

CHAPTER 25
RABIES MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Table of Contents.

Section 1.	Authority	1
Section 2.	Definitions	1
Section 3.	Wyoming Rabies Management Plan	2
Section 4.	Creation of rabies districts	2
Section 5.	Public education and prevention	3
Section 6.	Relationship with the Livestock Board, Department of Health, and State Veterinary Laboratory	3
Section 7.	Submission of animals for testing.	3
Section 8.	Vaccination protocols	3
Section 9.	Post-exposure procedures and quarantines	4
Section 10.	Animal Importation	4
Section 11.	Agreements generally	4
Section 12.	Enforcement	4

CHAPTER 25

RABIES MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Section 1. **Authority.**

(a) Pursuant to authority vested in the animal damage management board (ADMB) by virtue of W.S. 11-6-304, the ADMB after consultation with the livestock board and the department of health, shall promulgate rules pertaining to rabies prevention in wildlife including surveillance, public education, vaccination protocol, post-exposure procedures and quarantines. The ADMB may enter into the agreements with law enforcing agencies to carry out the quarantine provisions.

(b) Nothing in this article shall preempt the Wyoming game and fish commission authority to manage wildlife or determine damage pursuant to any provision in title 23.

Section 2. **Definitions.**

(a) The following definitions apply to these rules.

(i) "Board or ADMB" shall mean the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board.

(ii) "Department" shall mean the Wyoming Department of Health.

(iii) "Domesticated wild animal" means a wild or hybrid animal that is confined or controlled by a human and for which the Rabies incubation and viral shed time are unknown.

(iv) "Livestock Board" shall mean the Wyoming Livestock Board.

(v) "Owner" shall mean legal owner of animal(s), or the owner's agent, or the person in possession of or caring for such animal(s).

(vi) "Person" shall mean an individual, firm, or corporation.

(vii) "Pet" means an animal for which there is a licensed Rabies vaccine and which is ordinarily maintained in the home of the owner.

(viii) "Positive Rabies case" means an animal diagnosed as positive for Rabies by the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory.

(ix) "Rabies specimen means" that part of an animal or an entire animal submitted for Rabies examination.

(x) “Rabies Suspect” means an animal showing signs suggestive of Rabies.

(xi) “Under the supervision of a veterinarian” means that a veterinarian is on the premises and is responsible for the Rabies vaccination.

(xii) “Vaccinated” means an animal immunized for Rabies.

(xiii) “Veterinarian” means a graduate of a veterinary college, who is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture and licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Wyoming.

(ix) “Wild animal” means a nonhuman terrestrial mammal or a bat that is wild by nature.

Section 3. **Wyoming Rabies Management Plan.**

(a) In order to meet the intent of the established statutes and regulations, the ADMB shall develop and implement a Wyoming Rabies Management Plan.

Section 4. **Creation of rabies districts.**

(a) Pursuant to authority vested to the County Commissioners by virtue of W.S. 11-31-212.

(b) The board of county commissioners of any county may establish a rabies control district by resolution when in the judgment of the board of county commissioners and the county health officer a district is necessary. The resolution shall designate the boundaries of the district, which may include any incorporated city or town, and shall identify the district by name.

(c) The resolution creating the rabies control district shall be published at least once a week for two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county wherein the district is located.

- (i) The resolution creating rabies districts may address the following:
1. District boundaries
 2. Duration of time for which the district will exist
 3. Protocols for domestic animal/pet vaccination requirements
 4. Law enforcement responsibilities
 5. Enforcement and penalties
 6. District cooperators and lead contact

(d) The ADMB shall recognize the creation of a rabies district as the defining factor in initiating a rabies management program as outlined in the Wyoming Rabies Management Plan. The ADMB may

enter into a cooperative agreement with the rabies district and structure locally supervised management strategies based upon available and cooperative resources.

Section 5. Public education and prevention.

(a) The ADMB shall within allocated resources, conduct a public education and prevention program.

Section 6. Relationship with the Livestock Board, Department of Health, and State Veterinary Laboratory.

(a) The ADMB shall consult with the Wyoming Livestock Board, the Wyoming Department of Health and the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory in its deliberations regarding the implementation of the Wyoming Rabies Management Plan.

(b) Wyoming Livestock Board. The Wyoming Livestock Board is responsible for the management of rabies within the domestic livestock/animal industries. Nothing in this article shall preempt the Wyoming Livestock Board authority to manage domestic livestock or animals pursuant to any provision in title 11.

(c) Wyoming Department of Health. The Wyoming Department of Health is responsible for the management of human health issues and diseases. Nothing in this article shall preempt the Wyoming Department of Health authority to manage human health issues and diseases pursuant to any provision in title 35.

(d) Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory is responsible for the testing and verification of rabies within an animal population. The ADMB may elect to use the services of the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory upon the execution of memorandums of understanding. Payments for services rendered shall be negotiated and agreed upon between parties.

Section 7. Submission of animals for testing.

(a) The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory establishes the guidelines and protocols for submission of animals for testing. These guidelines and protocols are available from the laboratory.

Section 8. Vaccination protocols.

(a) Domestic Animals. All cat and dog owners are encouraged to have their pets kept current on their rabies vaccinations. Municipalities or county governments may require vaccinations. Upon establishment of a rabies district, all cat and dog owners are required to have their pets vaccinated.

Section 9. **Post-exposure procedures and quarantines.**

(a) All human exposures must be reported to the department of health.

(b) All domestic animal exposures must be reported to the livestock board.

(c) Wild Animals. Wild animals, domesticated wild animals, or hybrids for which there is no licensed rabies vaccine, must be euthanized if exposed to a rabid animal.

Section 10. **Animal Importation.**

(a) No unregulated animal species or animal species defined as predators under W.S. 11-6-302 (ix) shall be imported into the state. Animals imported under permit as sanctioned by the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board for research or study are exempt from this provision.

Section 11. **Agreements generally.**

(a) The ADMB may enter into agreements with any person or government agency to carry out the provisions of this article or the Wyoming Rabies Management Plan.

Section 12. **Enforcement.**

(a) Local animal control, health and law enforcement agencies will enforce the provisions established in this article and the applicable requirements set forth by the rabies district.