

CHAPTER 9

CONTROL OF VECTORS

ARTICLE A PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

Section 9-1 Purpose

This section provides Rules and Regulations for the protection of the public health by controlling or preventing the spread of vector borne diseases by eradication of vectors, by vector-proofing of structures, and by maintenance of buildings and properties in a condition not conducive to vector harborage.

Section 9-2 Definitions

For the purposes of these Rules and Regulations, the following definitions apply:

BAT-PROOFING - Construction to seal all actual or potential openings in the exterior of a building in order to prevent the ingress of bats into a building from the exterior.

BUILDING - Any structure capable of providing harborage for rats or other vectors, whether public or private, regardless of intended purpose, of relative state of dilapidation or destruction, or whether or not construction is complete.

ERADICATION - The elimination or control of vectors by any or all accepted measures. These measures include, but are not limited to removal of food, water, and harborage, poisoning, trapping, or any other recognized and legal method approved by the Department.

GARBAGE - Putrescible solid wastes comprised of animal, grain, fruit, or vegetable matter.

HARBORAGE - Condition which provides shelter or protection for vectors, favoring their multiplication and continued existence.

INFESTATION – The presence of any vector in numbers great enough to

present a condition detrimental to the public health.

INVERTEBRATE VECTOR - An arthropod capable of transmitting a pathogen to man, or capable of causing food to become unclean, unwholesome, spoiled, adulterated, or unsafe for human consumption.

PEST CONTROL OPERATOR - A commercial pesticide applicator certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to apply restricted use pesticides for household and health related pest control.

PREMISES - A lot, plot, or parcel of land, including the buildings and structures thereon.

RAT-PROOFING - Construction to prevent the ingress of rats into a building, consisting of sealing all actual or potential openings into a building with materials impervious to rodent gnawing.

REFUSE - Nonputrescible waste generally regarded and classified as rubbish, trash, junk, and similar designations.

VECTOR --Any living creature that transmits an infectious agent to humans.

ARTICLE B GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 9-3 General Vector Control

- a. Whenever there is evidence of vector infestation in or around any building or establishment, so as to present a condition detrimental to the public health, then it shall be required that appropriate and effective vector eradication and control measures be instituted and maintained so as to eliminate said infestation and prevent future infestation.
- b. Whenever an extensive vector infestation exists on any premises, so as to present a condition detrimental to the public health, it shall be required that the services of a pest control operator be obtained in

order to institute satisfactory vector eradication measures.

Section 9-4 **Rat Control**

- a. All premises shall be maintained in a condition not conducive to rat harborage or to afford rats a food source when there is evidence of an infestation.
- b. Whenever there is evidence of rats harboring on any premises, it shall be required that rat eradication measures be instituted and maintained until the premises are rat- free.
- c. Requirement of Rat-proofing: All buildings shall be rat-proofed, free of rats, and maintained in a rat-proofed and rat free condition.
- d. Closing of Facilities: Whenever conditions establish extensive rat harborage at an occupied building, the Department is empowered, after due notification in accordance with Chapter 17 to close said building until rat eradication measures have been instituted and the building made rat-proof.
- e. Destruction of Facilities: Whenever conditions establish extensive rat harborage at a building and corrective measures in accordance with Subsections 9-4 (a) through (d) have not been instituted within sixty (60) days from notification, the Director is empowered to institute emergency measures including, but not limited to, the destruction of said building in accordance with the powers and duties conferred upon the Director under the authority of the "Local Health Administration Law".
- f. Food for animals: All food for or feed intended for the feeding of farm animals, pets, or other animals shall be stored under rat-proof containment.
- g. It is hereby required that all garbage upon which rats may feed shall be placed and stored, until collected, in leak-proof, non-absorbent, corrosion-resistant containers which shall be kept covered with tight-fitting lids when filled or stored.

- h. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, leave, dump, or permit to accumulate any garbage or refuse on any premises, alley, street, or roadway so that same shall or may afford food or harborage for rats.
- i. If evidence of rodent activity exists, it shall be unlawful for any person to permit to accumulate on any premises or alley any lumber, boxes, barrels, firewood, or similar materials, so that same shall or may afford harborage for rats, unless same shall be placed on open racks that are elevated not less than eighteen (18) inches above the ground, and not less than twelve (12) inches from the interior or exterior walls of any building.

Section 9-5 Requirements of Bat-Proofing

Whenever a building is affording harborage for bats so as to present a condition detrimental to the public health or occupants, then it shall be required that said building shall be free of bats, bat-proofed, and maintained in a bat-proofed and bat-free condition.

Section 9-6 Control of Invertebrate Vectors

- a. It is hereby required that all premises shall be maintained in a condition not conducive to the breeding of invertebrate vectors or to afford such vectors harborage.
- b. Whenever there is evidence of an invertebrate vector infestation on any premises, then it shall be required that vector eradication measures be instituted and conditions affording such vectors harborage be abated.