



ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

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www.michigan.gov/mda

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DOG TATTOO PROGRAM

Effective March 30, 2007, per Act 339, P.A. of 1919, Section 14a (The Dog Law), "When issuing a dog license pursuant to section 14, a county treasurer, city clerk, city treasurer, township treasurer, or the authorized agent of a city or township treasurer, including, but not limited to, a licensed veterinarian, an animal control shelter, or an animal protection shelter, shall also provide information to the dog owner regarding both of the following:

(a) The availability of microchip implantation and registry for dogs by a licensed veterinarian, an animal control shelter, or an animal protection shelter.

(b) The availability of a statewide tattoo identification registry for dogs maintained by the state department of agriculture."

The Michigan Department of Agriculture's dog tattoo program helps reunite dog owners to their lost dogs. Tattoos approved by the Michigan Department of Agriculture tattoo dogs with a state assigned, unique tattoo number (MI-{5 digit number}-A) in the dog's ear and inner thigh. The owners of the dog pay a \$1 fee to have the owner's contact information kept in the state registry.

After March 30, 2007, individuals issuing dog licenses are required to also provide information on microchipping as well as the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) dog tattoo program. It is up to the individual issuing the dog license to create and provide this information. Individuals interested in having their dog tattooed should contact Tina Moreno at 517-241-2748 to locate an individual approved by the department to tattoo dogs in their area.

RABIES PROTOCOL FLOW CHART

In this packet, please find the updated Rabies Protocol Flow Chart. This document summarizes the actions to be taken when a person is exposed (bitten or scratched) to an animal as well as the actions to be taken when a dog, cat, or ferret is exposed to another animal. This document is based on the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control which is revised yearly. Please note the following update in this revised version of the document: an unvaccinated animal which has been exposed to a rabid animal in which the owner refuses euthanasia may be vaccinated *immediately entering into a rabies quarantine* or at one month before the end of the quarantine. In addition, please note that the current document is yellow. The prior version of this document

was green. Please discard the green document and only use the yellow document.

2006 SHELTER STATISTICS REMINDER

Please remember to submit your 2006 shelter statistics to the department either electronically using our new AgWatch system or via the traditional Annual Shelter Activity Report form by fax at 517-373-6015, e-mail at morenot@michigan.gov, or by mail at P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909 by March 31, 2007. If you are having difficulties accessing the AgWatch system or have any questions related to shelter statistic reporting, please contact MDA at 517-373-1077.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING

Please remember that per Act 339, Public Acts of 1939, Section 29b, an individual cannot work as an animal control officer in the State of Michigan until they have completed at least 100 hours of training approved by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. This training must document the date training occurred, the type of training received, the individual supervising the training, and the hours of training received. Upon approval, the Department will send the individual an approval letter notifying them of their ability to work in the State of Michigan as an animal control officer. Please note that police officers and individuals employed as animal control officers for at least three years prior to 1973 are exempt. For more information, including suggestions for training, please contact Cindy Slocum at 517-335-7188.

CANINE INFLUENZA

Since its discovery three years ago, many people have become concerned about Canine Influenza. Discovered in January 2004, the disease is very similar to the virus that causes the flu in people. It appears to affect only dogs. The virus tends to be spread through the air by dogs in close contact with each other, but it can also be spread by contact with infected surfaces. Because this is a new disease, most dogs will not have immunity to it. Therefore, most dogs that are exposed to this disease will become ill. Once ill, a dog can spread the disease to other dogs for up to 10 days.

Signs of Canine Influenza are very similar to Kennel Cough. Dogs develop nasal discharge, a fever, and a cough which can last up to 3 or 4 weeks. In severe cases, the fever can be quite high and the dogs may have difficulty breathing. Some dogs may be infected but show

no signs. Like the flu in people, most dogs will recover once the disease has run its course. Although the exact percentage is unknown, less than 10% of dogs with Canine Influenza actually die.

Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for this disease at the present time. However, there are certain things you can do to reduce the risk of Canine Influenza. Be sure to thoroughly disinfect (e.g. a 1:30 bleach solution) all cages, bowls, and other surfaces regularly. Be sure to wash your hands before and after handling animals and cleaning cages. If an animal is displaying signs of respiratory disease, isolate it and contact a veterinarian.

So far, Canine Influenza does not appear to be a problem in Michigan. If you suspect an outbreak of Canine Influenza, please contact Dr. Roger Maes at the MSU Virology Laboratory at 517-432-5811 for testing. Any dog with respiratory signs and a fever should be suspected. The best time to test a dog is early in the disease, when the fever first appears.

If you would be interested in participating in a surveillance project for Canine Influenza, please contact Dr. Maes at the above phone number. Samples for testing are collected with nasal swabs, and could most easily be collected on anesthetized dogs or dogs recently euthanized. Dr. Maes is also interested in surveillance using serology (blood samples).

For more information on Canine Influenza, log onto:
http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/#canine

EUTHANASIA

We have received a few calls lately regarding the administration of injectable euthanasia solution by animal shelter employees and animal control officers. To practice euthanasia, a shelter must possess a Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Controlled Substance License and a Michigan Board of Pharmacy License. The individual who will be performing euthanasia must receive at least eight hours of training from a licensed veterinarian on the use of sodium pentobarbital. Euthanasia shall only be performed by these trained individuals. This training must be documented with the names and addresses of the employees who received this training as well as with the veterinarian who conducted the training. This information must be submitted with the Michigan Board of Pharmacy Application and subsequently updated every six months thereafter.

According to the Administrative Rules for the Michigan Board of Pharmacy, "training shall include both lecture and self-study instruction and clinical experience. At a minimum, the individual shall demonstrate competency to give inter-cardial, intraperitoneal, and intravenous injections, in addition to making a positive determination of death." It is advised that the training cover the storage, handling and administration of the drug, including the actual handling and administration of the drug to live animals. If no one in the facility has received this training, the shelter must stop performing euthanasia until the

facility has someone on staff that has received this training.

For more information or to apply for a Michigan Controlled Substance License, contact the Michigan Department of Community Health Board of Pharmacy at 517-335-0918. To obtain a DEA License, contact 1-800-882-9539.

RABIES PREVENTION

Michigan continues to remain free of the raccoon strain of rabies. This is the strain of rabies predominantly found along the east coast of the United States. However, we are continuing to find the skunk and bat strains of the rabies virus in Michigan. In 2006, there were forty-nine reported cases of rabid animals in Michigan. These include: thirty-nine bats, three skunks, one cat, one fox, one cow, and four horses. To date, in 2007, there has been one case of rabies in a horse. Most of these cases were from the southeastern region of Michigan. As rabies is typically seen in wildlife species, the state is particularly concerned in the number of domestic cases diagnosed with rabies over the last year. Please be sure to vaccinate all animals against rabies for which a vaccine is available, including cats and horses.

Here are some tips for preventing rabies:

- Have all dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated against rabies. Be sure to booster the pets in a timely manner.
- Consider vaccinating livestock, especially in a rabies endemic area. A licensed vaccine is available for horses, cows, sheep, and goats. Speak with your veterinarian concerning vaccinating these animals. MDA recommends that all horses be vaccinated.
- Avoid wild or stray animals.
- Prevent wildlife from entering your home by capping all chimneys; blocking off or eliminating areas on your property where animals may reside (including under porches or steps); covering or repairing holes in roofs, eaves, and walls; and providing bright exterior lighting to keep nocturnal animals away.

If you find a bat in your home or are attacked by a wild animal, you should contact your local animal control to arrange for rabies testing. The bat may be caught by placing a large can or box over the bat (wear leather gloves), sliding cardboard with small punch holes under the box or can, taping the cardboard to the box or can, and then righting the box or can. If you are ever bitten by an animal, be sure to wash the wound well with soap and water, and report the bite to your local health department. For more information, refer to the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control at www.nasphv.org.

FUN FACT

Currently, there are 96 registered animal protection shelters and 113 registered animal control shelters in the State of Michigan.