



Health Code Changes Affecting Animals and Animal Businesses:

Learn about Changes That Affect Horse and Stable Owners, Boarding Kennels, Grooming Parlors, Training Establishments, Pet Shops, and Circuses and Exhibitors

The New York City Board of Health recently changed Article 161 and Article 11 of the Health Code, which relate to animals and animal businesses. The changes are meant to protect the health of animals and people who care for them and make the Health Code easier to understand. Learn about changes that affect different types of animal businesses:

All Animal Businesses

The Board of Health clarified the definition of “in operation.” All animal businesses licensed by the Health Department must follow Health Code requirements when they are in operation. Now, animal businesses are considered in operation whenever animals are on site, even if the business is not open to the public.

Horse and Stable Owners

Rabies Vaccination Requirement

- Owners of private and rental horses must keep proof that their horse(s) is/are currently vaccinated against rabies.
- Stable operators must keep proof that the horses kept in their stables are currently vaccinated against rabies.

Proof of rabies vaccination is a copy of a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.

All Animal-Handling Facilities

Animal-handling facilities are:

- Boarding kennels
- Grooming parlors
- Training establishments and
- Pet shops that provide grooming, boarding and/or training services.

Rabies Vaccination Requirement

Dogs and Cats

- All animal-handling facilities must keep proof of current vaccination against rabies from owners of the animals that they are servicing.
- Proof of vaccination must be kept for at least one year.

Proof of rabies vaccination is a copy of a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.

Canine Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus and Bordetella Vaccinations

Dogs Only

- **Boarding kennels, training establishments and pet shops that provide boarding, training and/or grooming must:**
 - Keep proof of current vaccinations for **all** animals serviced. (Proof can be a medical record, invoice, veterinarian statement or receipt either provided by the owner or emailed or faxed from the dog's veterinarian.)
 - Keep on file a veterinarian's letter confirming the status of any dog that is unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons.
- **Facilities that provide grooming services *only* must:**
 - Keep proof of current vaccinations for **all** animals serviced. (Proof can be a medical record, invoice, veterinarian statement or receipt provided by the owner, or emailed or faxed from the dog's veterinarian.)

OR

- Get a sworn statement from the owner that the dog has been vaccinated. (This must include the name and contact information of the veterinarian who gave the vaccines.)
- Keep on file a veterinarian's letter confirming the status of any dog that is unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Animal-handling facilities may NOT use Box/Cage Dryers that contain a heating unit.

- Only cage or box driers that circulate *unheated* air may be used.
- Dryers with a heating unit may be used *only* when they are manually held and operated.

Animal Exhibitors, Circuses and Wildlife Rehabilitators

- All animal exhibitors including circuses and wildlife rehabilitators must get Health Department permits to exhibit or use animals to perform in New York City.
- Completed applications for this permit must be submitted to the Department at least 10 business days before the animals arrive in New York City.
- To apply for a permit, visit: nyc.gov/healthpermits, select *Animals* and then select *Exhibit Exotic Animals*.

Read the regulations.

To read the Health Code regulations on animals, visit: nyc.gov/healthcode and select **Article 161**.

To read the Health Code regulations on reportable diseases and conditions (including rabies), visit nyc.gov/healthcode and select **Article 11**.

To read the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, visit www.agriculture.ny.gov and search for **Article 26** or *animal grooming*.