

**RULES
OF THE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 0080-02-12
DOGS AND CATS**

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0080-02-12-.01 SCOPE.

- (1) This chapter applies to any person who owns or possesses dogs or cats within the state or exported from the state.
- (2) The department is authorized to enter any premises or conveyance reasonably believed to pose an animal disease concern and to order the examination, testing, vaccination, destruction, and sanitary disposition of any animal within the state in accordance with the Act and this chapter.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** New rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.

0080-02-12-.02 DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Terms in this chapter share those meanings of terms set forth in T.C.A. § 44-2-101.
- (2) When used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:
 - (a) Act means title 44, chapter 2, part 1 of Tennessee Code;
 - (b) Move, ship, transport, or words of similar import mean to relocate in any manner an item from one real property to another; and,
 - (c) Vaccine, vaccination, or words of similar import mean any preparation used as a preventative inoculation to confer immunity against a specific disease, administered under direction of a licensed veterinarian in accordance with customary practices of veterinary medicine.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.

0080-02-12-.03 TRANSPORT.

- (1) Import.
 - (a) Dogs. If a dog is older than three months of age, its import must be accompanied by proof of current rabies vaccination for the animal.
 - (b) Cats. If a cat is older than six months of age, its import must be accompanied by proof of current rabies vaccination for the animal.

(Rule 0080-02-12-.03, continued)

- (c) Import of any dog or cat into the state must comply with current federal movement requirements compiled at 9 C.F.R. §§ 3.13 – 3.19.
 - (d) A person shall not import any dog or cat infected with disease unless accompanied by written authorization from the state veterinarian.
 - (e) A person shall not import any dog or cat that originated from or is shipped through a quarantine area unless accompanied by written authorization from the state veterinarian.
 - (f) Absent extraordinary circumstances, the state veterinarian will not authorize import of diseased or quarantined dogs or cats except for research, destruction, or emergency purposes.
- (2) Export of any dog or cat must comply with current federal movement requirements compiled at 9 C.F.R. §§ 3.13 – 3.19 and state regulatory requirements for any state through which the export passes.
 - (3) Movement within the state. [RESERVED]

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.

0080-02-12-.04 DISEASE PROGRAMS AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

- (1) The department deems the following diseases in dogs and cats to be subject to state control programs:
 - (a) Rabies; and,
 - (b) Any disease for which the federal government has established a control program in dogs or cats.
- (2) The department may order the destruction of any animal infected with a disease identified under this rule.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.

0080-02-12-.05 QUARANTINE AREAS.

- (1) Designated quarantine areas. [RESERVED]
- (2) Temporary quarantine of non-designated areas.
 - (a) The department may temporarily quarantine any non-designated area upon written notice to its owner or upon general publication if:
 - 1. Significant symptoms or indicators of disease commonly affecting dogs or cats are observed within the area;
 - 2. Dogs or cats infected with or exposed to disease are shipped into the area; or,
 - 3. Any dog or cat shipped into the area shares a common container, vessel, producer, or shipper with dogs or cats found to be infected with disease.

(Rule 0080-02-12-.05, continued)

- (b) The department may lift the temporary quarantine of a non-designated area if after due inspection the suspected disease is not observed within the area and there exists no reasonable cause to continue the quarantine.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.

0080-02-12-.06 ORDERS.

- (1) The department may issue an order for the stop movement, testing, treatment, or destruction of any dog or cat within the state that is found to be diseased or moved in violation of the Act or this chapter.
- (2) An order may be lifted by the department when the dog or cat that is subject to the order is tested, treated, returned, or destroyed as directed by the department at the owner's or possessor's expense. If the dog or cat is not tested, treated, or returned as ordered by the department within 10 days of the order being issued, the department may order the animal confiscated or destroyed in accordance with the Act and this chapter at the owner's expense.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.

0080-02-12-.07 VIOLATIONS.

- (1) A person is responsible for violation of the Act or this chapter when committed by either the person or his agent.
- (2) Each violation of the Act, this chapter, or departmental order is grounds for issuance of stop movement orders, denial or revocation of any license issued by the department; actions for injunction; confiscation or destruction of animals in accordance with the Act and this chapter; and imposition of civil penalties or criminal charges against the violator.
- (3) The department may refer to law enforcement officials for animal cruelty investigation any person who unreasonably fails to provide appropriate care for dogs or cats in his possession.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-3-203 and 44-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 10, 2019; effective September 8, 2019.