

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-6521 of the Code of Virginia, relating to animal care; rabies*
3 *vaccination.*

4
5 Approved

[H 322]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 3.2-6521 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of dogs and domesticated cats; availability of certificate; rabies clinics.

9 A. The owner or custodian of all dogs and domesticated cats four months of age and older shall have
10 them currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who is
11 under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises. The supervising
12 veterinarian on the premises shall provide the owner of the dog or the custodian of the domesticated cat
13 with a certificate of vaccination. The owner of the dog or the custodian of the domesticated cat shall
14 furnish within a reasonable period of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane
15 investigator, law-enforcement officer, State Veterinarian's representative, or official of the Department of
16 Health, the certificate of vaccination for such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the U.S.
17 Department of Agriculture for use in that species.

18 B. Rabies clinics, approved by the appropriate health department and governing body, shall be held
19 at least once per year when the governing body finds that the number of resident veterinarians is
20 otherwise inadequate to meet the need.

21 C. Vaccination subsequent to a summons to appear before a court for failure to do so shall not
22 operate to relieve such owner from the penalties or court costs provided under § 16.1-69.48:1 or
23 17.1-275.7.

24 D. *The Board of Health shall, by regulation, provide an exemption to the requirements of subsection*
25 *A if an animal suffers from an underlying medical condition that is likely to result in a life-threatening*
26 *condition in response to vaccination and such exemption would not risk public health and safety. For*
27 *the purposes of § 3.2-6522, such exemption shall mean that the animal is considered not currently*
28 *vaccinated for rabies. For the purposes of §§ 3.2-5902, 3.2-6526, and 3.2-6527, such exemption shall be*
29 *considered in place of a current certificate of vaccination.*

ENROLLED

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