

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1876**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Todd M. Smola***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An act relative to standardizing rabies vaccination certificates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Todd M. Smola*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*1st Hampden*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1876**

By Mr. Smola of Palmer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1876) of Todd M. Smola relative to standardizing rabies vaccination certificates. Municipalities and Regional Government.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3294 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An act relative to standardizing rabies vaccination certificates.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 145B of chapter 140 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2008  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following paragraph:-

4 Whoever is the owner or keeper of a dog or cat in the commonwealth six months of age  
5 or older shall cause such dog or cat to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian  
6 using a licensed vaccine according to the manufacturer's directions, and shall cause such dog or  
7 cat to be revaccinated at intervals recommended by the manufacturer. Unvaccinated dogs and  
8 cats acquired or moved into the commonwealth shall be vaccinated within 90 days after the  
9 acquisition or arrival into the commonwealth or upon reaching the age of 6 months, whichever  
10 last occurs. It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, at the time of vaccinating any dog or cat, to  
11 complete a certificate of rabies vaccination which shall include, but not be limited to the  
12 following information: the owner's name and address; a description of the animal, including  
13 breed, sex, date of birth, name and distinctive markings; the date of vaccination; the rabies  
14 vaccination tag number; the type of rabies vaccine used; the route of vaccination; the expiration  
15 date of the vaccine; and the vaccine lot number. Distribution of copies of the certificate shall be:  
16 the original to the owner, 1 copy retained by the issuing veterinarian and, within 14 days of the  
17 vaccination, 1 copy to the town or city clerk where the dog or cat is kept. All rabies certificates

18 shall be in the following form and shall be printed in at least 12 point type on 8 ½ by 11 inches  
19 sheets of non-carbon issued paper:

20

21 CERTIFICATE OF RABIES VACCINATION

22 NAME OF PROVIDER/CLINIC NAME \_\_\_\_\_

23 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

24 TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

25 FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

26

27 Name of owner: \_\_\_\_\_

28 Residence of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

29 Street/Road \_\_\_\_\_

30 City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ MA

31 Mailing address if different from residence: \_\_\_\_\_

32 \_\_\_\_\_

33

34 Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

35 2nd contact number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

36

37 Name of Dog or Cat \_\_\_\_\_

38 Breed \_\_\_\_\_

39 Sex: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Neutered \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed \_\_\_\_\_

40 Date of Neutering/Spaying (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

41 Color: \_\_\_\_\_

42 Date of Birth (not age of animal) \_\_\_\_\_

43 Date of Vaccination \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

44 Vaccine is One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Three Year \_\_\_\_\_

45 Rabies Tag # \_\_\_\_\_

46 Provider Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

47 If dog is not able to receive a Rabies Vaccination due to age, illness or other reason  
48 please specify here to insure owner may procure the mandated license:

49

50 Per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140 Section 137, all dogs must be licensed at six  
51 (6) months of age. (This statement must be in bold print).

52

53 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.