



Town of Sterling
Office of the Town Clerk
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Sterling, Massachusetts 01564
Tel 978-422-8111 ext 2307 or 2308

EXCERPT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD
MONDAY, May 1, 2023
Chocksett Middle School 40 Boutelle Road

ARTICLE 36. CHAPTER 18 ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAWS

To see if the Town will vote to amend § 18-3 of the Town's General Bylaws, Animal Control, Licensing and Rabies Vaccination, as shown below, with deletions shown in ~~striketrough~~ and additions show in **bold/underline**, or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 18-3 Licensing and rabies vaccination.

E. Whoever is the owner or keeper of a dog, ~~or~~ cat, or **ferret** in the commonwealth six months of age or older shall cause such dog, ~~or~~ cat, **or ferret** to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian using a licensed vaccine according to the manufacturer's directions, and shall cause such dog, ~~or~~ cat, **or ferret** to be revaccinated at intervals recommended by the manufacturer.

Unvaccinated dogs, or cats, or ferrets acquired or moved into the commonwealth shall be vaccinated within ~~90~~ **30** days after the acquisition or arrival into the commonwealth or upon reaching the age of six months, whichever last occurs. It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, at the time of vaccinating any dog, ~~or~~ cat, **or ferret**, to complete a certificate of rabies vaccination which shall include, but not be limited to the following information: the owner's name and address; a description of the animal, including breed, sex, age, name and distinctive markings; the date of vaccination; the rabies vaccination tag number; the type of rabies vaccine used; the route of vaccination; the expiration date of the vaccine; and the vaccine lot number. The veterinarian shall issue a tag with each certificate of vaccination. The tag shall be secured by the owner or keeper of such dog, ~~or~~ cat, **or ferret** to a collar or harness made of suitable material to be worn by the dog, ~~or~~ cat, **or ferret**; provided, however, that the owner of a cat **or ferret** may choose not to affix a tag to his cat **or ferret**, but shall have the tag available for inspection by authorized persons. In the event that a tag is lost, the owner or keeper of the animal shall, upon presentation of the original vaccination certificate, be issued a new tag. ~~In addition, any person who fails to comply with any provisions of this section shall be charged a fine of \$25 per animal.~~

Whoever violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.

Passage requires majority vote

Motion made that the Town vote to amend § 18-3 of the Town's General Bylaws, Animal Control, Licensing and Rabies Vaccination, as presented in Article 36 of the Warrant.

Summary: The purpose of this article is to bring the Animal Control Bylaws regarding Rabies Vaccination into compliance with MGL c140 s145B, with the inclusion of ferrets, an update to the deadline for vaccinating newly acquired animals or animals new to the commonwealth, and to update the fine for violation of this section.

Motion passed by majority as declared by the Moderator

A True Copy Attest: _____

Kathleen K. Farrell, Town Clerk