

**Public Notice**  
**North Carolina, Onslow County**

**Proposed Rule for Postexposure Management of Dogs and Cats**

In order to bring a local rule in line with the most updated recommendations, the Onslow County Health Department and Onslow County Animal Services is proposing to the Onslow County Board of Commissioners (Board of Health) a model rule for rabies postexposure management.

New control measures would likely result in fewer dogs and cats euthanized, shorter quarantine periods, and more 45-day owner observations for lapsed animals with documentation. These changes represent significant emotional and estimated financial benefits to animal owners.

This is the proposed rule:

“This model rule for rabies postexposure management of dogs and cats implements and particularizes the authority given to the local health director in G. S. 130A-197 to effectively and efficiently protect the public’s health utilizing the most current science. Accordingly, the Onslow County Board of Commissioners adopts the recommendations and guidelines for rabies postexposure management of dogs and cats specified by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians in the 2016 edition of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (Part I.B.5: Postexposure Management). These provisions of the Compendium shall be the required control measures pursuant to G. G. 130A-197.”

Members of the public who have questions about the proposed rule should contact Mr. Howard Martin, Animal Services Director, at 910-937-1161. In addition, this rule and comments will be heard at the October 3, 2016 Onslow County Board of Commissioners meeting, 7:00 p.m., Onslow County Government Center, 234 NW Corridor Blvd., Jacksonville, NC. If approved, the rule will go into effect immediately.

Copies of the proposed rule are available at the Onslow County Health Department (612 College Street, Jacksonville) and Onslow County Animal Services (244 Georgetown Road, Jacksonville). A copy of the rule and more information for pet owners can be found under the Health Alerts section of the Health Department website (<http://onslowcountync.gov/Health/>).

Table 1. 2016 Rabies Compendium Changes for Postexposure Management of Dogs and Cats by Vaccination Status: A Comparison to § 130A-197 and Projected Fiscal Impact to Pet Owners

Rabies Vaccination Status of Dog or Cat	Current G.S. 130A-197 Control measures	2016 Compendium Control measures	2016 Compendium Financial Impact
<b>1. <u>Currently Vaccinated</u></b>	Provide booster dose of rabies vaccine within five days of exposure (\$25.00)	Immediate veterinary care with rabies booster dose within 96 hours of exposure (\$25.00+). Owner observation 45 days.	Equal to existing standard
<b>2. <u>Unvaccinated</u> (Has never been vaccinated against rabies)</b>	A.) Euthanasia (\$150.00) or B.) Immediate vaccination against rabies and place in six month quarantine (\$25.00 + \$3600.00)	A.) Euthanasia (\$150.00) or B.) Immediate veterinary care with rabies vaccination within 96 hours of exposure and place in four month quarantine (\$25.00+ \$2400.00)	A.) Equal to existing standard B.) \$1200.00 less expensive
<b>3. <u>Overdue with Appropriate Documentation of prior rabies vaccination (at least one prior valid rabies vaccination certificate)</u></b>	A.) Euthanasia (\$150.00), or B.) Immediate rabies vaccination and place in six month quarantine (\$25.00 + \$3600.00)	A.) NA B.) Immediate veterinary care with rabies booster dose within 96 hours of exposure, keep under owner observation for 45 days (\$25.00+)	A.) ~ \$125.00 less expensive than existing standard (does not include emotional cost of pet loss). B.) \$3600.00 less expensive
<b>4. <u>Overdue with NO Documentation of prior rabies vaccination</u></b>	A.) Euthanasia (\$150.00), or B.) Immediate vaccination against rabies and place in six month quarantine (\$25.00 + \$3600.00)	A.) Euthanasia (\$150.00), or B.) Immediate veterinary care with rabies vaccination within 96 hours of exposure and place in four month quarantine (\$25.00+ \$2400.00), or C.) Immediate veterinary care and Prospective serologic monitoring (\$420.00) 1) IF evidence of prior vaccination then keep under owner observation for 45 days 2) IF NO evidence of prior vaccination then manage as unvaccinated (category 2. euthanize or 4 month quarantine)	A.) Equal to existing standard B.) \$1200.00 less expensive C.) \$554.00 more expensive includes additional cost for strict quarantine until lab evidence finalized. Note this may obviate the need for either A or B above and, while a new expense, is considerably less expensive than either A or B above

Note: All costs are approximate. Table is not meant to be all inclusive of all recommendations and costs but addresses the common situations with the most fiscal impact.

\*Consult Communicable Disease Branch (919-733-3419) for specific guidance. Recommendations may be subject to change.