2 DEFINITIONS.

**202.2.1.** The Act - as in §200.5 of these Rules and Regulations.

**202.2.2. At-large** - This term is used herein to describe a situation of any domestic animal running or roaming free and unrestrained, outside of its owner's premises.

**202.2.3. Confinement** - the physical securing of an animal within the limits of its owner's residence; or, if taken outside the residence limits, the animal is secured by a collar/harness and leash/lead and handled by a responsible person capable of controlling the animal; during the period of official confinement animals shall be segregated from contact with other animals or people other than the owner or his agent.

**202.2.4. Dangerous** - Risky, hazardous, likely to cause harm.

**202.2.5. Domestic animal** - Animals which normally live with or near humans and which are cared for by those humans (including but not limited to, dog, cat, cow, horse). This definition excludes wild animals even though they may be believed to be "domesticated".

**202.2.6. Euthanasia** - Humane destruction of an animal utilizing acceptable drugs and technique.

**202.2.7. Exotic** - of foreign origin; not native to the region.

**202.2.8. High Risk Animal** - Animals which are recognized as being high risk with regard to the transmission of rabies (including, but not limited to, wolf, bat, skunk, fox, raccoon, bobcat.)

**202.2.9. Isolation** - as in §200.5 of these Rules and Regulations.

**202.2.10. Menagerie** - Any collection of wild or unusual animals, kept in cages or other enclosures, for exhibition or other purposes.

**202.2.11. Owner** - Any person owning or having custody of an animal while it is residing in Chester County. In cases of disputed ownership, the principal occupant or proprietor of the premises in which the animal is residing shall be considered the owner of the animal. Any animal harbored or allowed about the premises or cared for longer than 48 hours shall be considered owned by the person(s), firm, or corporation having a right of property.

**202.2.12. Petting Zoo** - Any collection of one or more domestic and/or wild animals, as defined in these regulations, where direct contact with the animals by the public is permitted for recreational, entertainment, educational or other purposes, and where such contact may reasonably be seen to result in potential exposure to the animals' bodily fluids or excreta.

**202.2.13. Poison** - A substance which, on ingestion, inhalation, absorption, application, injection, or development within the body, in relatively small amounts, produces injury to the body cells or tissues by its physical and/or chemical action(s).

**202.2.14. Quarantine** - as in §200.5 of these Rules and Regulations

**202.2.15. Rabies Immunization** - for public health purposes means the vaccination of domestic animals with a vaccine approved by and administered in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the manufacturer of the vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Association of Public Health Veterinarians. This shall in no way be deemed contradictory to, nor shall it preclude, the economically permissible program of non-professional administration of such vaccines as permitted by the Commonwealth's Department of Agriculture under 7 PA "Code §16.61 et seq. (Subchapter D) provided that the conditions specified in 7 PA Code §16.64 and 16.65 shall prevail in any situation involving a threat to the public health and/or any residents of the County of Chester.

**202.2.16. Segregation** - as in §200.5 of these Rules and Regulations

**202.2.17. Venom** - A poisonous or toxic substance normally secreted by a serpent, insect or other animal.

**202.2.18. Veterinarian** - A graduate of an approved School of Veterinary Medicine, licensed to practice the science and art of Veterinary Medicine by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**202.2.19. Wild animal** - Those animals which normally inhabit and/or are indigenous to an area in a state of nature not under the control of man. This definition includes all such animals even though they be subsequently "domesticated".

**202.2.20. Zoonotic Disease (Zoonosis)** - A disease that is normally seen or inherent\_in

animals but is capable of being transmitted secondarily to people.

## **SUBCHAPTER B. REQUIREMENTS**

### **202.3 REPORTING.**

**202.3.1.** All animal bites of humans are reportable to the Chester County Health Department as described in §200.6 and §200.46.

**202.3.2.** It shall be the responsibility of any person having knowledge of any zoonotic disease, suspected or diagnosed in an animal, to report said condition to the Department.

### **202.4 CONFINEMENT OF BITING ANIMAL.**

**202.4.1.** Any warm blooded domestic animal which has bitten or which is suspected of having bitten any person shall be confined for a period of not less than 10 days, or longer at the discretion of the Director, and in a manner approved by the Department. Offending animal/animals shall be examined by a licensed Veterinarian, at the owner's expense, and shall be certified as to health status by said Veterinarian before release from confinement by the Department.

**202.4.2.** The Department may delegate enforcement of Subsection (1) above, to local enforcement officers or dog/animal control officers.

### **202.5 DISCRETIONARY EUTHANASIA AND TESTING**

**202.5.1.** Any warm-blooded animal, which has bitten a person shall be tested for rabies if the owner of said animal elects euthanasia as opposed to confinement.

### **202.6 MANDATORY EUTHANASIA AND TESTING**

**202.6.1.** If during the official confinement period (§202.4) said animal exhibits a change in behavior or health, compatible with a diagnosis of rabies, the owner and the veterinarian shall report same to the Department and shall cause the animal to be euthanized and tested for rabies.

**202.6.2.** Wild and exotic animals which have bitten humans shall be euthanized whenever possible and the brain of said animal sent to a state approved laboratory for rabies examination.

**202.6.3.** Any warm-blooded animal exhibiting signs and symptoms compatible with rabies infection may be ordered euthanized by the Director for the purpose of laboratory examination for rabies.

### **202.7 IMPORTATION AND DISPOSITION OF HIGH RISK ANIMALS**

**202.7.1.** Animals which are recognized as high risk with regard to the transmission of rabies, including but not limited to raccoons, foxes, bats, and skunks, shall not be sold, or in any way distributed or offered for sale or distribution within Chester County.

**202.7.2.** Animals which are recognized as high risk shall not be imported or housed in Chester County except for authorized zoos, exhibitions and for research institutions utilizing said animals.

**202.7.3.** No high risk wild animal shall be imported into nor housed within Chester County for any purpose whatever, without first obtaining permission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

## **202.8 MANDATORY RABIES VACCINATION**

**202.8.1.** As prescribed by State Law, all dogs three months of age or older, and which reside in Chester County for a period of ten (10) days or more are required to be immunized against rabies by a licensed Veterinarian.

**202.8.2.** All cats three months of age or older residing in Chester County for a period of ten (10) days or more shall be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed Veterinarian and as prescribed by State Law.

**202.8.3.** All dogs and cats three months of age or older which are imported into Chester County shall be appropriately immunized by a licensed Veterinarian at least two weeks prior to importation into the county. Said animals shall be accompanied by a health certificate which certifies health status of said animal by a licensed veterinarian.

## **202.9 EMERGENCY PROVISIONS**

**202.9.1.** Declaration of Rabies Infested Areas: Whenever the Director shall have evidence, and/or reasonable suspicion to believe that an area is infested with terrestrial (land-animal) rabies, he shall be empowered to declare said area a "Rabies Infested Area", and to promulgate the presumptive boundaries of said infested area.

## **202.10 UNLAWFUL DISPOSITION OF BITING ANIMALS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to release, or allow to escape, or to hide, or to destroy, permit or order to be destroyed, any animal susceptible to rabies, which has bitten or in anyway potentially exposed, a human being to rabies until the existence and/or presence of rabies has been excluded to the satisfaction of the attending Veterinarian and this Department.

## **SUBCHAPTER C. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

## **202.11 PSITTACOSIS - RECORDS OF THE SALE, PURCHASE OR EXCHANGE OF PSITTACINE BIRDS.**

**202.11.1.** Any and all dealers who purchase, sell, exchange, or give away any bird of the psittacine family shall keep a record for a period of two years for each such transaction. This record shall include the number and types of birds purchased, sold, exchanged, or given away, the date of the transaction, and the name and address of the person from whom purchased, to whom sold or given away, or with whom exchanged. All records shall be available for official inspection at reasonable times.

(Cross Reference - This section cited in 28 Pa. Code §27.130 (relating to psittacosis [Ornithosis]); and §27.184 (relating to violation of regulations).

**202.11.2.** Procurement of birds where psittacosis exists - No person who sells, exchanges, gives away, or otherwise disposes of psittacine birds shall procure such birds from any source where psittacosis is known to exist.

(Cross Reference - This section cited in 28 Pa. Code §27.130 (relating to psittacosis [Ornithosis]); and §27.184 (relating to violation of regulations).

**202.11.3.** Occurrence of psittacosis - The occurrence of a case of psittacosis in the human or avian family shall be cause for the health authorities of competent jurisdiction to make an epidemiologic investigation to determine the source of infection.

**202.11.4.** Psittacine birds or other birds found on the same premises where there is a diagnosed case of human or avian psittacosis shall be quarantined or destroyed as prescribed by the health authorities. Aviaries, pet shops, or other sources from which such birds were procured shall be quarantined until it can be determined that psittacosis does not exist in such premises. If the quarantine is not maintained, by those responsible to do so, the health authorities may seize and destroy the quarantined bird or birds for which quarantine was ordered. Bodies of birds destroyed shall be disposed of in a manner which shall preclude and prevent insofar as possible any and all dissemination of the infecting organisms in question.

(Cross Reference - This section cited in 28 Pa. Code §27.130 (relating to psittacosis [Ornithosis]); and §27.184 (relating to violation of regulations).

**202.11.5.** Violation of regulations - The act provides that inspection and prosecution for violation of §§27.181 - 27.183 of this title (relating to psittacosis) may be made or brought by any agent of the health authorities or agent of any agency authorized by the Department to investigate and prosecute such violations. The investigation or prosecution shall be in accordance with the provisions of the act.

(Cross Reference - This section cited in 28 Pa. Code §27.130 (relating to psittacosis [Ornithosis]).

**202.11.6.** For purposes of these regulations, the psittacine family of birds shall be considered as including, but not limited to: parrots, budgies, parakeets, etc.

## **202.12 IMPORTATION AND SALE OF LIVE TURTLES**

No live turtles shall be sold or in any way distributed or offered for sale or distribution within this Commonwealth on or after July 1, 1972, except where the seller or distributor of the turtles shall warrant to the satisfaction of the Department that each shipment of turtles is free from Salmonella and/or Arizona contamination. The Pennsylvania Department of Health in its discretion, may waive the requirements of this section for live turtles sold or distributed within this Commonwealth for the purposes of research, other zoological purposes, or for food.

## **202.13 PETTING ZOOS AND SIMILAR COLLECTIONS OF ANIMALS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

**202.13.1.** Every such petting zoo, or similar collection of animals, where close personal contact is allowed between the animals and the members of the public, shall conform to the following requirements/conditions, as a minimum:

**202.13.1.1** Any wild or non-domestic animals must meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

**202.13.1.2.** Any domestic or farm animals must meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

**202.13.1.3.** Any and all such animals, birds, reptiles or mammals, shall be under the care of a Pennsylvania-licensed Veterinarian, and/or shall meet the requirements of the local humane agency having local jurisdiction over such matters.

**202.13.1.4.** In all petting zoos and similar places appropriate signage/notice shall be placed in the immediate area, plainly visible to all visitors, advising them that the potential exists for contact with animal excreta or germs/pathogens, and directing them to thoroughly wash their hands after such contact and before eating or touching their hands to their eyes, nose or mouth. Alternatively, clearly legible handouts (pamphlets, flyers) carrying the same basic prevention message, shall be distributed upon admission to every parent, guardian, teacher, or other competent responsible adult visiting the facility.

**202.13.1.5.** Within the premises in question appropriate handwashing facilities shall be made available nearby, shall be made known to the public and shall be maintained in an adequate and hygienic manner, for the use of said visitors as well as any facility staff members.

CERTIFICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNTY OF CHESTER ss

I, John P. Maher, M.D., Secretary of the Chester County Board of Health, hereby do certify the within to be a true and correct copy. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this      day of

John P. Maher, M.D., M.P.H.

SEAL

Amended effective the close of business (4:30 p.m.) July 13, 2001