

Rabies vaccination laws by state

August 2023



This resource is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.

STATE	CITATION	WHO MAY ADMINISTER VACCINATION	SPECIFIED EXEMPTIONS	FREQUENCY OF VACCINATIONS
AL	Code of Ala. §3-7A-2 Ala. Admin. Code r. 420-4-4-.08	Rabies officer, his/her authorized representative, or any duly licensed veterinarian	With consent of owner, a veterinarian with valid VCPR may exempt an animal if deemed medically necessary	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 3 months of age, and subsequently in accordance with the label of the vaccine used.
AK	7 AAC 27.022	By, or under the direct supervision of, a licensed veterinarian. Lay vaccinators qualified to administer the vaccine and approved by the Department	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets in accordance with the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control.
AZ	A.A.C. § R3-2-409 Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 11-1010	By, or under the direct supervision of, a veterinarian, in accordance with the Compendium* A Rabies vaccinator who is certified in the administration of rabies vaccines pursuant to state law	Not Specified	All animals must be vaccinated in accordance with the Compendium*
AR	A.C.A. § 20-19-305 Ark. Admin. Code 007.15.1-I Ark. Admin. Code 007.15.1-II	Licensed veterinarian or agent of the Department of Health	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and any warm-blooded animal which may be affected by rabies Initial vaccination for dogs and cats at 4 months of age and older. Vaccination at a younger age should be in accordance with the labels of USDA licensed rabies vaccines. Unvaccinated dogs or cats more than four (4) months of age, that are acquired or moved into the state must be vaccinated within thirty (30) days of purchase or arrival, unless there is documented evidence of current vaccination. Revaccinations during the 12th month after initial vaccination. Thereafter, the interval between revaccinations should conform to the Compendium*

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CA	California Health & Safety Code § 121690 17 CCR § 2606.4	Licensed veterinarians	An exemption may apply if a licensed veterinarian determines, on an annual basis, that a rabies vaccination would endanger the dog's life due to disease or other considerations that the veterinarian can verify and document	Dogs must be vaccinated at 3 months of age and revaccinated one year after the primary immunization with an approved type of rabies vaccine. Dogs shall be revaccinated thereafter at least once every three years with an approved type of rabies vaccine.
CO	C.R.S.A. § 30-15-101 C.R.S.A. §25-4-607 6 CCR 1009-1:8	Licensed veterinarians	A veterinarian, with owner consent, may exempt an animal from a rabies vaccination if the rabies inoculation is contraindicated due to the animal's medical condition	Dogs, cats and ferrets in accordance with the Compendium*
CT	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22-339b	Licensed veterinarians	When a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and determined that a rabies vaccination would endanger the animal's life due to disease or other medical considerations	Dogs and cats at 3 months of age or older. Animals vaccinated prior to one year of age must receive a booster vaccination one year after the initial vaccination. Animals shall then be vaccinated every 3 years thereafter.
DE	3 Del. C. § 8204	Licensed veterinarian or by a licensed veterinary technician working under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian and the dog is in a shelter and is owned by the shelter.	Exemption from vaccination against rabies may be permitted if a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and based on the veterinarian's professional judgment, has certified in writing that at the time, vaccination would endanger the animal's health because of its infirmity, disability, illness, or other medical considerations and a titer test, in the case of these medical exemptions, may be administered to assist in determining the need for the vaccination.	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 6 months of age, and subsequently according to the label on the vaccine used.
DC	D.C. Code § 8-1803 24 DCMR § 901	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	Dogs at 3 months of age. Cats at 4 months of age. A dog or cat must be re-vaccinated at least every three years after receiving the second rabies shot.

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FL	West's F.S.A. § 828.30	Licensed veterinarians	A dog, cat, or ferret is exempt from vaccination against rabies if a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and has certified in writing that at the time vaccination would endanger the animal's health because of its age, infirmity, disability, illness, or other medical considerations.	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 4 months of age, with a booster shot 12 months later. Thereafter, every three years.
GA	Ga. Code Ann. § 31-19-5 Ga. Code Ann., § 43-50-3 Ga Comp. R. & Regs. 40-13-2-.19	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	It is up to county boards of health to promulgate rules regarding rabies vaccinations. For dogs, cats, and ferrets being imported into the state, they must be vaccinated at 12 weeks in accordance with the Compendium*
HI	Haw. Admin. Rules (HAR) § 4-29-8	Not specified	Not specified	(2) Rabies vaccination and general requirements. All dogs and cats ninety days of age or older at the time of arrival shall be vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated or live recombinant rabies vaccine. All dogs and cats shall: (A) Be vaccinated with an inactivated or live recombinant rabies vaccine (B) Have the product name, lot or serial number, and expiration date of the vaccine used listed on the health certificate All dogs and cats leaving Hawaii are subject to a quarantine and must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a veterinarian not more than fourteen days before arrival and prior to departure have a minimum of two vaccinations with an inactivated or live recombinant rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture or equivalent foreign government agency when the vaccine is administered outside the United States with some requirements.

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ID	I.C. § 25-2801 I.C. § 25-2803 Idaho Admin. Code r. 02.04.21.500	Under the direct supervision of a veterinarian according to Idaho Rabies Control Protocol and subject to county license requirements	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets older than 3 months, with booster one year later and then according to the Compendium* All dogs and cats imported into the state of Idaho shall be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection attesting that such dogs are apparently free from any infectious, contagious or communicable disease, and have been officially vaccinated for rabies.
IL	510 ILCS 5/8 8 Ill. Adm. Code 30.90	Licensed veterinarians	An animal is exempt from vaccination requirements if a licensed veterinarian determines in writing that a rabies inoculation would compromise the animal's health	Dogs and cats at 4 months with a booster shot 12 months later. Subsequent vaccine administration and duration of immunity must be in compliance with USDA licenses of vaccines used.
IN	345 IAC 1-5-1 345 IAC 1-5-2	Licensed and accredited veterinarians	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 3 months of age. Ferrets must be revaccinated annually; dogs and cats must be revaccinated according to vaccine label.
IA	I.C.A. §351.33 I.C.A. §351.35 Iowa Admin. Code 21-64.25	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	Dogs at 6 months of age. Revaccination according to the Compendium*
KS	K.S.A. 21-1213 K.A.R. 9-7-9 K.A.R. 9-7-9a K.A.R. 9-18-5	Accredited and/or licensed veterinarians as well as those acting under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Not specified	For dogs and cats imported into the state, they must be accompanied by a certificate of health or veterinary inspection that such dogs and cats at 3 months have been vaccinated against rabies with a product licensed by the U.S.D.A.
KY	KRS §258.015 902 KAR 2:070	Licensed veterinarians in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 4 months and revaccinated 1 year after the initial vaccination. Thereafter, dependent upon the type of vaccine administered as certified by the veterinarian.

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LA	La. Admin Code. tit. 51, pt. III, § 103	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 3 months. Revaccination one year later and subsequently in accordance with the Compendium*
ME	7 M.R.S.A. §3916 10-144 CMR Ch. 260 ME ST T. 7 § 3906-B	Licensed veterinarian or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Dogs and cats may be exempt from vaccination requirements if a medical reason exists and an owner has a written statement signed by a licensed veterinarian	Cats at 3 months. Cats must be revaccinated one year after the initial vaccination and then according to the type of vaccine used. Dogs at 3 months, including wolf-hybrids. Dogs must be revaccinated according to the type of vaccine used.
MD	MD Code, Health - General, § 18-318 MD Code, Health - General, § 18-319 T MD Code, Agric. § 2-304 COMAR 10.06.02.10	Licensed veterinarians A veterinary technician or other clinical staff who work in an animal shelter or an animal control facility	Not specified	Dogs, cat, or ferret that is 4 months old or older shall have the dog, cat, or ferret vaccinated adequately against rabies. They must be revaccinated according to the label on the vaccine used.
MA	330 CMR 10.02 M.G.L.A. 140 § 145B	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 6 months. Revaccination between 9 and 12 months from the initial vaccination and subsequently according to the vaccine used.
Michigan	M.C.L.A § 287.261 M.C.L.A. § 287.892 M.C.L.A. § 287.266	Accredited veterinarians	Not specified	First vaccination for dogs by 4 months of age. Ferrets at 12 weeks of age
MI	Minnesota Rules, part 1721.0540 Minnesota Rules, part 1721.0550	Licensed veterinarians, or under the supervision of a veterinarian	Not specified	Dog, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated in accordance with the Compendium*

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MN	Miss. Code Ann. § 41-53-1 Miss. Code Ann. § 41-53-5 Miss. Admin. Code 15-2-11:1.17:14	Licensed veterinarians or other competent person granted a permit to administer vaccine by the State Board of Health	Not specified	Dogs and cats at 3 months and thereafter as required, revaccinated one year later and every three years thereafter, using a rabies vaccine approved as providing a 3-year immunity.
MO	20 Mo. Code of State Regulations 2270-4.031	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	Not specified
MT	Mont. Admin. R. 32.3.213	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	Dogs and cats entering the state must be vaccinated by 3 months in accordance with the Compendium*
NE	Neb. Rev. St. § 71-4401 Neb. Rev. St. § 71-4402 Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. Tit. 173, Ch. 5, § 002 Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. Tit. 173, Ch. 5, § 004	Licensed veterinarians	Not specified	All dogs and cats must be vaccinated at 3 months of age with a booster shot one year later and then revaccinated every three years.
NV	NAC 441A.440 NAC 441A.435	Licensed veterinarians	A licensed veterinarian may exempt a dog, cat or ferret from vaccination for health reasons	Dogs and cats every 3 years. Ferrets annually

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NH	<p>N.H. Rev. Stat. § 436:99</p> <p>N.H. Rev. Stat. §436:100</p> <p>N.H. Code Admin. R. Agr 2112.02</p>	Licensed veterinarian	<p>A rabies immunization exemption may be issued, where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants, by the local rabies control authority upon the written recommendation of a licensed veterinarian. The recommendation must be signed by an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine diplomate and the state veterinarian.</p> <p>The exemption is valid for one year. After the initial one year has expired and if the animal still qualifies for the exemption, the exemption shall be recertified by a licensed veterinarian on an annual basis</p>	<p>Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 3 months of age, with a booster shot between 9 and 12 months after the initial vaccination.</p> <p>Subsequent boosters as outlined in the Compendium*</p>
NJ	<p>N.J.S.A. § 4:19-15.2a</p> <p>N.J.A.C. § 8:23A-4.1</p> <p>N.J.A.C. § 8:23A-4.2</p> <p>N.J.A.C. § 8:23A-4.3</p>	Licensed veterinarians	Municipal dog licensing officials shall grant an exemption for any dog that a veterinarian certifies in writing to be incapable of being inoculated because of infirmity, other physical condition, or regimen of therapy	<p>Dogs and cats 3 months of age or older receiving their first known immunization have a 1-year duration of immunity.</p> <p>Animals between 3 and 6 months of age receiving a second or subsequent booster have a 1-year duration of immunity.</p> <p>Animals 6 months or older receiving 2nd booster: 1- or 3-years' immunity, depending on the vaccine used.</p>
NM	<p>N. M. S. A. 1978, § 77-1-3</p> <p>N.M. Admin. Code 7.4.2.8</p>	By or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Not specified	<p>Dogs and cats over 3 months and booster within 1 year of first vaccination.</p> <p>Annually or triennially thereafter depending upon vaccine used.</p>
NY	<p>McKinney's Public Health Law § 2141</p> <p>McKinney's Public Health Law § 2146**</p> <p>McKinney's Agriculture and Markets Law § 109</p> <p>**excludes New York City</p>	By or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Vaccination requirements do not apply to dogs, cats and ferrets for which vaccination against rabies would adversely affect the animal's health, as determined by a licensed veterinarian	<p>Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 4 months of age with a second vaccination within one year of the first.</p> <p>Subsequent vaccination in accordance with the vaccine used.</p>

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NC	N.C.G.S.A. § 130A-185 10A NCAC 41G.0101	Licensed veterinarian, a registered veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, or a certified rabies vaccinator	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 4 months of age. Revaccination for dogs and cats one year later and then annually or triennially, depending on vaccine used. A dog or cat vaccinated by a certified rabies vaccinator shall be re-vaccinated annually.
ND	NDCC, 23-36-01 N.D. Admin. Code 48.1-13-01-01	State defines 'Vaccinated animal' as an animal that has been vaccinated in compliance with the Compendium.* The Compendium* p. 4 sec B. subsec. 1 says "(p)arenteral animal rabies vaccines should be administered only by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on premises. Rabies vaccines may be administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to animals held in animal shelters before release."	Not specified	NDCC 23-36 sets a policy for local control. Any dog, cat, or ferret imported into the state for a period of over thirty days must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.
OH	R.C. § 955.26** Ohio Admin. Code 901:1-17-05 (A) **Only deals with rabies quarantine	All dogs and cats imported into Ohio must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection indicating the animal is currently vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the Compendium*	Not specified	Not specified
OK	63 Okl. St. Ann. § 1-508 Okla. Admin. Code 310:599-3-9.1	Licensed veterinarian or a registered veterinary technician under the general supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets at 4 months and at regular intervals thereafter according to the vaccine used.

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OR	O.R.S. §433.365 OAR 333-019-0017	Licensed veterinarian; veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian In the case of a need to vaccinate and the lack of an available veterinarian, by another person approved for this purpose by the State Public Health Veterinarian.	Exemptions provided: 1. For dogs brought temporarily into the state for periods of less than 30 days and kept under strict supervision by their owners; 2. Dogs for which rabies immunization is contraindicated for health reasons, as determined by a licensed veterinarian; and 3. Dogs owned by dealers, breeders, or exhibitors exclusively for sale or exhibition purposes and confined to kennels except for transportation to and from dog shows or fairs	Dogs at least 3 months old shall be immunized against rabies by the age of 6 months in accordance with the Compendium*
PE	3 P.S. §455.4 3 P.S. § 455.8 7 Pa. Code § 16.41 7 Pa. Code § 16.42 7 Pa. Code § 16.43	Licensed veterinarian, or under direct veterinary supervision Owners of commercial kennels, dealer kennels, nonprofit kennels, private kennels and research kennels who have been examined and certified by the department may administer rabies vaccines to animals in the possession of the kennel	An exemption may be granted for up to one year if a licensed veterinarian examines the dog or cat and determines that it would be medically contraindicated to vaccinate. After one year, the dog or cat must be reexamined.	For dogs and cats, within 4 weeks of the animal reaching 3 months of age. Unless otherwise indicated by the directions of the vaccine manufacturer, a booster vaccination shall be administered between 12 and 14 months from the date of the initial vaccination, regardless of the age of the animal at initial vaccination. The animal shall then be subsequently revaccinated on an ongoing basis in accordance with the directions of the vaccine manufacturer.
RI	Gen. Laws 1956, § 4-13-31 250-RICR- 40-05-2.6 250-RICR- 40-05-2.7	Licensed veterinarians, or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Not specified	Dogs, cats, and ferrets between 3 and 4 months. Subsequent vaccinations in accordance with the Compendium*
SC	Code 1976 § 47-5-60	Licensed veterinarians, or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian	Not specified	At a frequency to provide continuous protection of the pet from rabies using a vaccine approved by the South Carolina Dept. of Health & Environmental Control and licensed by the USDA.
SD	ARSD 12:68:06:09	Accredited veterinarian	Not specified	Dogs and cats by 3 months

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TN	<p>T.C.A. §68-8-103</p> <p>Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1200-14-01-.32</p> <p>Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1200-14-01-.33</p>	<p>Licensed veterinarians or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian</p>	<p>Not specified</p>	<p>Dogs by 3 months and cats by 6 months of age with a booster at one year.</p> <p>Subsequent vaccinations in 1- or 3-year intervals in accordance with the specific vaccine used.</p>
TX	<p>V.T.C.A., Health & Safety Code § 826.018</p> <p>V.T.C.A., Health & Safety Code § 826.021</p> <p>V.T.C.A., Health & Safety Code § 826.023</p> <p>22 TAC § 573.10</p> <p>25 TAC § 169.29</p>	<p>Licensed veterinarians, or non-veterinarians only under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, and only after the veterinarian has properly established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship</p> <p>Exception: A veterinarian employed by a county or municipality and administers (or supervises administration of) rabies vaccines as part of a rabies-control program established by a county or municipality, is not required to establish a VCPR before administering a rabies vaccine or supervising the administration of a rabies vaccine.</p>	<p>Not specified</p>	<p>Dogs and cats at 4 months of age.</p> <p>Animals must be re-vaccinated in accordance with label of their most recent vaccine. The attending veterinarian has discretion as to when the subsequent vaccination will be scheduled as long as the revaccination due date does not exceed the recommended interval for booster vaccination as established by the manufacturer or vaccination requirements instituted by local ordinance.</p>
UT	<p>U.A.C. R386-702-12</p> <p>U.C.A. 1953 §58-28-307</p> <p>Utah Admin. Code r. R58-1-13</p>	<p>Licensed veterinarians, or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian</p> <p>Animal shelter employees acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian who is under contract with the animal shelter</p>	<p>Not specified</p>	<p>Utah Admin. Code r. R386-702-12 has general measures for rabies control.</p> <p>All dogs, cats and ferrets over three months of age must be currently vaccinated against rabies before entering Utah.</p>

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VT	20 V.S.A. § 3581 Vt. Admin. Code 2-4-307	Licensed veterinarians, or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian	An animal may be exempt from vaccination requirements if, in the judgment of the veterinarian, the animal's medical condition would prevent the development of adequate immunity to rabies. Animals so exempted must be inoculated against rabies as soon as their medical condition permits.	Before obtaining a license for a dog or wolf-hybrid six months of age or older, a person shall deliver to the municipal clerk a certificate or a certified copy thereof issued by a duly licensed veterinarian, stating that the dog or wolf-hybrid has received a current preexposure rabies vaccination Dogs, cats, wolf/hybrids, and ferrets prior to 4 months. Thereafter, in accord with manufacturer's recommendations. All dogs and wolf-hybrids over three months of age shall be vaccinated against rabies. The initial vaccination shall be valid for 12 months. Within nine to 12 months of the initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination. All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination shall be valid for 36 months.
VA	VA Code Ann. § 3.2-6521 VA Code Ann. § 3.2-6523 12 VAC 5-105-10 12 VAC 5-105-30	Licensed veterinarians, or a veterinary technician under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. A certified animal technician at such shelter if the certified animal technician is under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.	The local health director, in consultation with the state public-health veterinarian, may grant an exemption if vaccination would likely endanger the animal's life due to a previously diagnosed disease or documented medical considerations, as documented by a licensed veterinarian.	Initial vaccination for dogs and cats: 4 months of age and older. Then subject to local ordinance.
WA	WAC § 246-935-050 WAC 246-100-197	Licensed veterinarian Licensed veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants under the direct supervision of a veterinarian	Not specified	Owners of dogs, cats, and ferrets must have the animal vaccinated against rabies and revaccinated following veterinary and vaccine-manufacturer instructions.

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WV	W. Va. Code, § 19-20A-2	Licensed veterinarian or his or her assistant. If there is no licensed veterinarian practicing in the county, a qualified person may be appointed by the county health department to administer vaccinations	Not specified	Dogs and cats by 6 months, with a booster shot after one year. Subsequent vaccinations every 3 years.
WI	W.S.A. 95.21	Licensed veterinarian; or Veterinary technician if a veterinarian is physically present at the location the vaccine is administered	A city, village, or town may exempt the owner of a dog from the requirement to have the dog vaccinated against rabies for a year based on a letter from a veterinarian stating that vaccination is inadvisable because of a reaction to a previous vaccination, a physical condition, or a regimen of therapy that the dog is undergoing	Dogs at 5 months of age with a one-year booster vaccination and then triennially thereafter.
WY	W.S. 1977 § 11-31-212 W.S. 1977 § 11-31-213	Licensed veterinarian	Not specified	Dog or cat by 3 months of age.

Notes: *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control

Source: Stagg research, AVMA Division of State Advocacy

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