

Sec. 5-40. Vaccination against rabies of dogs and domesticated cats; proof of cat ownership.

(a) The owner or custodian of all dogs and domesticated cats four (4) months of age and older shall have them currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, who shall provide the owner of the dog or custodian of the domesticated cat with a certificate of vaccination and a rabies tag. The owner of the dog or custodian of the domesticated cat shall furnish within a reasonable period of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane investigator, law-enforcement officer, or official of the Health Department, the certificate of vaccination for such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture for use in that species.

(b) All domestic cats four (4) months of age and older are required to wear a collar bearing proof of current rabies vaccination which shall serve as proof of ownership. Any cat not wearing a collar bearing proof of rabies vaccination is deemed to be feral and, upon a citizen's request, may be humanely trapped at the citizen's residence or place of business. The citizen making the request may claim ownership based upon the definition of ownership contained in the Code of Virginia, § 8.1-796.55. Otherwise the citizen/owner shall fill out a form releasing the cat to the police department to be disposed of humanely. Any cat wearing a collar with current rabies tag, if trapped by the animal control officer or a deputy animal control officer shall be released.

(Ord. No. 95-9, 9-26-95)

State law Reference-Code of Virginia, § 3.1-796.97.1.