

HB 1488 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2377

08/09

HOUSE BILL ***1488***

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccines for animals.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ammon, Hills. 42; Rep. D. Kelley, Hills. 32

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill enables a veterinarian to make an exemption from the rabies vaccine for animals after performing certain testing.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccines for animals.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Rabies Vaccination Required; Exemption. RSA 436:100 is repealed and reenacted to read as
2 follows:

3 436:100 Rabies Vaccination Required; Exemption.

4 I. Except as provided in paragraph II, every dog, cat, and ferret 3 months of age and older
5 shall be vaccinated against rabies. Young dogs, cats, and ferrets shall be vaccinated within 30 days
6 after they have reached 3 months of age. Unvaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets acquired or moved
7 into the state shall be vaccinated within 30 days after purchase or arrival, unless under 3 months of
8 age, as specified above. Every dog, cat, and ferret shall be revaccinated between 9 and 12 months
9 after the initial vaccination and subsequently receive booster vaccines as outlined in the most
10 current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' Compendium of Animal Rabies
11 Prevention and Control. In rabies infected areas, dogs, cats, and ferrets recently vaccinated shall be
12 kept under control for at least 30 days before being allowed to run free.

13 II. A rabies immunization exemption may be issued by the local rabies control authority
14 upon either the written recommendation of a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B signed by an
15 American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine diplomate and the state veterinarian, or the
16 written recommendation of a single veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B who has performed titer
17 testing as described in paragraph III. The exemption shall be valid for one year and recertified
18 annually by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B.

19 (a) Animals exempted due to illness or veterinary medical conditions that preclude
20 vaccination shall be maintained in strict rabies isolation under conditions determined by the local
21 rabies control authority until the medical condition is resolved and the animal can be immunized.
22 Such animals shall not be allowed outdoors without being leashed and under direct physical control
23 of an adult owner and shall be muzzled in a manner approved by the local rabies control authority.

24 (b) Animals exempted based on demonstrated immunity through titer testing meeting
25 the standards in paragraph III shall not be subject to the isolation, leashing, or muzzling
26 requirements of subparagraph (a).

27 III. For a single veterinarian exemption described in paragraph II, the veterinarian shall
28 perform rabies antibody titer testing by performing a baseline titer test on the animal prior to
29 receiving a rabies vaccination and a second titer test performed 7 to 14 days post-vaccination to
30 establish the animal's individual immune response. Future titer testing for exemption purposes

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- 1 shall demonstrate antibody levels equivalent to or higher than the post-vaccination baseline
- 2 established for that individual animal.
- 3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.