

## **RABIES CONTROL OFFICER**

**169**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is a technical position providing assistance to the Division of Public Safety and to the Public Health Department in response to reported animal bites and potential exposure to rabies. Once the determination has been made by Public Health Nursing that the exposure meets New York State Department of Health protocol, the Rabies Control Officer shall perform duties under the direction of the Division of Public Safety. Given the urgent nature of this work, the incumbent will be required to operate a County-owned specialized vehicle for the purpose of responding to incidents at varying times of the day and night. Work space will be provided from the Public Health Department.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** *The typical work activities listed below, while providing representative examples of the variety of work assignments in the title, do not describe any individual position. Incumbents in this title may perform some or all of the following, as well as other related activities not described.*

Follows up with designated health staff to ensure that the 10-day rabies quarantine and checkup is completed and the domestic animal is still healthy and not infected with rabies;

Notifies bitten person of confinement outcome;

Contacts owners of domestic animals potentially exposed to rabies regarding rabies vaccine boosters or quarantine requirements;

Assists in ensuring that biting domestic animals are adequately confined by providing quarantine, or assists in finding a place to quarantine, the animal as required by the New York State Department of Health;

Ascertain and confirms rabies vaccination status;

Issues citations;

Makes determination as to quarantine;

Discusses potential rabies exposure with exposed individuals, and provides information to individuals on seeking medical attention;

Through Public Health, makes referrals to appropriate health care providers and follows up with providers to verify that exposed person(s) have completed appropriate rabies post-exposure treatment;

Obtains information from providers regarding treatment provided and follows up in writing with non-compliant, exposed individuals;

Arranges for submittal of rabies specimens to lab for testing and forwards results to exposed person(s) and their medical provider;

Locates dogs/cats/wildlife that have bitten a person as directed by Public Health and/or Public Safety;

Maintains clear communication with Commissioner of Public Safety (or designee), Director of Public Health (or designee), and others as may be needed, regarding status of rabies investigations and medical treatments;

Works under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Public Safety (or designee) and Director of Public Health (or designee) with wide latitude for professional judgment; and

Transports live or dead animals to the assigned veterinary office for euthanasia and/or testing.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Skills which facilitate effective animal management; experience working in high-

stress situations with emotional or anxious individuals; ability to deal with people during high-stress environments in a patient, clear and polite manner; computer literacy, including the ability to use departmental and State computer software programs; a strong understanding of technical guidance and advisories developed by the New York State Department of Health and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the prevention of human rabies; ability to be available via telephone after hours, as needed; good writing, communication, and organizational skills which may be utilized in a court setting; good professional judgment; tact; and courtesy.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- (A) Graduation from high school, or possession of a high school equivalency diploma, and five (5) years of experience handling animals in an official capacity (ACO, DCO, veterinary technician or similar experience).

*SPECIAL NOTE: Candidates must possess an appropriate New York State license to operate a motor vehicle.*