

**Legal News: Required Submission of Rabies Vaccination Certificates to Animal Control Agencies  
1.14.2019**

Dear colleagues,

Were you aware that most local cities require veterinarians to provide timely copies of rabies certificates to the local animal control agency?

The Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury recently released several recommendations aimed at reducing the euthanasia rates at local animal shelters. Among them was a request that the Department of Public Health remind veterinarians of the requirement to send copies of all rabies certificates to the local animal control agency in most local jurisdictions. In fact, 63 of the 88 cities, and the unincorporated regions in Los Angeles County, have ordinances requiring this (see attached handouts). Your assistance can help increase the number of pets that are licensed and returned to their owners if lost and improve the licensing process.

Los Angeles County veterinarians are advised to:

1. Review the attached handout to see if you are required to submit rabies certificates in your city/jurisdiction.
2. If you are, contact your local animal control agency to determine how certificates should be sent in (e.g. hard copy or electronic).
3. Notify your clients about the requirement.
4. Submit copies of rabies certificates to the animal control agency as required by law.

If the city where you practice requires reporting, please contact them if you have questions about the laws or procedures. However, if you have other public health questions, you may call our program and speak with a Public Health Veterinarian at 213-288-7060 (Mon – Fri, 8AM–5PM) or email us at [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:veter@ph.lacounty.gov).

Veterinary practices play a critical role in protecting public health by preventing diseases, diagnosing and treating illness in animals and by educating pet owners. Thank you for your continuing efforts.

Sincerely,

Karen Ehnert, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM  
Director, Veterinary Public Health  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
313 N. Figueroa St, Room 1127  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 288-7060  
(213) 481-2375 Fax  
[kehner@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:kehner@ph.lacounty.gov)  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/>

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