

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1320 Session of  
1989

INTRODUCED BY MERRY, MRKONIC, BOYES, VROON, SCHEETZ, ROBINSON,  
FLICK, HALUSKA, DISTLER, BROUJOS, FARGO, JOHNSON, ROBBINS AND  
TRELLO, APRIL 25, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
APRIL 25, 1989

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1610, No.181),  
2 entitled "An act providing for the establishment and  
3 operation of a Statewide system for the prevention and  
4 control of rabies; imposing additional powers and duties on  
5 the Departments of Agriculture and Health; providing for  
6 emergency declarations; fixing penalties for violations; and  
7 making an appropriation," providing for departmental  
8 designation of rabies risk areas; and requiring vaccinations  
9 within designated risk areas.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 6(3) of the act of December 15, 1986  
13 (P.L.1610, No.181), known as the Rabies Prevention and Control  
14 in Domestic Animals and Wildlife Act, is amended to read:

15 Section 6. Powers and duties of department.

16 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

17 \* \* \*

18 (3) [Institute] Declare regions of this Commonwealth  
19 where the occurrence of rabies poses a grave health risk to  
20 human and animal populations as designated risk areas and

1     institute the relevant actions outlined in this act, as well  
2     as others determined by the department until it is determined  
3     that the threat of the rabies epidemic no longer exists.

4             \* \* \*

5     Section 2. Section 8(a) of the act, amended July 1, 1987  
6     (P.L.184, No.23), is amended to read:

7     Section 8. Vaccination required; certificate and tag.

8         (a) Requirement.--Every person living in this Commonwealth,  
9     owning or keeping a dog or cat over three months of age, shall,  
10    in designated risk areas, cause that dog or cat to be vaccinated  
11    against rabies. Rabies vaccine shall be administered by a  
12    licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed  
13    veterinarian. The Commonwealth shall recognize the three-year  
14    rabies vaccine as the vaccine to be used. Those animals  
15    vaccinated after one year of age shall get booster vaccinations  
16    every three years thereafter. Those animals vaccinated prior to  
17    one year of age will be considered protected for only one year  
18    and shall receive a booster vaccination one year later on the  
19    anniversary date of the original vaccination and shall be  
20    vaccinated every three years thereafter.

21             \* \* \*

22     Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.