

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 155 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE AND WAUGH, JANUARY 15, 2013

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, JANUARY 15, 2013

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," further providing for vaccination
 8 required.

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

11 Section 1. Section 8(a) and (d) of the act of December 15,
 12 1986 (P.L.1610, No.181), known as the Rabies Prevention and
 13 Control in Domestic Animals and Wildlife Act, amended July 1,
 14 1987 (P.L.184, No.23), are amended and the section is amended by
 15 adding a subsection to read:

16 Section 8. Vaccination required; certificate [and], tag and
 17 exemption.

18 (a) Requirement.--[Every] Except as provided for in
 19 subsection (f), every person living in this Commonwealth, owning
 20 or keeping a dog or cat over three months of age, shall cause
 21 that dog or cat to be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccine

1 shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the
2 supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The Commonwealth shall
3 recognize the three-year rabies vaccine as the vaccine to be
4 used. Those animals vaccinated after one year of age shall get
5 booster vaccinations every three years thereafter. Those animals
6 vaccinated prior to one year of age will be considered protected
7 for only one year and shall receive a booster vaccination one
8 year later on the anniversary date of the original vaccination
9 and shall be vaccinated every three years thereafter.

10 * * *

11 (d) Enforcement.--[It shall be the duty of every] Every
12 police officer or State dog warden or the designated municipal
13 animal control officer [to] shall issue a citation to every
14 person who owns a dog or cat which is not vaccinated pursuant to
15 subsection (a) [or], (b) or (f).

16 * * *

17 (f) Exemption.--

18 (1) An exemption from vaccination against rabies for a
19 dog or cat pursuant to subsection (a) may be granted if a
20 licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and determines
21 that it would be medically contraindicated to vaccinate the
22 animal due to an infirmity, other physical condition or
23 regimen of therapy.

24 (2) The department shall develop an exemption form which
25 must be completed and signed by the veterinarian and animal
26 owner.

27 (3) A rabies vaccination exemption shall be valid for a
28 period of up to one year after which the animal shall be re-
29 examined. At that time the animal shall either be vaccinated
30 against rabies or, if exemption status still applies, a new

1 certificate of exemption shall be issued.

2 (4) The veterinarian shall maintain the signed exemption
3 as part of the animal's medical records and provide a copy to
4 the owner.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.