



PROTECT YOUR PET

What You May Not Know About Rabies Vaccinations

Vaccinate At 4 Months And After!

- All dogs, cats and ferrets are required to be vaccinated at **4 months of age** (even if they are indoor animals). All dogs are required to wear a current rabies tag. Cats and ferrets are subject to this requirement as well (unless a local exemption exists). Once vaccinated, contact your veterinarian and schedule a booster for your pet before their rabies vaccine becomes overdue to ensure your pet is current and that their vaccination never lapses.

It Takes 28 Days For The *First* Shot To Protect

- An animal receiving its **first** dose of rabies vaccine is not protected until at least **28 days** after the vaccine is given, and is treated as unvaccinated until that time.

After The First Shot, Vaccines Protect Immediately

- Animals that have been vaccinated before in their lifetime are considered protected immediately upon receiving subsequent vaccinations. This is true even if there is a lapse between vaccinations, unless the animal has already had a potential rabies exposure.

A Current Vaccination Is Not Enough If Your Pet Is Exposed

- **Vaccinated** animals that have **contact** with a rabid animal **MUST** be **re-vaccinated within 5 days** (120 hours) of the exposure. If not, the animal is treated as unvaccinated.

Identify Your Pet!

- Roaming, unidentified animals that bite someone **can be euthanized** 72 hours after a bite. Wearing required tags, as well as personal ID tags and microchips, will help protect your pet.

Unvaccinated Animals Must Be Euthanized Or Quarantined At Your Cost If Exposed

- **Unvaccinated** animals that could have contact with a rabid animal (or an animal that may carry rabies) **MUST** be euthanized or quarantined for 6 months (see below) to ensure that the animal is not going to develop rabies as a result of the exposure.

Animals With Expired Vaccinations Are Treated As Unvaccinated

- An animal whose vaccination has **expired** must be euthanized immediately or quarantined for 6 months if exposed to rabies. Quarantines of this kind are almost always at a veterinarian's office and the owner is responsible for the cost, which can easily add up to thousands of dollars.



These requirements are from North Carolina's General Statutes