

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ("MDAR") HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF A GENERAL HEARING, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C.30A, § 2 and 950 CMR 20.04, which require the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources to hold a public hearing to amend the following regulation: 330 CMR 10.00, Prevention on the Spread of Rabies ("Regulation"). The purpose of this Regulation is to establish the appropriate protocols for rabies vaccinations of domestic animals, and the handling of those domestic animals which have been exposed to the rabies virus or possibly exposed humans or other domestic animals to the rabies virus. . The regulations will be amended to be consistent with the Compendium on Rabies Control, established by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. The 2016 Compendium recommendations relate to differences in vaccination policies for exposed animals and the shortening of quarantine periods. The proposed amendments will positively impact thousands of animals and their owners each year, who are currently required to endure a six month quarantine. In some cases, owners choose to euthanize their pets rather than endure the lengthy quarantine. These changes will provide a more reasonable option for pet owners, while maintaining the same public health standards.

This change will also consolidate redundant regulations that were promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony are hereby notified to appear upon the following date and time at the respective designated location:

100 Cambridge Street, Boston 2nd Floor, Conference Room D, August 15, 2016, for a public hearing to be held on August 15, 2016, from 11:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M.

In addition to oral testimony, written comments will be accepted before and at the Hearing. MDAR will continue to accept written comments until August 15, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. Written comments should be addressed to Michael Cahill, Director of the Division of Crop and Pest Services, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114.

The full text of the regulations and background information is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/legal/regs/330-cmr-10-redline-version.pdf>

A hard copy of the full text of the regulation and background information are also available upon written request made to at the address set forth above.

By: John Lebeaux, Commissioner