



GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ANIMAL CARE SERVICES DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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July 26, 2004

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 9.44.640 OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, RELATING TO RABIES VACCINATIONS

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide, All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the City Council approve the attached ordinance amending Section 9.44.640 relating to rabies vaccinations.

CONTACT PERSON: Jamille Moens, Administrative Officer, 808-6719

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: August 17, 2004

SUMMARY:

This report recommends amending the existing issuance of rabies certificate portion of the City Ordinance related to Animal Care Services. The proposed amendments clarify the rabies reporting procedure for veterinarians and strengthen the enforcement process.

Establishing an effective and efficient rabies reporting program is critical to Animal Care Services to comply with the mandate as a rabies control agency and to enforce the City of Sacramento's licensing requirement.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

This item was heard before the Law & Legislation Committee on April 20, 2004. The Committee unanimously accepted the report and forwarded this item to the City Council for approval. A minor change to the proposed amendment was made subsequent to the item being heard at the Law & Legislation Committee. The language "to an animal that is required to be licensed by the City" was added to clarify the types of animals for which the rabies data is required.

City Council

An Ordinance Amending Section 9.44.640 of the Sacramento City Code, Relating to Rabies Vaccinations

July 26, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State law requires dog owners to vaccinate their animals and City of Sacramento ordinance requires licensing them. The existing City of Sacramento ordinance that calls for every veterinarian to issue a rabies certificate in accordance with procedures established by the Chief Animal Control Officer. While the ordinance exists, clear procedures have previously not been communicated to the veterinary community nor has the ordinance been enforced. Animal Care Services would like to clarify the procedures and begin to enforce rabies vaccination reporting as it is critical to comply with our mandate as a rabies control agency and to enforce the City of Sacramento's licensing requirement.

The amended ordinance identifies the specific information to be reported and the format for delivering the data to the City of Sacramento. It also contains an enforcement element to ensure veterinary compliance with the ordinance. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) supports veterinarians supplying this data. In the AVMA Model Rabies Control Ordinance, it states under the Duties of Veterinarian:

“It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, when vaccinating any dog, cat, or ferret [not legal in California] to complete a certificate of rabies vaccination (or generate a computer print out) for each dog, cat, or ferret that is vaccinated. The certificate shall include the following information:

1. Owner's name, address, and telephone number
2. Description of the dog, cat, or ferret (species, breed, sex, markings, age, and name)
3. Date of vaccination
4. Date of vaccination expiration
5. Rabies vaccination tag number
6. Vaccine producer and product name
7. Manufacturer's serial or lot number of vaccine
8. Veterinarian's signature
9. Veterinarian's address and license number

The original certificate of rabies vaccination shall be provided to the owner. The veterinarian who administers the vaccination shall retain one copy, and **make a third copy available to the Rabies Control Authority** [bold type added] or Public Health Official as needed.” <http://www.avma.org/pubhlth/rabord.asp>

Animal Care Services representatives worked closely with the veterinary community to share these proposed amendments. Animal Care Services representatives spoke with the

City Council
An Ordinance Amending Section 9.44.640 of the Sacramento City Code, Relating to Rabies
Vaccinations
July 26, 2004

Executive Director of the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), made a presentation to the general membership of the Sacramento Valley Veterinary Medical Association (SVVMA), made another presentation to the SVVMA Board and then held an open meeting for any interested veterinarian to attend to discuss the proposed amendment.

The reporting process has been in place in numerous jurisdictions for many years. The following are a few of the jurisdictions that have a statute mandating reporting by veterinarians of rabies vaccination data:

Yolo County	Mendocino County	Las Vegas, NV
Solano County	Monterey County	State of Florida
San Mateo County	City of Antioch	Mecklenburg County, NC
El Dorado County	Contra Costa County	Charlotte, NC
San Francisco, CA	San Diego County	Anchorage, Alaska

While Animal Care Services could move forward with rabies vaccination reporting under the existing ordinance, we believe that clarifying the procedures and manner of reporting, and authorizing a penalty for non-compliance will help our efforts to develop a uniform, consistent and enforceable program.

The rabies vaccination reporting program is important for several reasons:

- Reuniting animals with their owners
- Lower the animal euthanasia rates
- Public education and awareness of mandatory licensing
- Improving the licensing process for citizens
- Generating revenue to support animal-related functions of the City

Licensing can be a matter of life and death. When animals come to the shelter, it is much easier to reunite them with their owners if they have a license. The more animals we can reunite with owners, the fewer animals we will be forced to euthanize. Rabies vaccination records from the veterinarians will allow us to inform owners that licensing is mandatory. At the same time, we can provide improved customer service if we have rabies data on file as those customers will not be required to submit copies of their vaccination certificates at the time of licensing. Staff recommends that the City Council approve the amendments.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

As the City has a licensing program currently in place, the additional cost of processing the records will be absorbed within the existing operating budget. Veterinarians currently collect the data we are requesting. If a veterinarian selects the electronic transfer format, the cost

City Council
An Ordinance Amending Section 9.44.640 of the Sacramento City Code, Relating to Rabies
Vaccinations
July 26, 2004

will be insignificant. If veterinarians opt to send the records via mail, the City will supply postage-paid envelopes.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The City Council's action in approving this resolution is solely for the purpose of clarifying reporting procedures for rabies vaccinations and is, therefore, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. This project does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

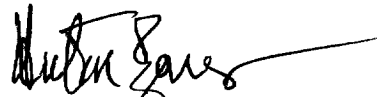
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The action requested herein is consistent with the City of Sacramento's Strategic Plan goal of enhancing and preserving the neighborhoods. The proposed amendment of the rabies vaccination reporting ordinance is intended to increase public safety through rabies control and encourage responsible pet-ownership.

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

No goods or services are being purchased.

Respectfully submitted,



Hector Cázares
Division Manager, Animal Care Services

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

Approved:


ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

Thomas V. Lee
Deputy City Manager /
Interim General Services Director

Table of Contents

- 1) Rabies Vaccination Reporting Ordinance, page 5.

ORDINANCE NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 9.44.640 OF THE
SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, RELATING TO RABIES
VACCINATIONS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1.

Section 9.44.640 of the Sacramento City Code is hereby amended as follows:

Section 9.44.640 Rabies Vaccination Reporting

- A. Veterinarians shall provide the City of Sacramento Animal Care Services Manager or his or her designee, the following information for each rabies vaccination he/she administers or which is administered on their behalf to an animal that is required to be licensed by the City:
1. The name and residence address and phone number of the animal's owner;
 2. The name, age, sex (including spay/neuter status), species, breed and color of the animal;
 3. The date the vaccination was administered;
 4. The type of vaccination used and the vaccine's expiration date;
 5. The name of the veterinary clinic and veterinary license number of the veterinarian administering the vaccination.

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

ORDINANCE NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

- B. Each veterinarian shall deliver to the City of Sacramento Animal Care Services Manager or his or her designated representative the information listed in subsection A of Section 9.44.640 within 31 days of administering the rabies vaccination in the form of a paper copy or in an electronic format approved by the City of Sacramento Animal Care Services Division.
- C. Violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50) for a first offense; one hundred dollars (\$100) for a second offense; and two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a third and subsequent offenses.

DATE PASSED FOR PUBLICATION:

DATE ENACTED:

DATE EFFECTIVE:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

ORDINANCE NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____