

Rabies Vaccination Policy – Animal Shelter

Background

The Flathead City-County Board of Health (Board) desires to establish a rabies vaccination policy for all impounded animals in the Flathead County Animal Shelter.

The Board of Health recognizes the importance of rabies vaccination as a public health measure to control the spread of rabies in domestic animals that reside or are impounded to the Animal Shelter in Flathead County. Rabies vaccination of domestic animals confers a level of protection from rabies transmission to the human population.

Sections 50-2-116(1)(f) and (g), MCA, require local boards of health to identify, assess, prevent and ameliorate conditions of public health importance and to protect the public from the introduction of and spread of communicable disease. Section 50-2-115(2), MCA, authorizes local boards of health to adopt regulations that do not conflict with regulations adopted by the Department of Public Health and Human Services for the control of communicable disease. Rabies or rabies exposure is identified as a reportable communicable disease.

The Board of Health has adopted the Flathead County Rabies Control Program by the authorities referenced above. The Control Program requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated on a schedule prescribed in the regulation so that the animal is conferred immunity to rabies.

On August 13, 2007, the Flathead County Board of Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Flathead City-County Board of Health to operate the Animal Shelter. The agreement grants operational control of the Animal Shelter to the Board of Health.

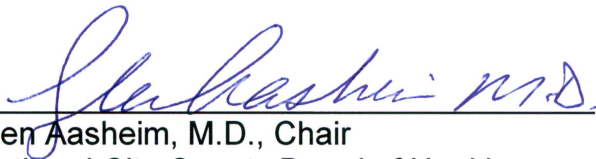
Policy

It is the intent of the Board to establish a procedure that will require all impounded dogs and cats without proof of rabies vaccination to be vaccinated prior to release from the animal shelter. A fee for the administration of a rabies vaccination shall be established by the Board of Health and shall be commensurate with the cost to the department to administer the vaccination.

Procedure

Dogs and cats impounded will be evaluated by Animal Shelter staff for proof of current rabies vaccination. If it cannot be demonstrated within reasonable means that the animal is current on rabies vaccination, a one-year rabies vaccination shall be administered. A Certificate of Rabies Vaccination and metal tag shall be issued and provided to the owner of the impounded animal upon payment of the fee and any additional impoundment fees imposed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Adopted by the Board of Health on March 19, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Glen Aasheim M.D.", written over a horizontal line.

Glen Aasheim, M.D., Chair
Flathead City-County Board of Health