

SANITARY RULES AND REGULATIONS No. 5
GOVERNING THE KEEPING OF DOGS, THE SUPPRESSION OF STRAY
ANIMALS, AND PREVENTION OF RABIES

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAN JUAN, P. R., *august 10, 1912.*

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BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO
A PROCLAMATION

Sanitary Rules and Regulations No. 5.—Rules and regulations governing the keeping of dogs, the suppression of stray animals, and prevention of rabies; promulgated.

The following rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 24, approved March 7, 1912, and Act No. 81, approved March 14, 1912, having been approved by the Executive Council with amendments on July 18, 1912, and concurred in by the Insular Board of Health on July 29, 1912, are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE KEEPING OF DOGS, THE SUPPRESSIONS OF
STRAY ANIMALS, AND PREVENTION OF RABIES.

Section 1.—In every municipality of Porto Rico shall be kept a special register wherein every owner of a dog or dogs shall, within 30 days after the promulgation of this ordinance, make a record of such dog or dogs. Therein shall be inscribed the name of the owner of the dog, the number of the metal check which will be issued and the date of the inscription; the above-mentioned metal check, upon which shall be inscribed the number of the same and the year of inscription, shall be given to the owner to be placed upon the collar which must be worn by every dog. Each municipality shall by proclamation determine the amount of the annual tax which shall be paid into the municipal treasury by the owners of dogs at the time of inscription.

Section 2.—The health officer shall give the necessary orders for the sequestration of every dog found wandering through the public thoroughfare not carrying the collar and check mentioned in section 1, and for all dogs which, though carrying the collar and check are not held by a leash; *Provided*, That this provision as to the holding of dogs by a leash shall not apply to dogs without the urban zone of a municipality. Said dogs shall be inclosed in some place destined for this purpose and shall be kept there 24 hours, and if at the expiration of that

time they shall not have been claimed by their owners, they shall be destroyed. Such inclosures shall be built and maintained by the municipalities. The owners of dogs shall pay the tax imposed by the municipality.

Section 3.—The health officer shall order the immediate destruction of every animal suffering from rabies of whatever species, and the killing thereof shall not be postponed under any pretext or circumstance whatever. In doubtful cases all the animals clinically suspected shall be put under the careful vigilance of the veterinary, if there be one, or of the health officer where there is no veterinary, for the space of 15 days until the facts be determined. The places in which such animals shall be put under observation shall be determined upon by the Director of Sanitation.

Section 4.—For the purposes of the foregoing section, any animal that has been exposed to contact with a rabid dog shall be considered a suspect.

Section 5.—The health officer may, at his discretion, upon the occurrence of a case of rabies in the zone, fix by proclamation a period of time of not to exceed two months, during which any dog found at large without a muzzle be killed. This proclamation shall take effect 24 hours after being published.

Section 6.—Any owner or person in charge of a dog or other domestic animal who shall know or suspect said animal to be suffering from rabies, shall immediately notify the health officer of the zone with regard to same.

Section 7.—Any person who shall be bitten, scratched or slavered upon by a rabid dog or other animal, shall immediately seek advice from the nearest physician, who shall at once report the case to the Director of Sanitation, who shall in turn dictate the special measures to be adopted in the case.

Section 8.—If notwithstanding the provisions of section 3, any animal suspected of rabies shall be destroyed or shall die a natural death, then the health officer shall, after taking the necessary precautions, forward the neck and head of the dead animal, carefully packed in ice, to the Director of Sanitation, in order that the Biological Laboratory may examine the same and declare whether rabies existed or not.

Section 9.—The Director of Sanitation shall adopt the precautions necessary to be taken to place in quarantine all dogs which may be entered at any port and to order the destruction of any dog or dogs found to be suffering from a contagious disease. He shall also confiscate and order the destruction of any dog or dogs which shall be imported in Porto Rico contrary to the dispositions of this section, and shall bring before the court any person who shall import dogs contrary to these Rules and Regulations. Any transportation company which shall transport any dog or dogs to the Island of Porto Rico shall duly advise the importer or importers of said dog or dogs of the provisions of this section; *Provided*, That transient dogs belonging to public shows, shall be admitted freely after having been examined by the veterinary and having been declared sound; *Provided*, That the owners of such dogs shall give the bond necessary to prevent the allowing of liberty to those dogs and to insure their exportation when no longer dedicated to such purposes. Quarantine shall cover a period of six months.

Section 10.—The officials in charge of the animal depots which shall be established in accordance with these Rules and Regulations shall see that the same are kept in good sanitary condition.

Section 11.—The Director of Sanitation shall see that the provisions of these Rules and Regulations are duly fulfilled.

Section 12.—Any infringement of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations shall be punished in accordance with section 33 of "An Act to reorganize the Service of Sanitation," approved March 14, 1912.

Being so promulgated, and having been published in two newspapers of general circulation in the Island, in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of Act No. 81, approved March 14, 1912, the said Rules and Regulations, entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing the Keeping of Dogs, the Suppression of Stray Animals, and Prevention of Rabies," on and after this date have the force and effect of law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Government of Porto Rico to be affixed at the City of San Juan, this tenth day of August, A. D. nineteen hundred and twelve.

M. DREW CARREL,
Acting Governor.

[SEAL]
Promulgated according to law, August 10, 1912.

R. SIACA PACHECO,
Acting Secretary of Porto Rico.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

This REVIEW will be glad to receive articles for publications but will reserve the right to publish only those adapted to its purposes.

It is especially interested in contributions from the medical profession particularly from those who are competent to discuss public health matters.

Manuscripts are not returned. All articles should be addressed to:

PORTO RICO HEALTH REVIEW,
Department of Health,
San Juan, Porto Rico.