

Introduction:

About this Manual

Rabies is a zoonotic (animal-borne) communicable disease that affects both animals and people. **In North Carolina, by law, both animal and human rabies must be reported to the state.** Human disease is reportable to the N.C. Division of Public Health - Communicable Disease Branch, as detailed in the North Carolina Communicable Disease Manual (<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/toc.html>). Animal disease is reportable to N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services - Animal Health Programs (see www.ncagr.gov/vet/vetdis.htm).

The North Carolina Manual for Rabies Prevention and Animal Bite Management serves as guidance for North Carolina professionals involved in rabies prevention and control on the state and local levels, including veterinarians; health care providers; emergency department personnel; local health departments, health directors and environmental health professionals; local animal control agents and law enforcement; Wildlife Resources personnel; certified rabies vaccinators working under veterinarians; North Carolina Public Health and Environmental Health professionals; and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division. This manual was completely revised and updated in 2012; this edition supersedes all previous editions. This manual is to be used in conjunction with the North Carolina Communicable Disease Manual (<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/toc.html>).

The primary resources and authority for the recommendations contained in this manual are:

- North Carolina Statutes (http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/docs/ncgs_rabies.pdf) and Administrative Code (http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/docs/ncac_rabies.pdf)
- Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 2008; Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr57e507a1.htm>) and New Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010 - Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies (http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/acip_recommendations.html). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011 (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6006a1.htm?s_cid=rr6006a1_w). National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV).

Questions and comments about this manual may be directed to:

Veterinary Public Health
Epidemiology Section - Communicable Disease Branch
Division of Public Health
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1902

Telephone 919-733-3419 (on call 24/7 for Rabies Risk Assessments)

See also Contact Information and Resource Links in the Appendix section (<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/appendix.html>) of this manual.

This manual is available on the N.C. Veterinary Public Health web site at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/vph.html>.