

Animal Rabies Vaccination:

NC Certified Rabies Vaccinator (CRV) Program

To protect human health and prevent and control rabies, North Carolina law requires rabies vaccination of owned domestic dogs, cats and ferrets by four (4) months of age (see NCGS 130A-185). Rabies vaccine must be administered only by a veterinarian, registered veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, or a certified rabies vaccinator (CRV).

Local Health Directors are required to hold at least one rabies vaccination clinic a year in each county to ensure that all domestic dogs, cats and ferrets are currently vaccinated in their county. However, not all counties have a sufficient number of veterinarians to staff vaccination clinics. The NC General Assembly established a “lay vaccinator” program to enhance public health rabies vaccination programs *in counties where no veterinarians were available* to provide this service.

CRVs are appointed by the Local Health Director in their county of jurisdiction and must be trained and certified under the direction of the State Public Health Veterinarians before they may vaccinate animals. The local health director supervises the CRVs and has the authority to terminate a certified rabies vaccinator in his/her county.

CRVs are trained in the acquisition and proper storage of rabies vaccine and the appropriate administration of rabies vaccine to dogs, cats and ferrets. They must supply the animals’ owners with a rabies tag and completed rabies vaccination certificate for each vaccinated animal and ensure that copies of the records are properly kept. All rabies vaccines administered by a CRV expire one year from the date of administration, regardless of the type of vaccine used.

LHD Guidance and Resources:

- CRV Program – Guidance for Local Health Directors
https://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/docs/crv_for_lhds.pdf
- CRV Candidate Vaccine Administration Training Checklist
https://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/docs/crv_checklist.pdf
- CRV Training MOU between County Animal Services & Control, the County Health Director, and a Licensed Veterinarian
https://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/docs/crv_mou_2019.pdf