

# RABIES CONTROL

## PREAMBLE

On May 20, 1999 the Tioga County Board of Health adopted Board of Health Order 599, which set forth the rules and regulations for Exhibitors seeking to exhibit mammals to the public.

This Board of Health Order is adopted in an effort to continue the protections offered to the public by Board of Health Order 599, while public contact is not restricted.

Under this Order, the Exhibitor may allow unrestricted public contact and must comply with all of the rules set forth to exhibit.

## I. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Board of Health Order, the following definitions shall be applicable.

**Contact-** Contact between a person and the mouth, saliva or nervous tissue of a mammal.

**Current Vaccination-** The injection of the rabies vaccine suitable to the species, which meets the standards prescribed by the United State Department of Agriculture for interstate sale and is administered according to the manufacturer's instructions, under the direction of a duly licensed veterinarian, not later than the expiration date on the package.

**Rabies Vaccination Certificate-** A signed statement issued by the veterinarian containing the following information: name and address of the owner, date or dates of vaccination, type of vaccine administered and duration of immunity, amount and manner of administration, name or manufacturer of the vaccine, and the lot number and expiration date of the vaccine. The rabies vaccination certificate for domestic livestock may include multiple animals. The system of identification applicable to the livestock is to be used.

**Nervous tissue-** Tissue that makes up the nervous system. The nervous system consists of the central nervous system which includes the brain and spinal cord and the peripheral nervous system, which includes all the other neural elements.

**Exhibit-** To display or present where public contact could occur, including for competition or racing.

**Exhibitor-** The individual and/or entity placing the mammal on exhibit and/or the owner of the mammal and/or his/her representative.

**Human Exposure-** The potential or actual transmission of the mammal's saliva into the body of a human. Transmission can occur by means of a bite, scratch, abrasion, open wound, or contamination of the human mucous membrane.

**Mammals-** All mammals except humans, rabbits and small rodents such as mice, rats, squirrels, chipmunks, hamsters and gerbils.

**Public-** The random populace, largely anonymous, openly and intentionally invited to an event. Public shall not include family members of the exhibitor, farm hands or animal handlers employed by the exhibitor, veterinarians hired by the exhibitor to care for the mammal on exhibit, students enrolled in an accredited college or university in a veterinary science curriculum or similarly related field of study, and other similarly related professionals, animal care/service personnel, or others whose employment or studies depend on animal commerce, who are present at the exhibit for a purpose related to the study or profession.

## **II. APPLICATION**

This order applies to those events/venues within Tioga County where mammals are exhibited to the public. No Exhibitor shall exhibit any mammal(s) within Tioga County unless all the requirements of Section III are met.

## **III. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITION**

The Exhibitor shall:

### **A. Monitor mammals exhibited and report sickness or death.**

Mammals that are exhibited shall be kept under daily surveillance by the Exhibitor for symptoms of rabies during the exhibit and for 14 days after the date exhibited. In the event the exhibited mammal dies or exhibits signs of sickness during the monitoring period, the Exhibitor shall report these facts to Tioga County Public Health immediately, and the mammal shall be held for veterinary examination and testing, if so ordered by Tioga County Public Health.

### **B. Immunize mammals exhibited and provide documentation of compliance.**

1. All mammals over 3 months of age must have been vaccinated at least 14 days prior to the event. All off-label vaccinations must occur at least 14 days and not more than 365 days prior to the event.
2. All mammals for which a USDA licensed vaccine is available must be accompanied by a rabies vaccination certificate, as defined in the applicable passage of the New York State Sanitary Code. Current vaccination shall begin 14 days following primary vaccination, and continue for the period stated in the manufacturer's instructions.

3. All mammals for which a USDA licensed vaccine is not available shall be similarly vaccinated, and accompanied by a rabies vaccination certificate.
4. All rabies vaccination certificates must clearly identify the mammal vaccinated, be available to Tioga County Public Health upon request, and retained along with the registration list for a period of six months after the event.

**C. Report human exposure.**

Prior to an event of human exposure occurring to any person, the Exhibitor shall obtain the name, address and telephone number of the people to be potentially exposed, and shall report any such exposure immediately, but no later than 24 hours after occurrence, to Tioga County Public Health. In addition, the mammal involved shall be identified.

**IV. ENFORCEMENT**

Pursuant to §12-b of the Public Health Law, a person who willfully violates or refuses or omits to comply with this Order of the Tioga County Board of Health, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to one year, or by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, or both.

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Terry Hills, DVM; President

Tioga County Board of Health

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