



## Austin/Travis County Animal Protection Care and

1156 W Cesar Chavez Austin, TX 78703

Dial 311

512-972-6052 fax

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### HOME OBSERVATION GUIDELINES FOR PET OWNERS

Your dog or cat has been the subject of an investigation based on an incident involving a potential rabies exposure to a person. The Texas Rabies Control Act of 1981 states that such incidents must be investigated. Dogs or cats which are reported to have bitten or scratched a person must be observed for 10 days from the date and time of the incident, **regardless of rabies vaccination status**. You are required to keep your pet confined at home for the duration of the observation period. Certain conditions must be met.

#### ISOLATION:

1. **Your pet must be kept isolated for 10 days from the date and time of the incident.** "Isolation" means that the animal under observation must be prevented from coming into contact with people or animals other than members of the immediate family, and the animal should not leave your property, even for walks or rides in the car. There should be no contact with visitors. **If you are unable to keep your pet isolated, home quarantine will be revoked;** your pet will not be allowed to stay at home for the remainder of the isolation period.

#### HEALTH CHECKS:

2. **An animal control officer must observe the animal on the first and last day of the observation period.** You should ensure that animal control will be able to view your pet on those days. If you are not able to do so, you must contact the animal control office to make arrangements. **The final health check will occur on the eleventh day after the date of the incident (see date below).** Failure to complete the final health check will result in citations being issued.

**IF YOUR PET GETS SICK, DIES, RUNS AWAY, OR EXHIBITS ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR DURING THE OBSERVATION PERIOD, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN CITATIONS BEING ISSUED.**

#### TAG REQUIREMENTS:

3. **All dogs and cats (4) months of age and older are required by law to be vaccinated against rabies and registered\* with the City of Austin.** If your pet is not registered, you will be required to purchase a registration tag before the end of the observation period. These can be purchased from an animal control officer; most veterinary clinics; or the Town Lake Animal Center - 1156 W Cesar Chavez, from 11:30 am to 7pm Monday thru Friday, from 11:30 am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. If you do not purchase your tag from the animal control officer, you must call 311 and request to speak with an animal control dispatcher to report the number, the date of issue, and the place of issue (veterinary clinic or animal center); or have this information available for the animal control officer who conducts the final health check.