

NEW RABIES VACCINATION REGULATIONS

New Rabies Vaccinations Regulations were passed by the Texas Board of Health consistly basically of allowing some dogs and cats that meet specific requirements to be vaccinated for rabies every three (3) years. However, Kerrville and Kerr County mandate annual rabies vaccinations and, according to the new law, you must comply with stricter local regulations. Therefore, dogs and cats still must be vaccinated annually even though the new state law going into effect on March 19th, 2003, allows for triennial vaccinations.

The new regulations can be summarized as follows:

The owner or custodian of each dog or cat in Texas must have the animal vaccinated by 4 months of age
All dogs and cats must receive a second rabies vaccination within 12 months of receiving their first vaccination regardless of the type of vaccine used or the age at which the animal was initially vaccinated

If the dog or cat has received at least two vaccinations and the last vaccination consisted of 1) an annual rabies vaccine, the animal must receive a vaccination within 12 months. 2) a triennial vaccine, the animals must receive a vaccination within 36 months.

If the dog or cat has received at least two vaccinations prior to this amendment and triennial vaccine was used for the last vaccination, this amendment is retroactive (i.e., the animal's next vaccination will be due within 36 months from the date of the last vaccination)

REMEMBER: If your local municipality has rabies regulations that are stricter than the new regulations (I.e. requires annual vaccinations with a three-year vaccine), you must comply with local regulations unless or until those regulations are changed.

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