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HOUSE BILL 2681

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Zellinsky, Anderson and Dyer

Read first time 01/16/98. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to rabies vaccination for dogs, cats, and ferrets;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 16.70 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 16.70 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) All dogs, cats, and ferrets shall be vaccinated by a licensed  
7 veterinarian against rabies in accordance with rules adopted by the  
8 department of health that are based on the current compendium of animal  
9 rabies control published by the national association of state public  
10 health veterinarians.

11            (2) A dog, cat, or ferret is not required to be vaccinated against  
12 rabies if a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and has  
13 certified in writing that at such a time vaccinations would endanger  
14 the animal's health because of its age, infirmity, disability, illness,  
15 or other medical considerations. An exempt animal shall be vaccinated  
16 against rabies as soon as its health permits.

17            (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, a licensed veterinarian shall  
18 provide the animal's owner and the animal control authority, or in the  
19 absence of a local animal control authority, the local health

1 jurisdiction, with a rabies vaccination certificate that includes, but  
2 is not limited to, the following information:

3 (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the owner;

4 (b) The date of vaccination;

5 (c) The expiration date of the vaccination;

6 (d) The species age, sex, color, breed, weight, and name of the  
7 animal vaccinated;

8 (e) The rabies vaccine manufacturer;

9 (f) The vaccine lot and serial numbers;

10 (g) The type and brand of vaccine used;

11 (h) The route of administration of the vaccine; and

12 (i) The name, address, and telephone number of the administering  
13 licensed veterinarian.

14 The rabies vaccination certificate shall be maintained on file for  
15 a period of four years.

16 (4) The department of agriculture shall develop a standardized  
17 rabies vaccination certificate form to be used by licensed  
18 veterinarians for all dog, cat, and ferret rabies vaccinations  
19 administered on or after January 1, 1999. The department of  
20 agriculture may allow licensed veterinarians to develop vaccination  
21 certificates that are consistent with the standardized certificate.

22 (5) Any person who fails to comply with this section is subject to  
23 a civil penalty of fifty dollars.

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