

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BROWN (149) (Sponsor), LAIR, DIECKHAUS,
RIDDLE, FLANIGAN, NANCE, GUERNSEY, DAY, TRACY, FRANZ,
LOEHNER AND SCHLOTTACH (Cosponsors).

1320L.02I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 322, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies, with a penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 322, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 322.035, to read as follows:

**322.035. 1. The owner of every dog or cat in this state shall ensure that such dog
2 or cat is currently vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian, as defined in section
3 340.200, RSMo. Each dog or cat shall be vaccinated initially and periodically for rabies:**

4 **(1) Based on the age of the dog or cat and the type of rabies vaccine administered,
5 as determined by a veterinarian; or**

6 **(2) As required by an applicable municipal or county ordinance.**

7

8 **Each such vaccination shall be kept current for each dog or cat.**

9 **2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

10 **(1) "Cat", any domestic feline animal (*felis catus*);**

11 **(2) "Currently vaccinated against rabies", receipt of a primary rabies vaccine or
12 receipt of a booster vaccine administered in accordance with the 2008 Compendium of
13 Animal Rabies Prevention and Control prepared by the National Association of State
14 Public Health Veterinarians. Such rabies vaccinations shall be performed by a
15 veterinarian;**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 16 (3) "Dog", any domestic canine animal (*canis familiaris*);
- 17 (4) "Owner", any person who keeps or harbors an animal, as defined in section
- 18 578.005, RSMo. Owner shall not include veterinarians or kennel operators who have
- 19 temporary custody for a period of less than sixty days of animals owned by other persons.
- 20 3. Any owner who violates this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor for each
- 21 dog or cat.

