



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

Jennifer A. Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

June 11, 2024

RECORDS UPDATE

As required by Chapter 826 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, also known as the Rabies Control Act of 1981, the governing body of each municipality and county shall appoint an officer to act as the Local Rabies Control Authority (LRCA) in situations involving exposures to suspected rabid animals.

In many cities and towns, all of the decisions regarding animal bites and rabies suspects are made by the animal control supervisor, but an LRCA **must** still be appointed. The officer designated may be the municipal health officer, animal control officer, peace officer, or any entity the governing body considers appropriate. Some smaller cities may opt to appoint the same individual chosen by the county, provided that person agrees to take on that responsibility.

Please appoint an LRCA and return the enclosed form to this office. If you have already made the appointment, please return the enclosed form anyway so that I may update our records. If you have any questions or require assistance with this appointment, please call the Zoonotic Control Group of the Texas Department of State Health Services at (806) 477-1104 or (806) 674-0640

Sincerely,

Tonya Finch
Public Health and Prevention Specialist



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Texas Department of State
Health Services

LOCAL RABIES CONTROL AUTHORITY

The _____ of _____
(governing body) (city or county)

designates _____ as the Local Rabies Control
(job title or name)

Authority (LRCA) for the purposes of the RABIES CONTROL ACT OF 1981.

This appointment became effective _____
(date)

AUTHORIZING PERSON'S NAME (print): _____

AUTHORIZING PERSON'S TITLE: _____

AUTHORIZING PERSON'S SIGNATURE: _____

Please print the name and contact information of the appointed individual:

NAME: _____

AGENCY: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Email: tonya.finch@dshs.texas.gov

Department of State Health Services
Zoonosis Control
3407 Pony Express Way
Amarillo, Texas 79118

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE TITLE 10.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ANIMALS

CHAPTER 826. RABIES

Section **826.017**. Designation of Local Rabies Control Authority.

(a) The commissioners court of each county and the governing body of each municipality shall designate an officer to act as the local rabies control authority for the purposes of this chapter. (b) Except as restricted by department rule, the officer designated as the local rabies control authority may be the county health officer, municipal health officer, animal control officer, peace officer, or any entity that the commissioners court or governing body considers appropriate. (c) Among other duties, the local rabies control authority shall enforce: (1) this chapter and the department rules that comprise the minimum standards for rabies control; (2) the ordinances or rules of the municipality or county that the local rabies control authority serves; and (3) the rules adopted by the executive commissioner under the area rabies quarantine provisions of Section 826.045. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 44, Sec. 2, eff. May 5, 1995. Amended by: Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.1612, eff. April 2, 2015.