



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

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11 December 2017

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Proposed Amendments to Public Health Regulations

Chapter 511-4-2 "Control of Rabies"

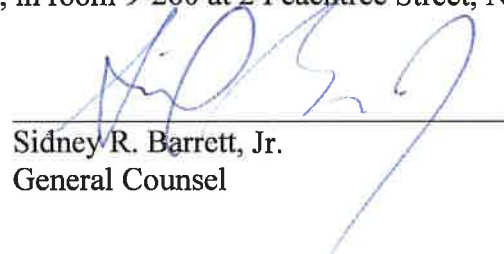
Please take note that the Department of Public Health proposes to repeal the current regulations in Chapter 511-4-2 "Control of Rabies" and replace them with the attached proposed regulations, pursuant to its authority under O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-6.

The current rabies regulations are outdated. The pace of scientific research into rabies and improvements in best practices in rabies control is such that the public and county health departments are better served by regulations which permit the Department to update its rabies control guidance through revisions to its "Rabies Control Manual" rather than through rulemaking. The proposed regulation would require all county health departments to follow that Manual, as well as the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians' "Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control."

Interested persons may submit comments on these proposed revisions in writing addressed to:

Sidney R. Barrett, Jr., General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

The Department shall consider the adoption of this proposal, and shall provide an opportunity for public comment to be presented in person, at a public meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m., 10 January 2018, in room 9-260 at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15th Floor, Atlanta, GA.



Sidney R. Barrett, Jr.
General Counsel

RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHAPTER 511-4-2 CONTROL OF RABIES

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511-4-2-.01 Rabies Prevention and Control.

(1) Each county board of health has primary responsibility for the control of rabies within its jurisdiction. In carrying out that responsibility, the county board of health shall follow the current edition of the Department's "Rabies Control Manual", as it may be amended from time to time, and the current edition of the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians "Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control", as it may be amended from time to time.

(2) The county board of health shall take appropriate rabies management and control measures with respect to any dog, cat, or other animal that has

(a) bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed any person to rabies; or

(b) been bitten or scratched, or otherwise exposed to rabies, by another animal.

511-4-2-.02 Recommended Enforcement Measures.

Code Section 31-19-10 provides that it is a criminal misdemeanor offense to violate any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to Title 31 Chapter 19. The Department recommends that each county and municipal governing authority, adopt an ordinance imposing specific penalties for the violation of any rabies order issued or rabies regulation adopted by the county board of health.