

1978 WL 207601 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 23, 1978

\*1 Mr. Phillip D. Burnes  
Town Manager  
Winnsborok SC 29180

Dear Mr. Burnes:

This letter is written in response to your request of April 27, 1978, concerning vaccination of animals against rabies. Specifically, you asked who may issue and sign a vaccination certificate, and who may furnish a serially numbered tag.

South Carolina's law on this subject is, as referenced by your letter, contained in [Section 47-5-60, S. C. Code](#) of Laws, 1976. There it is required that a "licensed graduate veterinarian" sign a DHEC certificate of inoculation and issue a "serially numbered metal license tag." This language appears to permit individuals other than a veterinarian to actually administer the rabies inoculation to an animal. However, since a licensed veterinarian must certify that the animal has been properly inoculated, the practical impact of the section seems to require that either the veterinarian administer the vaccine himself or observe the inoculation when done by someone else. An inoculation administered by a non-veterinarian which is not certified by a licensed graduate veterinarian would not meet the requirements of [Section 47-5-60](#).

Finally, you should also note that the provisions of [Section 47-5-60](#) are the minimum requirements which must be met statewide. Section 47-5-210 provides that municipalities may "enforce other and additional measures for the restriction and control of rabies." Consequently, requiring that a licensed graduate veterinarian administer the inoculation to domestic animals is certainly within your authority under the statute.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you. Should you need further help, please contact me.  
Very truly yours,

M. Richbourg Roberson  
Assistant Attorney General

Approved:

(Illegible Signature)

1978 WL 207601 (S.C.A.G.)

---

End of Document

© 2017 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.