

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ZONOTIC DISEASE PREVENTION REGULATIONS

Title 8
KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ZONOTIC DISEASE PREVENTION REGULATIONS

Chapters:

- 8.01 General Provisions**
- 8.04 Rabies**
- 8.06 Rodent Control**

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**Chapter 8.01
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sections:

- 8.01.010 Citation.
- 8.01.020 Purpose and policy.
- 8.01.030 Definitions.
- 8.01.040 Enforcement and rulemaking authority.
- 8.01.050 Imminent and substantial dangers.

8.01.010 Citation. This title may be cited and referred to, and shall be known as, the "King County Board of Health Zoonotic Disease Prevention Regulations." (R&R 06-01 § 1, 2006).

8.01.020 Purpose and policy.

A. Authority is established under RCW chapter 70.05 for the control and prevention of zoonotic disease. This title is enacted as an exercise of the Board of Health powers of King County to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare. Its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of these purposes. This title governs the prevention of zoonotic disease and includes rabies control and rodent control provisions.

B. It is expressly the purpose of this title to provide for and promote the peace, health, safety and welfare of the general public, and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this title.

C. Nothing contained in this title is intended to be or shall be construed to create or form the basis for any liability on the part of King County, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of any person subject to this title to comply with this title, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this title on the part of King County by its officers, employees or agents. (R&R 06-01 § 2, 2006).

8.01.030 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this title unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

A. Director. "Director" means the director of the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health or the director's duly authorized representative.

B. Vector. "Vector" means an organism capable of transmitting a pathogen, and includes insects and rodents.

C. Zoonotic disease or zoonosis. "Zoonotic disease" or "zoonosis" means a disease or infection communicable from vertebrate animals to humans, including any such disease transmitted by intermediate insect vectors such as mosquitoes, fleas, or ticks. (R&R 06-01 § 5, 2006).

8.01.040 Enforcement and rulemaking authority. Except as specifically otherwise provided in this title, the director shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this title in accordance with chapter 1.08 of this code. The director is also authorized to adopt rules consistent with the provisions of this title for the purpose of enforcing and carrying out its provisions. (R&R 06-01 § 3, 2006).

8.01.050 Imminent and substantial dangers. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the director may take immediate action to prevent an imminent and substantial danger to the public health by any zoonotic disease. (R&R 06-01 § 4, 2006).

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**Chapter 8.04
RABIES****Sections:**

- 8.04.001 Purpose and scope of chapter.
- 8.04.003 Definitions.
- 8.04.005 Rabies vaccination required.
- 8.04.006 Exemption from chapter.
- 8.04.007 Citation.
- 8.04.010 Management of animals that bite humans.
- 8.04.020 Notice of rabies hazard in all or part of county -- Community-wide rabies control period.
- 8.04.030 Violation of confinement or vaccination order.
- 8.04.040 Management of animals exposed to suspected or confirmed rabies-infected animals.
- 8.04.060 Enforcement.
- 8.04.070 No appeal to hearing examiner.

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8.04.001 Purpose and scope of chapter.

A. Authority is established under RCW Chapter 70.05 for the control and prevention of the spread of dangerous, contagious or infectious disease. This chapter is enacted as an exercise of the Board of Health powers of King County to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare. Its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of these purposes. This chapter governs the protection of human health and safety against the spread of rabies from infected animals.

B. It is the specific intent of this chapter to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon owners and other persons entitled to possession of dogs, cats, ferrets and other animals, and/or other persons designated by this chapter within its scope, and no provision of nor term used in this chapter is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon King County or any of its officers or employees, for whom the implementation or enforcement of this chapter shall be discretionary and not mandatory. (R&R 06-01 § 7, 5-19-2006: R&R 04-01 § 2 (part), 4-16-2004).

8.04.003 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

A. "Animal control authority" means the county or municipal animal control agency, acting alone or in concert with other municipalities, having authority for the enforcement of the animal control laws, ordinances or regulations of the state, county or municipality, and the shelter and welfare of animals.

B. "Caretaker" means any person authorized by the owner to provide daily management of an animal, including but not limited to maintaining the animal in a controlled or confined manner in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations, and providing the animal with food, water, shelter, sanitary services and health care as required.

C. "Cat" means an animal of the genus species *Felis domesticus*.

D. "Dog" means an animal of the genus species *Canis familiaris* and excludes wolf-dog hybrid animals.

E. "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method that involves instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death or by a method that causes painless loss of consciousness and death during the loss of consciousness.

F. "Ferret" means an animal of the genus species *Mustela furo*.

G. "Livestock" means farm animals, excluding birds, raised for food or fiber production or kept for recreational purposes, including but not limited to horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, sheep, llamas, alpacas, goats, and pigs.

H. "Mammal" means any of a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals that nourish their young with milk secreted by mammary glands, have skin generally covered with hair, and includes bats.

I. "Owner" means any person having legal ownership of an animal. (R&R 06-01 § 8, 5-19-2006: R&R 04-01 § 2 (part), 4-16-2004).

8.04.005 Rabies vaccination required. All owners of dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age or older shall have their animals vaccinated against rabies. Regardless of the age of the animal at initial vaccination, a booster vaccination shall be administered one year later and thereafter on a schedule according to the type of vaccine used, as determined by a licensed veterinarian. All owners of livestock having frequent contact with humans other than their owners and caretakers, including but not limited to animals exhibited to the public at petting zoos, fairs, or other locations or events, shall have such livestock evaluated by a licensed veterinarian and vaccinated against rabies if the veterinarian recommends such vaccination. All rabies vaccinations shall be performed by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the standards contained in the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, as amended, published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. (R&R 06-01 § 9, 5-19-2006: R&R 04-01 § 2 (part), 4-16-2004).

8.04.006 Exemption from chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to dogs and cats in the custody of a research facility registered or licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and regulated by 7 United States Code 2131, et seq. (R&R 06-01 § 10, 5-19-2006: R&R 04-01 § 2 (part), 4-16-2004).

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8.04.007 Citation. This chapter may be cited and referred to, and shall be known as, the "King County Board of Health Rabies Regulations." (R&R 06-01 § 12, 5-19-2006).

8.04.010 Management of animals that bite humans.

A. Reporting of Animal Bites. Whenever an animal has bitten a human, the incident shall be reported immediately to the director by any health care provider, medical facility, school, childcare facility or other persons or entities having direct knowledge of the incident. Incidents other than bites shall be immediately reported by the same persons to the director when there is concern about the potential for rabies transmission to a human. Such incidents include, but are not limited to, exposure to a bat or exposure of mucous membranes or an open cut in the skin to the saliva of an animal capable of transmitting rabies if there is reasonable cause to suspect the animal may be infected with rabies. Reasonable cause to suspect rabies infection includes, but is not necessarily limited to, abnormal behavior, neurologic signs, or insufficient knowledge of the history or medical condition of the animal.

B. Whenever the director has knowledge of or reasonable certainty that a dog, cat or ferret has bitten a human or otherwise exposed mucous membranes or an open cut in the skin to the animal's saliva, he or she is authorized to order that the animal be confined for a period of not less than ten (10) days. If the animal is over four (4) months of age and unvaccinated for rabies, the director is authorized to order that the confinement be at the city or county animal control authority in its animal shelter or, upon request and at the expense of the owner, at a veterinary hospital. If the animal is under four (4) months of age or currently vaccinated, at the discretion of the director, confinement may be at the home of the animal's owner or caretaker. The owner or caretaker having possession of the confined animal shall observe the animal daily during the confinement period and report any illness or abnormal behavior immediately to the director, who shall have the authority to order the animal be examined by a licensed veterinarian. If the veterinarian determines signs suggestive of rabies are present, the director may order the owner or caretaker to have the animal euthanized immediately and tested for rabies. If the biting dog, cat or ferret is unwanted or a stray or is severely injured or medically unstable as determined by a licensed veterinarian, the director may order the animal be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies virus.

C. The director is authorized to notify in writing the owner or caretaker of the animal subject to a confinement order. Delivery of a copy of the confinement order to some person of suitable age and discretion residing upon the premises where such animal is found shall be notice of the confinement. The director is authorized to notify the city or county animal control authority and other police officers of the confinement order, and to request their assistance to enforce such order.

D. Other Animals. Whenever the director has knowledge of or reasonable certainty that a mammal other than a dog, cat or ferret has bitten a human or otherwise exposed mucous membranes or an open cut in the skin to the animal's saliva, the director is authorized to assess the risk for rabies transmission and may order that the animal be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies virus.

E. According to the provisions of this chapter, unless otherwise ordered by the director, confinement shall consist of housing the animal at the facilities of the animal control authority or a licensed veterinarian, or restriction of the animal to the premises of the owner or caretaker of the animal in a secure manner so as to prevent escape and with no direct contact with other animals or humans other than the animal's direct caretaker.

F. When an animal is to be euthanized and tested for rabies virus, euthanasia shall be accomplished in such a way as to maintain the integrity of the brain so that the laboratory can recognize the anatomical parts, and the whole animal or animal head kept under refrigeration and not frozen or chemically fixed during storage and shipping. (R&R 04-01 § 3, 4-16-2004; R&R 30 § 1, 6-9-82).

8.04.020 Notice of rabies hazard in all or part of county -- Community-wide rabies control period.

A. Whenever the director determines that rabies is currently a hazard to the public health in the county, or any part thereof, incorporated or unincorporated, the director is authorized to cause a notice of such hazard to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area for three (3) successive days, which determination and notice shall declare the community-wide rabies control period and area. Good cause for such notice shall include, but is not limited to, a diagnosis of rabies in any dog or cat, or other veterinary or epidemiological evidence of the presence of a rabies hazard. It shall be unlawful, within the rabies control area, for any owner or caretaker of a dog, cat or other animal capable of transmitting rabies to fail to secure or confine such animal by leash or escape-proof container during the community-wide rabies control period.

B. The community-wide rabies control period shall be thirty (30) days after the last publication of notice. The director may extend any such period if deemed necessary by publication of one or more additional notices.

C. During the community-wide rabies control period, the director is authorized to institute the following measures for the protection of the public health as he or she deems appropriate:

1. Issuance of orders requiring owners and caretakers of animals capable of transmitting rabies to restrict such animals to their premises unless securely confined by leashes or escape-proof containers;
2. Issuance of orders requiring owners and caretakers of animals three (3) months old or over capable of transmitting rabies to have such animals vaccinated with rabies vaccine by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian within thirty (30) days after publication of the last notice;
3. Issuance of orders to owners and caretakers of dogs, cats and ferrets requiring proof of rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian within six previous months; or
4. Issuance of orders authorizing the impoundment and euthanizing of any animal capable of transmitting rabies found running at large, unless such animal is redeemed from impounding in accordance with the ordinances or rules enforced by the animal control authority having jurisdiction over the animal. (R&R 04-01 § 4, 4-16-2004; R&R 30 § 2, 6-9-82).

8.04.030 Violation of confinement or vaccination order.

A. It is unlawful for any owner or caretaker of any animal subject to an order of confinement or restriction as set forth in Sections 8.04.010, 8.04.020 or 8.04.040 to permit any such animal to come in contact with any other animal or person or to run at large or to be removed from any place of such confinement or restriction without the consent of the director.

B. It is unlawful for any owner or caretaker of any animal subject to a vaccination order as set forth in Sections 8.04.020 or 8.04.040 to fail or refuse to procure the vaccination within the period ordered by the director. (R&R 04-01 § 5, 4-16-2004; R&R 30 § 3, 6-9-82).

8.04.040 Management of animals exposed to suspected or confirmed rabies-infected animals. Any mammal having direct contact with an animal found to be rabid by appropriate laboratory tests, or having suspected exposure to rabies virus from a wild, carnivorous mammal or bat unavailable for testing, shall be regarded as having been exposed to rabies and shall be subject to the requirements of this section, as applicable. For purposes of this chapter, suspected exposure to rabies shall include probable or suspected contact with saliva of a wild, carnivorous mammal or bat through a bite wound, open cut in skin, or onto mucous membranes.

A. Unvaccinated Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets. The director is authorized to order that any unvaccinated dog, cat, or ferret exposed to a suspected or known rabid animal be euthanized immediately or placed in strict isolation, at the option of the owner of the animal. If isolation is chosen, the owner of the exposed animal shall have the animal placed in strict isolation with no direct animal or human contact, at a location and under conditions approved by the director, for not less than one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of rabies exposure as determined by the director, and vaccinated with rabies vaccine thirty (30) days before the end of the isolation period. At the end of the isolation period, the owner of the animal shall have the animal evaluated by a licensed veterinarian for signs of rabies, and shall submit to the director a written report prepared by such veterinarian as to the animal's health status. Any person observing signs suggestive of rabies during or at the end of the isolation period shall report or have a licensed veterinarian report such signs immediately to the director, who shall have authority to order that such animal be euthanized and tested for rabies virus.

B. Vaccinated Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets. The director is authorized to order the owner or caretaker of any currently vaccinated dog, cat or ferret exposed to a suspected or known rabid animal to have the dog, cat or ferret revaccinated immediately with rabies vaccine, and kept securely confined for forty-five (45) days for observation. Any person observing signs suggestive of rabies during or at the end of the confinement period shall report or have a licensed veterinarian report such signs immediately to the director, who shall have authority to order that such animal be euthanized and tested for rabies virus. The director is authorized to determine the management of dogs, cats and ferrets with expired rabies vaccinations on a case-by-case basis.

C. Livestock. The director is authorized to order the owner or caretaker of any unvaccinated livestock that has been exposed to a suspected or known rabid animal to have such livestock immediately slaughtered or kept under close confinement and observation for not less than one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of rabies exposure as determined by the director, at the option of the owner of the livestock. The owner or caretaker of livestock that has been exposed to a suspected or known rabid animal and currently vaccinated with a vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture for that species shall have such livestock revaccinated against rabies immediately and kept under close observation for not less than forty-five (45) days.

D. Other Animals. The director is authorized to order that mammals other than dogs, cats, ferrets, and livestock exposed to a suspected or known rabid animal be euthanized immediately, except that the director is authorized to determine, on a case-by-case basis, the management of such animals maintained in research facilities registered or licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, or in accredited zoological parks. (R&R 04-01 § 6, 4-16-2004: R&R 30 § 4, 6-9-82).

8.04.060 Enforcement. Subject to the provisions of section 8.04.070 of this chapter, the director shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this chapter in accordance with chapter 1.08 of this code. The director is also authorized to adopt rules consistent with the provisions of this chapter, and to notify and request the assistance of the appropriate animal control authority for the purpose of enforcing and carrying out its provisions. (R&R 06-01 § 13, 5-19-2006: R&R 04-01 § 8, 4-16-2004: R&R 30 § 6, 6-9-82).

8.04.070 No appeal to hearing examiner. Due to the extreme health hazard involved in a rabies outbreak and the necessity for expediency in carrying out the provisions of this chapter and notwithstanding the provisions of any other rules or regulations or ordinances to the contrary, orders issued by the director of public health regarding rabies shall not be appealable to the hearing examiner. (R&R 30 § 7, 6-9-82).

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**Chapter 8.06
RODENT CONTROL**

Sections:

- 8.06.010 Citation.
- 8.06.020 Purpose and scope of chapter.
- 8.06.030 Definitions.
- 8.06.040 Duty to implement rodent-proofing and eradication; authority of director.
- 8.06.050 Inspection and enforcement.
- 8.06.060 Violation.

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8.06.010 Citation. This chapter may be cited and referred to, and shall be known as, the “King County Board of Health Rodent Control Regulations.” (R&R 06-01 § 14, 5-19-2006).

8.06.020 Purpose and scope of chapter.

A. This chapter is enacted as an exercise of the Board of Health powers of King County to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety, and welfare. Its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of these purposes. This chapter governs the protection of human health and safety against the spread of dangerous, contagious, or infectious diseases by rats, mice, and other rodents.

B. It is the specific intent of this chapter to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon owners and occupants of land, buildings, or other structures, and other persons designated by this chapter within its scope, and no provision of nor term used in this chapter is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon King County or any of its officers or employees, for whom the implementation or enforcement of this chapter shall be discretionary and not mandatory. (R&R 06-01 § 15, 5-19-2006).

8.06.030 Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. Approved. “Approved” as applied to articles, materials, or methods means such articles, materials, or methods as are approved by the director for use in rodent proofing or eradication.

B. Eradication. “Eradication” means the elimination or extermination of rodents within or upon land, a building or other premises by any or all methods as approved by the director, including but not limited to poisoning, trapping, or obtaining the professional services of a licensed pest control operator so that the land, building, or premises are free of rodents. Eradication includes the removal of evidence of rodent infestation, including but not limited to rodent droppings and burrows, to facilitate monitoring and verification that eradication has been completed.

C. Harborage or rodent harborage. “Harborage” or “rodent harborage” means any condition that provides shelter and protection for rodents. Harborage includes but is not limited to lumber, limbs, motor vehicle bodies or parts, construction or demolition debris, overgrown vegetation, appliances, junk, waste wood, scrap metal, or unlawfully deposited or stored garbage, litter, decaying animal or vegetable matter, or any other articles that are deposited or maintained in an unlawful manner and that provide shelter and protection for rodents.

D. Infestation or rodent infestation. “Infestation” or “rodent infestation” means the presence of rodents on the premises as determined by the director to constitute a threat to the public health.

E. Material impervious to rodents. “Material impervious to rodents” means material used for preventing rodents from gaining access into premises, including but not limited to glass, wood, noncorrosive steel or iron and noncorrosive metal screen, concrete, masonry, steel wool, or other material approved for exclusion of rodents from the premises.

F. Opening. “Opening” means any opening in a building or structure, including but not limited to the foundation, basement, crawlspace, ground floor or any other floor, exterior and interior walls, decks, porches, attics, roofs, chimneys, eaves, grills, windows, vents, vent pipes, ventilators, sidewalk grates and other sidewalk openings, elevators, and space around any pipe, wire, or other installations connected with buildings through which rodents can enter.

G. Premises. “Premises” means real property and any appurtenances upon, within, or connected with it, including land, buildings, and structures.

H. Rodent-proof or rodent-proofing. “Rodent-proof” or “rodent-proofing” means construction, maintenance, or repair of a building or premises which will prevent rodents from gaining entrance thereto, or from gaining access to food, water, or harborage. (R&R 06-01 § 16, 5-19-2006).

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8.06.040 Duty to implement rodent-proofing and eradication; authority of director.

A. The owner or occupant of premises shall:

1. Implement rodent-proofing and eradication measures to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with food, food products, animal food, or bird food;
2. Prevent the accumulation of materials capable of providing food or harborage for rodents, including but not limited to garbage, litter, excrement, filth, lumber, limbs, firewood, motor vehicle bodies or parts, construction or demolition debris, appliances, junk, waste wood, scrap metal, overgrown vegetation, decaying animal or vegetable matter, and any other articles that provide shelter and protection for rodents; and
3. Maintain all premises free from rats, mice, and other rodents.

B. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to rodents lawfully confined either as pets or in the custody of educational, medical, or other research organizations for educational or research purposes.

C. When the director determines it is necessary to prevent or eliminate a rodent infestation, or that it is otherwise necessary for the protection of the public health against the spread of disease from rodents, the director is authorized to order the owner or occupant of premises to take preventive and remedial rodent control measures at the expense of the owner or occupant, including but not necessarily limited to:

1. Implementing rodent-proofing and/or eradication as set forth in this chapter; and
2. Completing an approved eradication program prior to building demolition. (R&R 06-01 § 17, 5-19-2006).

8.06.050 Inspection and enforcement.

A. Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce or determine compliance with the provisions of this chapter, or whenever the director has cause to believe that a violation of any provision of this chapter has been or is being committed, the director may enter any land, building, structure, or premises at reasonable times to inspect the same, provided such entry is consistent with the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Washington.

B. The director is authorized to enforce this chapter in accordance with chapter 1.08 of this code. This chapter shall not in any manner limit or restrict the authority of the director to enforce Seattle Municipal Code Chapters 10.01, 10.24, and 10.34, as may hereafter be amended.

C. The director is also authorized to adopt rules consistent with this chapter for the purpose of carrying out and enforcing its provisions. (R&R 06-01 § 18, 5-19-2006).

8.06.060 Violation. It is unlawful for any owner or occupant of real property to fail to comply with the requirements of this chapter or any order of the director issued to carry out or enforce the requirements of this chapter. (R&R 06-01 § 19, 5-19-2006).