

CHAPTER 19

ANIMAL AND INSECT CONTROL

BOARD OF HEALTH ROLE AT A GLANCE

Local boards of health play an important role in the prevention of disease transmission from animals and insects to humans. This role is accomplished in a variety of ways, including the inspection of areas with rodent and mosquito infestation and enforcement of regulations to ensure compliance. Additionally, the board of health (BOH) contributes to the study and understanding of rabies and diseases of domestic animals by collecting animal specimens and documenting animal and human cases of zoonotic disease. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the BOH has an essential role in educating the community on the prevention of diseases transmitted by animals and insects.

Part A: Rodent Control

OVERVIEW

Rats and mice can spread a variety of diseases, including rat bite fever, leptospirosis, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus infection, and in other parts of the country, hantavirus infection and plague. While occurrence of any of these disease in humans in Massachusetts is rare, rodent feces in food can spread *Salmonella* and rodents may harbor ticks, fleas and mites that can bite humans.

Public health agencies have long fought rat and mice infestation. With the assistance of sanitarians and pest control operators, rat harborages are located and the owners of the property identified. The BOH sends a written order to the owner or occupant of the affected property requesting abatement and offers professional guidance for long-term preventive alterations to property and structures. If the owner fails to cooperate, the BOH may abate the problem by bringing legal action against the property owner.

The BOH should encourage proper storage and systematic collection of solid wastes. Proper storage and disposal denies food and shelter to rodents. Preventive measures reduce property damage from fires, reduce contamination of food by rats, and prevent the spread of rat-borne diseases to domestic animals and to people.

BOARD OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect areas for potential rodent infestation on a complaint basis and at regular intervals in high rodent activity areas.
- Issue orders for compliance, revoke licenses and permits (where applicable) and take other enforcement action as warranted to ensure abatement of a rodent infestation. Relevant regulations include:

105 CMR 410.000: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation

105 CMR 430.000: Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational

Camps for Children
105 CMR 590.000: Standards for Food Establishments
310 CMR 19.00: Regulations for the Disposal of Solid Wastes by Sanitary Landfill
310 CMR 18.00: Regulations for Installation, Operation and Maintenance of
Solid Waste Transfer Stations

BOARD OF HEALTH RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Promote rodent control programs to prevent infestation by rodents.
- Adopt regulations that require the practice of safe and effective rodent control methods such as the need to exterminate prior to the demolition of a building (M.G.L., c111, §31A).

Suggestions for rodent control

- Rat proofing: build rodents out.
- Deny rodents a food source.
- Eliminate harborage areas by eliminating the conditions that make rodents comfortable and that provide shelter for them.

If a rodent problem does develop, the rodents should be eliminated prior to the removal of food sources and destruction of harborage areas. Extermination should be accomplished by trapping or use of pesticides. Pesticides must be carefully applied to ensure that children and animals will not be inadvertently poisoned. Many pesticides can only be applied by a Certified Pest Control Operator.

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Public Health, Division of Community Sanitation will assist in conducting rodent surveys and developing a plan to combat infestation.

The Department of Environmental Protection may require routine programs for the control and elimination of rodents at sanitary landfills or transfer station sites (M.G.L. c111, §150A).

For more information contact:

Division of Community Sanitation
(617) 983 - 6762

Department of Environmental Protection
(617) 292 - 5500

Part B: Insect Control

OVERVIEW

There are various ways in which insects affect the health of humans. They can transmit disease, invade the body tissues, inoculate poisonous substances or just be pests. The primary infections transmitted by insects in Massachusetts are caused by West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, both of which are spread by mosquitoes. Ticks are not insects and are not covered here.

The control of insects is called for as part of sanitary programs in various chapters of the Sanitary and Environmental Codes.

To control insects, it is recommended that the BOH keep records of complaints, including the numbers received and where they came from. When a complaint is received, an investigation is required to gather the facts and to determine the source of the excessive insect generation. As an example, an unhealthy number of house flies may be traced to faulty manure storage practices of a poultry farm or horse stable. If the evidence is adequate, an order to abate this nuisance is appropriate.

BOARD OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect areas of potential and actual insect infestation upon receipt of a complaint and at regular intervals.
- Issue orders of compliance, revoke licenses and permits (where applicable) and take any other enforcement action as warranted to ensure abatement of an insect infestation. Relevant regulations include:
 - 105 CMR 410.000: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation
 - 105 CMR 430.000: Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children
 - 105 CMR 440.000: Minimum Standards For Developed Family Type Campgrounds
 - 105 CMR 590.000: Standards for Food Establishments
 - 310 CMR 19.00: Regulations for the Disposal of Solid Wastes by Sanitary Landfill
 - 310 CMR 18.00: Regulations for Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Solid Waste Transfer Stations

If the BOH determines that an area is infested with mosquitoes, it may declare the area to be a public health nuisance and serve an order upon the owner or occupant of the property. The board should advise the owner or occupant on how to abate the nuisance and set a time limit for the abatement.

OVERVIEW OF MOSQUITO CONTROL

Areas of poor drainage in which surface waters may accumulate are prime areas for mosquito breeding.

METHODS OF MOSQUITO CONTROL

Water management/source reduction. This action is the most permanent, but also the most expensive and time consuming method of controlling mosquito populations. It consists of manipulating water in a variety of ways so that it is not suitable for mosquito breeding. Once accomplished, this helps to eliminate the source of mosquitoes and to reduce the use of insecticides.

Larvicide. This consists of controlling mosquito populations before biting populations mature and disperse. Mosquito larvae are confined to distinct and identifiable shallow bodies of water for

several days to over a month. This fact allows the selective application of insecticide to the site of mosquito production.

Adulticide. This method involves the use of low toxicity, non-persistent insecticides to reduce biting mosquito populations. Adult mosquito control is necessary when adequate manpower and machinery is unavailable for water management and larvaciding.

BOARD OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

- If mosquito breeding is caused by negligence (i.e., development, dumping, sewage, etc.), the BOH can serve an order to abate a nuisance at the expense of the violator (See “Nuisances and Noisome Trades” Chapter XX).
- If the person(s) refuses or neglects to abate the nuisance, the BOH may enter the area and eradicate the mosquitoes (M.G.L. c.252, § 5B).
- M.G.L. c.40, § 5, clauses 36 and 50 provide for a city or town to tax itself in order to fund a mosquito control program. A community may, at any city/town meeting, appropriate money for the exercise of its corporate powers for the following purposes:
 - “For the improvement of lowlands and swamps and the eradication of mosquitoes under Chapter 252, or for the eradication of mosquitoes by the board of health in town not then included within an area described by an identifying name for the purposes of Section 5A of said Chapter 252.” (Clause 36)
 - “For the purpose of matching appropriation by the Commonwealth for the control of the disease known as encephalitis such sums of money as may be required, but not more than five thousand dollars. Money so appropriated shall be expended under the direction of the state reclamation board.” (Clause 50)

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB) which rests within the Department of Agricultural Resources is composed of one member from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), one member from the Department of Food and Agriculture, and one member from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The board is concerned with reclaiming wetlands, including meadows, swamps, marshes, beaches and other lowlands, and is responsible for mosquito control in Massachusetts.

If the SRMCB receives a petition from the citizens of a community indicating a desire to improve (reclaim) an area, including a general description of the area, the types of improvements to be accomplished and the necessity or desirability of such improvements, the board must make an investigation and survey of the area.

The investigation and survey should determine the approximate boundaries of the area, the need for

the proposed improvements, the probable benefit to public health, or the agricultural or other uses of the land. Additionally, the survey must include the value of the land for such uses after the improvements are made and the general practicability and advisability of undertaking the proposed improvements (M.G.L. c.252, § 5).

If it is decided that improvements should be made, the Reclamation Board must first give public notice of the petition in the local newspaper and by registered mail to each owner or occupant of the land. A hearing must be held within seven days after the publication of the notice. After the hearing, if the board determines that the improvements should be made, it will determine whether the organization of a reclamation district is necessary for constructing and maintaining the improvements (M.G.L. c.252, § 5).

If the board decides that the district mosquito control project should be formed, it shall appoint three, five or seven district commissioners and authorize them to form and administer a district mosquito control project (M.G.L. c.252, § 5).

The SRMCB is also responsible for approving district greenhead fly control projects in the same manner (M.G.L. c.252, § 24).

If the SRMCB determines that the improvements should be made but the formation of a district is not necessary, it shall appoint one or more commissioners who will be responsible for implementing the improvements (M.G.L. c.252, § 5A).

If there is a mosquito problem in an area that includes a number of towns and cities, it may be advantageous for these communities to pool their resources. The SRMCB may appoint District Mosquito Control Commissions to supervise such a project (M.G.L. c.52, § 5).

A larger scale program could prove to be a more effective and efficient means of mosquito control than an individual town-by-town effort. Experts can be employed for the project to plan a coordinated and ongoing mosquito control program for the whole area, thereby avoiding a duplication of effort and expense.

Any mosquito control measure for a city or town that is not in an organized mosquito control district is a local problem and should be handled by the BOH. However, any order to abate a nuisance shall be in a form approved by the SRMCB in accordance with M.G.L. c252, § 5B.

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB):

Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-1700

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

In utilizing any of the basic methods of abating mosquitoes, one must know the exact nature of the source and extent of mosquito breeding and the size of the area involved. Many variables must be taken into consideration before determining which method is best for a given situation. Technical advice of experts is essential in providing safe, effective and economical mosquito control. Assistance can be obtained through the SRMCB, the State Pesticide Board and the Entomology Department of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Pesticide Specialist Department of Entomology Fernald Hall University of Massachusetts 01003	(413) 545-1044
Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project	(413) 442-1477
Bristol County Mosquito Control Project 140 North Walker St. Taunton, MA 02780	(508) 823-5253
Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project 86 Willow St. Yarmouth, MA 02675	(508) 775-1510
Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project 111 Otis St. Northboro, MA 01532	(508) 393-3055
East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project 11 Sun Street Waltham, MA 02154	(617) 899-5730
Northeastern Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project and Wetland Management District PO Box 5060 Andover, MA 01810	(508) 474-4640
Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project 34 Endicott St. Bldg. 34 Norwood, MA 02062	(617) 762-3681
Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project PO Box 72 Kingston, MA 02364	(508) 585-5450
Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project 39 Industrial Drive Hyde Park, MA 02136	(617) 361-4954

Part C: Animal Bites/Rabies

OVERVIEW

Rabies is a fatal, untreatable, infectious viral disease that can affect any mammal. Birds, reptiles and amphibians do not get or spread rabies. After an exposure to a rabid animal, the virus spreads through nerves up to the brain, and then back out to the salivary glands. It is only at this point that the animal can transmit rabies to another animal, including humans. The virus may be present in the saliva of a dog, cat or ferret a few days before the animal shows signs of rabies. It may be present for longer periods in saliva in other animals before signs of disease appear. Only saliva, spinal fluid, brain and spinal cord are considered to be infectious. Blood, urine, feces and skunk spray cannot spread rabies.

People can only get rabies a few ways. A bite wound is the most common source of exposure. In theory, rabies may be transmitted by getting saliva from an infected animal into a fresh scratch, cut, or mucous membrane (i.e. eyes, nose, mouth), but this has rarely been documented. Also, very rare cases of human rabies have occurred through aerosol exposure in laboratories working with rabies virus and in bat caves. There have been several cases of rabies in humans who were exposed by solid organ transplantation.

Over the last several decades there has been an increase in cases of rabies in skunks, bats, raccoons, and cats. In Massachusetts, two types of rabies are currently present in wild animals. Raccoon-strain rabies, which was first documented in the state in 1992, has spread throughout the state, except for the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. In addition, bat-strain rabies has been documented in Massachusetts since 1961, and rabid bats can be found throughout Massachusetts.

Although any mammal can get rabies, in practice, only certain species pose a risk of transmitting rabies to humans or domestic animals. The high-risk species are: bats, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, cats, dogs and woodchucks (groundhogs). Smaller members of the rodent family (rats, mice, squirrels, moles, chipmunks), rabbits, and the insectivora family (shrews, moles) are considered low-risk species and bites from them are NOT considered to be a risk for rabies exposure. These animals generally do not survive attacks by rabid animals. The only exception to this is rabbits and other small mammals kept as pets and caged outdoors. These animals may be exposed to a rabid animal but protected by the cage, so they may survive and develop rabies. Bites by these animals should be considered higher risk for rabies.

While wild animals are most commonly affected by rabies, they can expose domestic animals who may then serve as a bridge to humans. Vaccinating domestic animals (especially dogs, cats, and ferrets) serves to insulate the human community from wild animal reservoirs of rabies. With the introduction of raccoon-strain rabies into Massachusetts, numerous cats have developed rabies, and the need to vaccinate cats is especially important. It is essential to continue vaccinating dogs, cats, and ferrets.

Most human exposures to rabies are preventable. Over two-thirds of bites occur when humans are petting or feeding wildlife or domestic animals that they do not know. Education for the general public, health professionals, and veterinary professionals can help prevent human exposures to potentially rabid animals.

Education for the general public should emphasize the following steps to decrease human exposure to rabies:

- Do not pick up or touch wild or stray animals of any kind.
- Do not feed wild or stray animals. This includes not leaving pet food outside for your own animals or other animals.
- Avoid sick or strange-acting animals.
- Vaccinate all cats, dogs, ferrets and livestock against rabies.
- Fasten trash can lids tightly. Garbage attracts raccoons and other wild mammals.
- Cap chimneys and seal openings into houses, garages, etc., to prevent raccoons and other animals from entering or building dens.
- If you are bitten or scratched by any animal you should promptly wash the wound(s) with soapy water and consult a healthcare provider immediately.
- If your pet is bitten or scratched by another animal, wear gloves when handling or cleaning your pet. Afterwards, wash your hands thoroughly.
- Teach children to avoid wildlife and strays.

BOARD OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist the Animal Inspector to send animal heads that are suspected of having rabies AND who exposed a human or domestic animal, to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Hinton State Laboratory Institute, for testing. This includes identification of local resources for the humane euthanasia of animals and specimen preparation. Bats, may be sent whole. Animals may NEVER be submitted alive.
- Provide antirabic treatment , upon application, to any uninsured resident exposed to rabid animals (M.G.L.c.140 §145A). The board must establish the rate of compensation for such treatment (refer to 105 CMR 335.000, Treatment of Persons Exposed to Rabies).
- Assist the Animal Inspector to ensure quarantine of dogs and cats or cattle that have bitten a person. Contact MassWildlife in the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game to ensure quarantine of a ferret that has bitten a person. Confine and observe for 10 days.

RECOMMENDED BOARD OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES

- Promote or sponsor annual rabies vaccination clinics, which are usually offered by practicing veterinarians in the area (refer to 105 CMR 330.000, Vaccination of Dogs and Cats against Rabies).
- Promote education in the areas of avoiding animal bites and recommend that the bitten individual contact a physician and discuss rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, if appropriate. The Department of Public Health (DPH) can be contacted for information regarding health issues of people who have been bitten or otherwise exposed. The Division of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources can be contacted for information regarding the health of domestic animals that have been or may have been exposed to rabid animals.
- Encourage the appointment of a dog officer by the mayor or board of selectman for the city or town. In the absence of a dog officer, the board of health may administer dog control for the town.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DOG OFFICER

- Investigate complaints regarding dogs and other pets and damage to livestock allegedly caused by dogs.
- Apprehend stray dogs and keep them until the owner is found or until the dogs can be otherwise disposed of.
- The dog officer may inspect any kennel located within the town or city and may revoke or suspend the kennel's license if it is not being maintained in a sanitary manner or if records required by law are not properly kept (M.G.L. c.140 §137C).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TOWN CLERK

The town clerk is responsible for issuing dog licenses (M.G.L. C.140 §137). A license must not be issued until the dog has been inoculated with an approved rabies vaccine, unless the licensing official grants an exemption because the dog is less than six months old or the dog is in transit or in the state only for show or exhibition. Proof of inoculation with rabies vaccine should be sent by the veterinarian to the city or town clerk in which the dog owner resides.

LAWS REGULATING RABIES/ DOG LICENSING

- The owner or keeper of any dog six months of age or older must have it licensed. The licensure period is from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. (M.G.L. c.140 §137).
- Every license issued to the owner of a dog shall have a description of the symptoms of rabies printed on it (M.G.L. c.140 §145).
- The owner or keeper of any ferret, or of any dog or cat, six months of age or older must have the pet vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian using a

vaccine approved by the USDA. Unvaccinated dogs or cats acquired or brought into Massachusetts must be vaccinated within 90 days of entry or upon reaching six months of age, whichever occurs first (M.G.L. c.140 §145B).

Rules and regulations relative to the vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies (M.G.L. c.140 §145B; 105 CMR 330.000; M.G.L. c.131 §77; 321 CMR 2.07) include the following: Dogs, cats, and ferrets shall be vaccinated with USDA-approved vaccines;

- A rabies tag of size, shape, and color recommended by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians approved by DPH shall be provided by the vaccinating veterinarian for each dog and cat vaccinated. Each such tag shall be inscribed with the words "Rabies Vaccinated" as well as the year, name and address of the veterinarian or board of health, and identification number of the vaccinated animal. The rabies tag must be attached to the collar or harness of the dog and worn at all times in the same manner as the license tag. The owner or keeper of a cat shall either have the cat wear the tag or have the vaccination record readily available for inspection by appropriate city or town officials upon request.
- For each dog vaccinated, a certificate of vaccination either the certificate recommended in the latest Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians or a certificate containing at least the following information: the owner's name and address; a description of the animal, including breed, sex, age, name and distinctive markings; date of vaccination; rabies vaccination tag number; type of rabies vaccine used; route of vaccination; expiration date of the vaccine; and the vaccine lot number, must be completed in triplicate by the vaccinating veterinarian. The original copy shall be filed by the vaccinating veterinarian within 30 days with the clerk of the city or town where the dog is licensed; one copy is to be provided to the owner of the dog, and one copy shall be retained by the vaccinating veterinarian.
- Dogs and cats must be vaccinated by six months of age. A booster vaccination is required within 9-12 months. After this, they should be vaccinated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Ferrets should be vaccinated according to the vaccine manufacturer's recommendation.
- The BOH shall furnish post-exposure prophylaxis free of charge to any uninsured resident who has been or may have been exposed to rabies (M.G.L. c.140 §145A) Information on current vaccine and rabies immune globulin suppliers is available from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization.

Board of Health - Protocol I

Handling A Report That A Person Has Been Bitten By An Animal That Poses a Risk for Rabies (see Part C, Overview for information about species that may carry rabies)

The Rabies Control Plan for Cities and Towns provides comprehensive information on all aspects of rabies. It includes several flowcharts and tables that identify appropriate follow-up protocols for

human exposures to rabies. The most current version of the document can be found on the MDPH website by looking under rabies at www.mass.gov/dph/epi.

The flowchart “Management of Human Exposure to Suspect Rabid Animals” and the table “Management of Dogs and Cats Which Expose Humans” are appended at the end of this section.

Protocol II

Specimen Shipment And Rabies Identification Detailed Information

The Rabies Control Plan for Cities and Towns provides comprehensive information on all aspects of rabies. It includes information on packaging and shipping specimens. The most current version of the document can be found on the MDPH website by looking under rabies at www.mass.gov/dph/epi.

The document “Guidelines for Sending Diagnostic Specimens for Rabies testing to the State Laboratory” is appended at the end of this section.

Reporting On Specimens

An immediate report is made by the Hinton State Laboratory Institute (HSLI), based on microscopic examination of brain tissue by the direct fluorescent antibody technique, approximately one day after receipt of the specimen. The HSLI will notify the local board of health if an exposure to rabies has occurred and will notify those individuals known to have been exposed. The HSLI will also report the information to the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, which in turn investigates the exposure situation in order to provide accurate post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations. If any domestic animals have been exposed, HSLI will notify the Division of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources, which will follow-up.

For questions involving the submission process, please contact the Rabies laboratory, (617) 983-6385. For questions about evaluating potential exposures and epidemiologic information about rabies vector species, contact the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization, (617) 983-6800, of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Protocol III

Rabies Prevention In Domestic Animals

The Rabies Control Plan for Cities and Towns provides comprehensive information on all aspects of rabies. It includes tables that identify appropriate follow-up protocols for dogs and cats exposed to rabies. The most current version of the document can be found on the MDPH website by looking under rabies at www.mass.gov/dph/epi.

The documents “Management of Dogs and Cats Exposed to Wildlife” and “Management of Dogs and Cats Exposed by Other Domestic Animals” are appended at the end of this section.

Rabies resource list:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization,
Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response and Services- questions concerning

human exposures. After-hours emergency coverage provided.
(617) 983-6800

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Molecular Diagnostics and Virology, Rabies Laboratory - for questions concerning animal submissions and test results.
(617) 983-6385

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health
- for questions concerning quarantine of domestic animals, except ferrets.
(617) 626-1786 or (617) 626-1794

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife - for questions concerning wildlife and questions about quarantine of ferrets that have exposed people.
Westborough Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300

Part D: Livestock Inspection/ Keeping of Animals

OVERVIEW

Livestock inspections are performed to protect the economic resource that livestock represent. If a contagious disease is left to spread through the animal population, it can decimate this resource. Livestock inspection also ensures that animal diseases will not affect the human population. Animals afflicted with certain diseases pose a threat to persons coming into contact with them.

Responsibilities appearing in this section are designed to protect the public from any health hazard arising from the improper keeping or slaughtering of animals. Other problems that may come to the attention of the board of health, such as malicious pets or large numbers of pets creating health hazards, may be subject to board of health action if they can be considered "nuisances." (Refer to M.G.L. c.111 §§122-125A). Some towns have zoning regulations which limit the keeping of farm animals in residential areas. Pet shops are licensed, inspected, and regulated by the Bureau of Animal Health of the Department of Agricultural Resources, so that problems regarding pet shops should be referred to the Bureau. Cruelty complaints should be referred to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and handled according to M.G.L., chapter 272 §§77-82.

If a pet shop or other animal-related business is believed to constitute a "noisome trade" or becomes a nuisance (see Chapter 20, "Nuisances and Noisome Trades"), the board of health (BOH) may prohibit the business in places not assigned for such trade, as explained in M.G.L.c.111 §143.

BOARD OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Nominate (annually, in March) one or more inspectors of animals, provided that the town has accepted M.G.L.c.129 §15. Otherwise, the town or city manager, mayor or selectmen shall make the nomination, which must be submitted to the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Health, Department of Food and Agriculture, for approval.
- Give written notice of any known or suspected contagious disease among any domestic animals. Notice should be sent to the Chief of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources, or to the inspector for the town where the animal is kept (M.G.L.c.129 §§24,28).
- License stables within the town or city (if the population of the town or city exceeds 5,000). In towns or cities of less than 5,000 people, the board of selectmen licenses stables (M.G.L.c.111 §§155,158).
- Make regulations or orders, if necessary, for the keeping of animals relative to drainage, ventilation, size and character of stalls, bedding, the number of animals, and the storage and handling of manure in any stable in the city or town (M.G.L.c.111 §155).
- Grant written permission to use a building for the slaughtering or rendering of animals (in towns or cities of more than 5,000 people). This permission, if granted, must follow a public hearing (M.G.L. c.111 § 151). If town or city is less than 5,000 people, this function is the responsibility of the board of selectmen.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

- Inspectors shall make regular and thorough inspections of all cattle, sheep, and swine found within the limits of their city or town. They shall also, from time to time, make inspections of all other domestic animals if they know or have reason to believe that such animals are infected with or have been exposed to any contagious disease. Such inspections shall be made at such times and in such a manner as the Chief of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources, shall order (M.G.L.c.129 §19).
- Inspectors shall examine the places in which cattle are kept, noting the institution, cleanliness, light, ventilation and water supply, and the general condition and cleanliness of the cattle, and shall make a detailed report with names and residences of owners to the Chief of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources (M.G.L.c.129 §23).
- If the inspector is satisfied upon completion of the inspection that the animals are free from contagious disease, he/she must give a signed, written certificate of their condition to the animals' owner or person in charge and shall record a copy of the certificate (M.G.L.c.129 §20).
- If the inspector suspects that an animal has a contagious disease, he/she shall quarantine the animal for at least 10 days and take any other sanitary measures necessary to prevent the spread of the disease (M.G.L.c.129 §21).

- When the inspector has caused an animal to be quarantined, s/he must deliver to the owner or person in charge, a signed written notice of the quarantine and shall enter a copy of the notice upon his/her records.
- When the inspector has caused an animal to be quarantined, he/she must provide written notice and a copy of the quarantine notice to the Chief of Animal Health, Department of Food and Agriculture and shall give such information to no other person (M.G.L.c.129 §24).
- The inspector must maintain a record of all of his/her inspections for two years, and must regularly submit this record to the Bureau of Animal Health (M.G.L.c.129 §§24,20,21,25) in accordance with rules prescribed by the Chief.

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)

- Examine (in DPH laboratories) materials from animals suspected of being infected with glanders, tuberculosis, rabies, or other diseases of domestic animals (M.G.L.c.111 §15).
- Report unsanitary conditions of barns and all cases brought to its attention in which cattle, other ruminants or swine are kept in unsanitary conditions, to the Chief of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources (M.G.L.c.111 §16).

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (Bureau of Animal Health)

The Chief of Animal Health may make and enforce reasonable orders, rules and regulations relative to the following:

- The sanitary condition of cattle, other ruminants and swine and of the places where such animals are kept; the prevention, suppression and extirpation of contagious diseases of domestic animals; the establishing of disease-free herds of cattle, and the issuing of certificates in connection with such herds; the inspection, examination, quarantine, care and treatment or destruction of domestic animals affected with or exposed to contagious disease; the burial or other disposal of their carcasses; and the cleansing and disinfection of places where contagion exists or has existed (M.G.L. c.129 §2).
- Copies of all orders, rules and regulations made by the Chief are to be sent to each inspector in the city or town to which they apply (M.G.L.c.129 §5).
- Every person engaging in the business of dealing in bovine animals (cattle) shall obtain a license from the Chief of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources (M.G.L.c.129 §39).
- No person shall feed garbage to swine without first securing a permit from the Chief of Animal Health (M.G.L.c.129 §14B).
- Any person engaged in the business of operating a riding school or stable where horses are kept for hire shall obtain a license from the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources, Director of Fairs and Equine Activities (M.G.L.c.128 §2 B).
- Every person engaged in the business of operating a pet shop shall obtain a license from the Chief of Animal Health (M.G.L.c.129 §39A).

NON-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY

The agents of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the agents of the Animal Rescue League of Boston may visit all places at which neat cattle, horses, mules, sheep, swine or other animals are delivered for transportation or are slaughtered, any pet shop where animals, birds, fish or reptiles are sold, or exhibited, or for sale, any guard dog business, any hearing dog business and any stable where horses are kept for hire or boarded for a fee, or any licensed kennel where animals are boarded for a fee or any animal dealer licensed with the United States Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of preventing violations of any law and of detecting and punishing the same and such agents shall have the power to prosecute any such violation coming to their notice. (M.G.L.c.129 §9).

Boston Animal Care and Adoption Center

350 South Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02130
(617) 522-5055

Cape Cod Animal Care and Adoption Center

1577 Falmouth Road
Centerville, MA 02632
(508) 775-0940

Methuen/Nevins Farm Animal Care and Adoption Center

400 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 687-7453

Metro South Animal Care and Adoption Center

1300 West Elm St. Extension
Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 586-2053

Nantucket Animal Care and Adoption Center

21 Crooked Lane
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-1491

Animal Rescue League of Boston - Adoption Center and Headquarters

10 Chandler Street
Boston, MA 02116
PHONE: (617) 426-9170

Pine Ridge Animal Center

55 Anna's Place at 238 Pine Street
Dedham, MA 02026
PHONE: (781) 326-0729

Animal Rescue League of Boston - Cape Cod Branch

3981 Main St. (Route 6A)
East Brewster, MA 02631 PHONE: (508) 255-1030