

Dawson County Animal Control Ordinance

Chapter 14

ARTICLE III. RABIES CONTROL

Sec. 14-60. Definitions.

Definitions as used in Article III are as follows:

Board means Dawson County Board of Health, State of Georgia.

Certificate shall mean a certificate of vaccination on a form furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Department means the department of human resources, State of Georgia.

Director means the chief executive of the county board as defined in O.C.G.A. § 31-3-11 or in his absence, subject to approval of the board, a member of said board appointed by the chairman for the purposes enumerated herein.

Dog shall mean a dog, of either sex, vaccinated or not vaccinated against rabies.

Health department means the Dawson County Health Department or in the absence of a functioning health department, the Dawson County Board of Health.

Owner shall mean any person having a right of property in a dog, or any person who permits a dog to remain on his premises.

Person shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, municipality, county, society, or association.

Rabies control fee shall mean that surcharge (fee) authorized by the State Health Code and levied by the county of residence at the time of rabies immunization of a pet animal in a private or public clinic. This fee is to be collected by the veterinarian and forwarded to the treasurer of the county of the animal owner's residence. The "rabies control fee" is not to be confused with any fees associated with licensing or registering pet animals, or the fee that shall be charged by the veterinarian for performing the vaccination.

Rabies vaccination tag shall mean a tag furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and which tag shall be worn by the vaccinated dog.

Vaccinate, inoculate shall mean the injection of a specified dose of antirabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Biologics Control Section license number approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Vaccine means an injectable material containing killed or attenuated rabies virus, licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Biologics Section, and approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Vaccine used for the purpose of this rule shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the purchase label. Outdated vaccine shall not be used.

Veterinarian shall mean any person who holds a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

Sec. 14-61. Legal authority.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Dawson County Board of Health under O.C.G.A. § 31-3-2 et seq., the Dawson County Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County adopt the following rules and regulations for the control of rabies within the County of Dawson, and the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County hereby enacts the following rules and regulations as an ordinance of Dawson County.

Sec. 14-62. Purpose.

To prescribe rules for the prevention and control of rabies within Dawson County by providing for the vaccination, tagging, certification of dogs, the confinement of dogs and other animals, to designate Dawson County's rabies control officer, collection of rabies control fees, and for other purposes.

Sec. 14-63. Rabies control officer.

(a) The rabies control officer shall be the animal control officer or the Dawson County Health Department.

(b) Duties of the rabies control officer will include:

- (1) Investigate and maintain a record of animal bites in Dawson County.
- (2) Provide for proper confinement of an animal involved in a bite; or if the animal is dead or killed, preparation and submission of the head for laboratory examination.
- (3) Enforce proper disposition of animals exposed to known rabid animals.
- (4) Provide stray animal pickup service.
- (5) Assist in rabies immunization clinics.
- (6) The duties as stated in the rabies control regulations.

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Sec. 14-64. State Rabies Vaccination Tag; Dawson County license tag required for dogs.

- A. Every dog or cat three months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. Dogs and cats will be revaccinated one year later. When dogs or cats one year of age or older are vaccinated with vaccines accepted by the state, county or department for providing a three-year duration of immunity, boosters will be required every three years.
- B. At the time a dog or cat is vaccinated for rabies a Dawson County license form will be filled out by the veterinarian. This form will contain the name of the owner, address, breed, sex and color of each animal and any other descriptive data. The rabies tag will also serve as the Dawson County license tag. The veterinarian will issue each cat or dog owner a copy of the Dawson County License for their dog or cat.
- C. The license will be initially issued when the animal is vaccinated against rabies and renewed when the animal is re-vaccinated for rabies or receives a booster shot annually thereof.
- D. Each license under this code section shall not be transferable from one animal to another or from one owner to another. It shall be unlawful for any person to attach a license/vaccination tag to an animal for which it was not issued.
- E. In the event that the owner of an animal receives veterinarian care from an office outside of Dawson County, the owner may supply the required information directly to the animal control officer at the Dawson County Sheriff's Office and obtain their Dawson County License, during normal business hours. In the event that an owner does obtain the license at the Sheriff's Office, proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies must be shown prior to the license being issued.
- F. The cost of the license if purchased at a veterinarian's office shall be \$ 1.00 above the cost of the rabies vaccination. If the license is obtained at the Sheriff's Office it will be issued at no charge. Each veterinarian's office shall receive \$1.00 from each license sold to defray cost to the veterinarian for providing such service to the county. The cost of the license shall be waived for persons who have seeing-eye dogs or hearing-ear dogs or any other animal used to assist a handicapped person. Any animal used by a Law enforcement agency is also exempt from the cost of the license as is any other animal utilized by a governmental agency.

Sec. 14-65 Dogs to wear collar, Dawson County identification tag and state vaccination tag; Exceptions

- A. The wearing of a vaccination/license tag is not required for show dogs where the wearing of such tag could damage the coat, and except dogs when boarded in kennels or veterinary clinics, or in an area zoned for agricultural purposes where the owner or custodian of the dog in question is using the dog for hunting purposes, and has on his/her person a valid hunting license. In the latter case, the owner, custodian or harbinger shall have the tag or vaccination certificate in his/her possession where it may be shown upon demand by any duly constituted authority.
- B. Any dog being shipped or transported through the county or city, or any dog entering the county or city for the purpose of a temporary stay, when such stay does not exceed 15 days, shall be exempt from the licensing provisions of this article; however, such dogs are subject to the restraint provisions of this article.

Sec. 14-66. Clinics.

- (a) If deemed necessary by the board, the rabies control officer along with the animal control officer may operate or cause to be operated within Dawson County, a county-sponsored clinic for the vaccination of dogs against rabies.
- (b) Vaccinations will be performed by a veterinarian or under his direct supervision. Payment of services shall be derived from vaccination fees.
- (c) The vaccination fee for such clinics, including the administering and cost of the vaccine, the issuance of certificates and tags, and other necessary expense shall be predetermined by the county board of health at least 15 days in advance of the first clinic appearing on the schedule. Such notice shall include the schedule of each clinic including the day, the hour, the place, and the vaccination fee.

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Sec. 14-67. Reporting.

- (a) The owner or custodian of any animal having signs suggestive of rabies shall confine the animal and immediately notify the animal control officer or the Dawson County Health Department reporting any information regarding any persons bitten or attacked by said animal.
- (b) The animal control officer shall report all known cases of rabies in Dawson County to the department.
- (c) The animal control officer shall report accumulated data relating to rabies in Dawson County to the department when, in his opinion, rabies is prevalent or likely to become prevalent to the extent that quarantine procedures are indicated.

Sec. 14-68. Report of animal bites or attacks; confinement of biting animals

- (a) Any person having information that an animal has attacked or bitten a person shall immediately report such to the Dawson County Sheriff's Office or the County Board of Health. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of this article.
- (b) If an animal has bitten a person, such animal shall be immediately confined at a facility so designated by the animal control officer or the county health department. The confinement will commence on the date of the bite and said animal will be segregated in isolation, if available, for a period of 10 days. The animal control officer may allow a vaccinated female which is nursing offspring to remain confined on the premises of the owner provided that the animal control officer is permitted daily inspections of the animal during the 10-day period.

Sec. 14-69. Confinement of dogs or other animals.

- (a) The rabies control officer will maintain enforcement of all regulations pertaining to confinement of dogs or other animals.
- (b) The owner of any dog or other animal as defined in this article shall confine or cause to be confined such dog or animal as herein prescribed:
 - (1) A dog or other animal, whether vaccinated or not, which has bitten a person (or other animal) shall be confined for a period of ten days following the date of the bite.
 - (2) A dog or other animal, whether vaccinated or not, having signs suggestive of rabies shall be confined in isolation until its death or until its freedom from suspicion of having rabies is established and its release is authorized by the director.
 - (3) A dog or other animal not vaccinated and bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal shall be immediately destroyed or if the owner is unwilling to destroy the exposed animal, strict isolation of the animal in an approved kennel for six months shall be enforced. One month prior to release, the dog shall be vaccinated according to prescribed methods.
 - (4) Any dog or other animal, the rabies vaccination of which is current as evidenced by the certificate of vaccination and which is bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal, may be revaccinated, confined in an approved manner for 60 days, and then released if no signs of rabies are evident.
 - (5) Every dog, whether vaccinated or not, shall be kept in a quarantined area confined at the owner's or custodian's premises during the entire quarantine period, unless other provisions suitable to the board are made.
 - (6) Any dog less than three months old may be confined to the owner's premises or kept on a leash; provided, such permission is granted by the rabies control office.
 - (7) Any dog brought into Dawson County for a permanent stay from outside the county shall be confined or on leash until vaccinated as provided for by this chapter, when the owner of such dog produces evidence satisfactory to the director that such dog has been vaccinated in a manner and by procedures comparable to the requirements of this article, then a certificate of vaccination and a vaccination tag may be issued for the current vaccination year.
 - (8) Any dog brought into Dawson County on temporary stay not exceeding 14 days shall be confined or on a leash at all times; unless the owner or custodian of such dog submits evidence to the director that such dog has been vaccinated in a manner and by procedures comparable to the requirements of this article.

Sec. 14-70. Confinement area facility.

The area or facility to which any dog or animal is confined in compliance with the provisions of this article shall be subject to the approval of the animal control officer or county board of health. The confinement area or facility may include either a pound, a kennel, an animal hospital, or other place, which provides:

- (1) Construction and management which will keep the animal dry and clean and prevent its escape.
- (2) A method and procedure for the identification of the animal and the recording of the date of its admission to the area or

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facility.

(3) Assurance that the animal will have safe and adequate water and food.

(4) Adequate space for the animal's exercise.

(5) Protection against excessive heat and cold.

(6) Space, cages, pens, and other necessary equipment to isolate the animal for its protection against injury and infectious disease.

Secs. 14-71--14-99. Reserved.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

TO PROVIDE FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL; TO PROVIDE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL - IMPOUNDMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR RABIES CONTROL; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS; TO PROVIDE PROPER PROCEDURES TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, Georgia is authorized to adopt an ordinance regarding animal control, rabies control, and to control dangerous animals and potentially dangerous animals; and

WHEREAS, the control of animals within Dawson County serves to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County hereby ordains and resolves as follows:

The ordinance attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference entitled "Animals" is hereby adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County this 9th day of April, 2001.



Don Roberts,
Chairman Dawson County Commission

ATTEST: Cathy Maher
Cathy Maher, Clerk of Dawson County

Dates of public hearing:
March 26, 2001
April 9, 2001

Vote:
Yes: 4
No: 0