

**CHAPTER 49  
RABIES CONTROL**

49.01 Purpose  
49.02 Duty to Report

49.03 Confinement  
49.04 Penalty

**49.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish specific procedures and requirements to enable the Board of Health to effectively carry out functions relating to rabies control which are imposed upon it by Chapter 351 of the Code of Iowa. This chapter is intended to be consistent with the purposes and procedures of Chapter 351 of the Code of Iowa.

**49.02 DUTY TO REPORT.** It shall be the duty of the owner of any dog, cat, or other animal which has bitten or attacked a person, or any person having knowledge of such bite or attack, to report this act to the Health Department or a law enforcement official. Any law enforcement official receiving such information shall report it immediately to the Health Department. To the extent such matters are not privileged, it shall be the duty of physicians and veterinarians to report to the Health Department the existence of any animal known or suspected to be suffering from rabies.

**49.03 CONFINEMENT.**

1. When the Health Department receives information that such a person has been bitten by an animal or that an animal is suspected of having rabies, it shall order the owner to confine the animal in the manner it directs for 14 days. If the owner fails to confine such animal in the manner directed, the animal shall be apprehended and impounded. At the end of the observation period, if the owner pays the costs of impoundment, the Health Officer may return the animal to its owner. Otherwise, the animal shall be humanely destroyed.
2. If the animal involved is a dog or cat, with no apparent owner, the Health Officer shall have the animal confined for rabies observation.
3. When these standard procedures will threaten the health of a victim of animal attack, the Health officer may order destruction and laboratory examination of an owned animal. However, this can only be ordered on request of the victim's physician and advice of State Department of Health personnel, and then, only if the victim or their parent or guardian requests such action and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the County for any damage caused by said action.
4. The owner of any animal reasonably subjected to the foregoing procedures shall pay all costs resulting from apprehension, confinement, examination, or destruction. Any person directed to pay under this paragraph shall, if demand is made in writing within 30 days of written notification by the County of damage assessed, be entitled to a hearing to determine liability and damages under this ordinance.
5. If at any time the Code of Iowa is amended to specify a shorter time period than 14 days for rabies observation, the provision of this chapter shall automatically change to become consistent with the Code of Iowa.

**49.04 PENALTY.** Anyone violating this chapter shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 3.