

**SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT:**

***Rules and Regulations Governing the Prevention, Control, and Suppression of Rabies within the State of Rhode Island***

**Agency Submitting Regulation:** RI Department of Environmental Management/Division of Agriculture

**Subject Matter of Regulation:** Rabies prevention, control, and suppression.

**ERLID No: 5997 (NEW ERLID NUMBER WILL BE PROVIDED ONCE RIDEM GOES OUT TO NOTICE AND OBTAINS NEW NUMBER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE)**

**Statutory Authority:** These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to authority provided under Rhode Island General Laws ("R.I.G.L.") Chapters 4-13, and 42-17.1 in accordance with R.I.G.L. Chapter 42-35 for the purpose of carrying out the functions required to prevent, control and/or suppress rabies.

**Other Agencies Affected:** None

**Other Regulations That May Duplicate or Conflict with the Regulation:** These regulations complement the *Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Animals* which mandates that some animals are required to be vaccinated against rabies prior to importation.

**Describe the Scope and Objectives of the Regulation:** The purpose of these rules and regulations is to suppress and control rabies found within the state and to prevent the spread of rabies when rabies appears in any area within the State of Rhode Island and its appearance creates a threat of infection to animals or humans.

**Business Industry (s) Affected by the Regulation:** Animal Industry

**Types of Businesses Included in the Industry (s):** Veterinarians, pet shops, livestock producers.

**Total Number of Small Businesses Included in the Regulated Industry (s)**

Based on statistics provided by the RIVMA it is estimated that there are 200 licensed veterinarians in the state and DEM currently licenses approximately 20 pet shops. Only a fraction of livestock producers would be encumbered by these regulations since most livestock are exempt from being required to be vaccinated unless the animals have public contact or are placed on exhibition. Exhibition of livestock is generally considered ancillary to the main business of the livestock producers.

**Number of Small Businesses Potentially Subject to the Proposed Regulation:**

Based upon the above estimate, 220 entities are potentially subject to these regulations.

**What is the cost to your agency of establishing and enforcing this regulation?**

The entire budget for the Division of Agriculture is \$1,370,000 for FY13. The portion of the budget dedicated to animal health is \$439,000 for FY13. Proper identification and oversight of animal movement is a significant responsibility of the Animal Health Section of the Division of Agriculture with an estimate of 20% of our annual budget being dedicated to this and related activities, therefore approximately \$87,800.

**What would the consequences be if the regulation did not exist?** If these regulations did not exist RI citizens and animals would be at risk for contracting the fatal disease known as rabies.

**Effective Date Used In Cost Estimate:** 2012

**Addendum regarding proposed amendment (Proposed - Fall 2013):** RIDEM is proposing minor amendments to the regulations. The proposed changes come at the request of the RI Veterinary Medical Association in an effort to make the regulations less burdensome on small businesses, i.e. veterinarians. The proposed amendments are; to allow use of a signature stamp or electronic signature in lieu of an actual written signature on rabies vaccination certificates, and to make the regulations regarding the components of an official rabies vaccination certificate consistent with the model rabies vaccination certificate as developed by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV). The NASPHV model certificate is incorporated into many veterinary practice management software programs so making the regulations consistent with that form will allow veterinarians to streamline the process of issuance of rabies vaccination certificates when the service is rendered.

For each question below, please answer “yes” or “no” and offer a brief explanation.

Please describe any facts, data, views, arguments, or other input from small businesses, organizations or any other sources that were used to quantify the impacts outlined below.

Yes	No	<i>*Note: For each question, please answer “yes” or “no” and offer a brief explanation. Please describe any facts, data, views, arguments, or other input from small businesses, organizations or any other sources that were used to quantify the impacts outlined below.</i>
Yes X	No	<b>Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports?</b>  Minimal records related to proof of rabies vaccination are required to be kept by regulated entities and by the animal owner.
Yes X	No	<b>Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures?</b>  Minimal records related to proof of rabies vaccination are required to be kept by regulated entities and by the animal owner.
Yes	No X	<b>Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight?</b>  No, the referenced regulations will have negligible administrative burden on businesses other than maintenance of the record of proof of rabies vaccination.
Yes	No X	<b>Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation?</b>  No, the referenced regulations will have negligible administrative burden on businesses other than maintenance of the record of proof of rabies vaccination.
Yes	No X	<b>Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)?</b>  No, the regulated businesses are professionals themselves.
Yes	No	<b>Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the</b>

	X	<p><b>regulation?</b></p> <p>No, the rabies vaccine must be purchased, but this vaccine is considered a core vaccine and should be administered regardless of a regulation requiring it.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Are performance standards more appropriate than design standards?</b></p>
	X	<p>No, performance standards are not applicable.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections, or other regulatory enforcement activities?</b></p>
X		<p>The records of proof of vaccination may be requested by state officials from DEM or the Department of Health in order to determine proper management of a potential exposure to rabies.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Will the regulation have the effect of creating additional taxes and/or fees for small businesses?</b></p>
	X	<p>No, there are no fees associated with compliance with these regulations.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements?</b></p>
	X	<p>No, there are no educational requirements associated with compliance with these regulations</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Rhode Island?</b></p>
	X	<p>No, all states have regulations regarding rabies management.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Rhode Island?</b></p>
	X	<p>No, all states have regulations regarding rabies management.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Can the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?</b></p>
	X	<p>No, all states have regulations regarding rabies management. The required reporting and record keeping is what is considered the minimum to adequately suppress and manage rabies exposures.</p>
Yes	No	<p><b>Can the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for</b></p>

	X	<p><b>compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?</b></p> <p>No, all states have regulations regarding rabies management. The required reporting and record keeping is what is considered the minimum to adequately suppress and manage rabies exposures.</p>
Yes	No X	<p><b>Can the compliance or reporting requirements be consolidated or simplified for small businesses?</b></p> <p>No, all states have regulations regarding rabies management. The required reporting and record keeping is what is considered the minimum to adequately suppress and manage rabies exposures.</p>
Yes	No X	<p><b>Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards?</b></p> <p>No, performance standards are not applicable.</p>
Yes	No X	<p><b>Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses?</b></p> <p>No, all states have regulations regarding rabies management. The required reporting and record keeping is what is considered the minimum to adequately suppress and manage rabies exposures.</p>
Yes	No X	<p><b>Were any small businesses or small business organizations contacted during the preparation of this document? If so, please describe.</b></p> <p>No, however, the entire community was afforded the opportunity to become involved in adoption of these regulations in compliance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws Chap.42-35.</p>