

2011 Proposed Colorado Public Health Association Resolution Requiring vaccination for Dogs and Cats in Colorado

WHEREAS rabies is a typically an 100% fatal disease with rare exceptions (1), and

WHEREAS the ecology of rabies in Colorado is changing from bat borne to bat borne and terrestrial rabies with over 160 terrestrial cases being reported since 2007 (2), and

WHEREAS, skunk rabies is spreading across eastern Colorado and has jumped the Interstate 25 corridor in southern Colorado and Larimer County (2), and

WHEREAS treatment of humans exposed to rabid animals can cost over \$5000 (3), and

WHEREAS the responsibility for rabies control is delegated to County Commissioners and County Boards of Health to include: animal control and licensing; vaccination of dogs, cats and other pet animals and control of animals running at large (4), and

WHEREAS rabies does not respect County, City or National Borders (5), and

WHEREAS cats are vaccinated less frequently for rabies than dogs but cats are found to be rabid more frequently than dogs in the U.S. (5) (6), and

WHEREAS rabies vaccination is recommended for all dogs and cats with few clinical exceptions (5), and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Colorado Rabies Taskforce, and World Rabies Day Committee have recommended universal vaccination for rabies for dogs and cats (5)(6)(7)

THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED that the Colorado Public Health Association does hereby support requirement of vaccination for rabies for all dogs, cats and ferrets in Colorado.

References:

1. Control of Communicable Disease Manual
2. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/rabies/index.html>, U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>
3. Personal communication with Dr. Mark Johnson and Dr. Elisabeth Lawaczeck
4. Colorado Revised Statutes and Animal Legal and Historic Center, http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stuscost25_4_601_615.htm#s25_4_608
5. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf>
6. Colorado Rabies Taskforce
7. World Rabies Day, <http://onehealtheducation.blogspot.com/2011/02/review-of-one-health-intellectual.html>

Submitted by: James E. Dale, DVM, MPH, MBA, DACVPM