



Office of the Governor of Guam

P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guam 96932  
TEL: (671) 472-8931 • FAX: (671) 477-4826 • EMAIL: governor@mail.gov.gu

12  
Congressional People's Speaker  
Vicente (Ben) C. Pangelinan

MAY 14 2004

TIME: 10:22 AM ( ) PM  
RECEIVED BY:

Felix Perez Camacho  
Governor

Kaleo Scott Moylan  
Lieutenant Governor

12 MAY 2004

Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan  
Speaker  
*I Mina Bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
155 Hessler Street  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Transmitted herewith is Substitute Bill No. 249, "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FIVE (5) DAY OR LESS QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR PETS ENTERING GUAM, PROVIDED THAT REQUIREMENTS ARE MET PRIOR TO ENTRY, BY AMENDING §34302(b) OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," which I have signed into law on May 6, 2004, as **Public Law 27-84**.

Bill No. 249, now Public Law 27-84, provides for a quarantine stay of five days or less for pets meeting certain requirements. It further exempts pets from the quarantine provision if originating from a rabies-free designation area. This would alleviate any undue hardships in bringing pets to Guam, a concern that has been raised by many families who want to bring pets to the island.

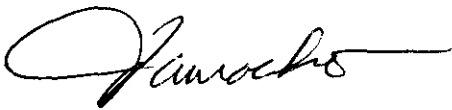
However, the enactment of this new law does raise some concerns. With a leaner quarantine program available, it is imperative that we address the wider problem of our animal control infrastructure. The upgrade of Guam's quarantine laws should have been part of a comprehensive overhaul of our animal control system. We must improve our ability to capture strays, provide affordable spay and neuter services, work to enforce leash laws and develop effective animal tagging programs. Public education efforts may help address some of these concerns, but additional resources will also be necessary to fully address these long-standing problems.

In line with the need to review our animal control programs, we must also consider the urgent need for a territorial veterinarian. This position has remained unfilled because the current pay schedule is not enough to attract qualified and interested individuals. While the lack of a territorial veterinarian affects many local programs, it is particularly problematic in the implementation of a reduced quarantine program. The territorial veterinarian position would help make certain that pets entering under this new program do in fact meet the pre-entry requirements in an effort to ensure that rabies or other diseases are not established on Guam.

Finally, the implementation of this new law may have consequences for the way quarantine services are provided. Currently, a local kennel provides these services under contract. However, if the volume of this business drops below profitability, the Department of Agriculture will have to consider the option of providing the services. At this time, the department lacks the resources to set up such a program.

I look forward to working with you to address these issues for the benefit of our residents and our visitors.

*Sins eru yan Magâhet,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Camacho', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**FELIX P. CAMACHO**  
*I Maga' lâhen Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam

Attachment: copy attached of signed bill

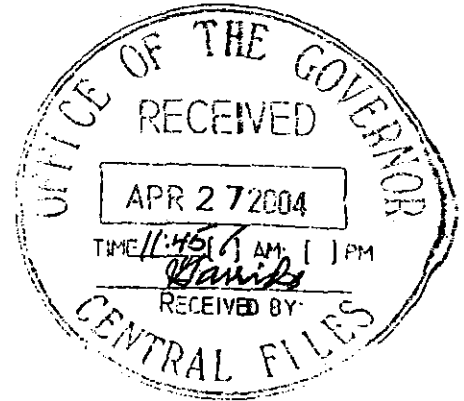
cc: The Honorable Tina Rose Muña-Barnes  
Senator and Legislative Secretary



**MINA' BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
TWENTY-SEVENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
155 Hessler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

April 27, 2004


The Honorable Felix P. Camacho  
*I Maga'lahen Guåhan*  
*Ufisinan I Maga'lahi*  
*Hagåtña, Guam 96910*



Dear *Maga'lahi* Camacho:

Transmitted herewith are Bill Nos. 178(LS), 193(COR), 256(LS), 261(LS) and 277(COR), and Substitute Bill Nos. 17(LS), 115(COR), 119(COR), 146(LS), 172(LS), 175(LS), 177(LS), 183(COR), 220(COR), 230(LS), 231(LS), 249(COR), 255(LS) and 258(LS) which were passed by *I Mina' Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on April 23, 2004.

Sincerely,

  
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES  
Legislative Secretary

Enclosures (19)

CFI- 0404- 2294

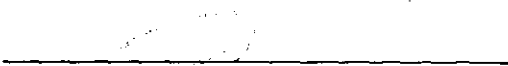
I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2004 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

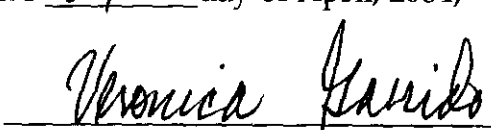
This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 249 (COR), "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FIVE (5) DAY OR LESS QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR PETS ENTERING GUAM, PROVIDED THAT REQUIREMENTS ARE MET PRIOR TO ENTRY, BY AMENDING §34302(b) OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2004, duly and regularly passed.

Attested:

  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Senator and Legislative Secretary

  
vicente (ben) c. pangelinan  
Speaker

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* this 27 day of April, 2004,  
at 11:45 o'clock A. .M.

  
Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'laha*'s Office

APPROVED:

  
FELIX P. CAMACHO  
*I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*

Date: April 30, 2004

Public Law No. 27-84

**I MINA'BENTE SEITE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2004 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 249 (COR)**

As substituted by the Committee on Youth and Senior Citizens, Federal & Foreign Affairs, Veterans & Military Affairs, Human & Natural Resources and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio  
Toni Sanford  
T. R. Muña Barnes  
F. B. Aguon, Jr.  
J. M.S. Brown  
F. R. Cunliffe  
C. Fernandez  
Mark Forbes  
L. F. Kasperbauer  
R. Klitzkie  
L. A. Leon Guerrero  
J. A. Lujan  
v. c. pangelinan  
J. M. Quinata  
Ray Tenorio

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FIVE (5) DAY OR LESS  
QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR PETS ENTERING GUAM,  
PROVIDED THAT REQUIREMENTS ARE MET PRIOR TO  
ENTRY, BY AMENDING §34302(b) OF TITLE 10, GUAM  
CODE ANNOTATED.**

1           **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2           **Section 1. Legislative Findings.** Hawaii has successfully  
3 implemented a new five (5) day or less quarantine program, in addition to  
4 their existing one hundred twenty (120) day and thirty (30) day quarantine  
5 programs, to allow entry into the state of pets that meet certain

1 requirements. Hawaii has been considered a rabies-free state, and Guam  
2 has been considered a rabies-free island, and much the same conditions  
3 apply to both jurisdictions concerning the need to keep the animal disease  
4 rabies from entering the jurisdictions. Examining the Hawaii experience, it  
5 appears that the same procedures can be applied in Guam that are applied  
6 in Hawaii in order to allow persons who want to bring their pets to Guam  
7 after moving or even when visiting Guam, to bring them in without  
8 lengthy quarantine delays after their arrival on the island. Of course, prior  
9 procedures must be met in order to keep Guam free of rabies.

10       The World Health Organization from time to time reports countries  
11 that are “rabies-free”. At the present time, it is reported that Anguilla,  
12 Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin  
13 Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Jamaica,  
14 Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint  
15 Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos, the Virgin Islands (USA),  
16 Japan, Denmark, Finland, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta,  
17 Monaco, Norway (mainland only), Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom,  
18 Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand,  
19 Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Samoa are rabies-free.

20       Numerous animals that are brought to Guam are brought by  
21 members of the military and their families. Having their pets with them is  
22 a quality of life issue for the military, which change duty stations on the  
23 average every couple of years. While military personnel may know that  
24 they will be moving to an area in advance, they can be taking care of  
25 quarantine and health matters for their pets prior to transporting them to  
26 Guam, instead of after entrance to Guam. This will ensure that Guam will  
27 not be importing rabies, and that the animals and military members and

1 their families will not have the stress of enduring lengthy quarantine  
2 procedures after arrival on island.

3 **Section 2. Five (5) day or less quarantine procedures for pets**  
4 **entering Guam.** The existing §34302(b) shall be renumbered to (b)(1) and a  
5 new Subsection (b)(2) is *added* to §34302 of Division 2 of Title 10 of the  
6 Guam Code Annotated to read:

7 “(b)(2). In addition to the current quarantine programs for pets  
8 entering Guam, a five (5) day or less quarantine program is  
9 implemented for pets originating from the United States and for  
10 those pets originating from areas other than the United States if the  
11 pets have met the requirements and supporting documents are  
12 signed by a United States military veterinarian for active duty  
13 military and Federal civil service personnel. Pets who qualify for the  
14 five (5) day or less quarantine program may be released immediately  
15 upon arrival at the A. B. Won Pat Guam International Airport  
16 Terminal if all requirements have been met. The five (5) day or less  
17 quarantine program requires the following pre-arrival requirements  
18 for each pet before the pet may be released at the A. B. Won Pat  
19 Guam International Airport Authority Terminal:

20 (i) **Vaccinations.** Two (2) rabies vaccinations, with the last  
21 vaccination administered no more than twelve (12)  
22 months prior to arrival if it was a one (1) year vaccine, or  
23 not more than eighteen (18) months prior to arrival if it  
24 was a three (3) year vaccine. The two (2) vaccinations  
25 may not be administered within ninety (90) days of each  
26 other; and the last vaccine must be administered no less  
27 than ninety (90) days prior to the pet’s entry into Guam.

- 1           (ii) **Microchip.** A microchip for identification purposes must  
2           be implanted in the pet.
- 3           (iii) **Blood Serum Tests.** Blood serum tests results must  
4           indicate sufficient level of rabies antibodies.
- 5           (iv) **Pre-arrival waiting period.** A pre-arrival waiting period  
6           of one hundred twenty (120) days between the time the  
7           laboratory or veterinarian receives the blood sample and  
8           the earliest date that the pet may enter Guam under the  
9           new program. This period is necessary due to the long  
10          and variable length of rabies incubation, before clinical  
11          signs of the disease become apparent.
- 12          (v) **Paperwork submission.** Pet owners must submit  
13          evidence of required vaccinations and blood serum tests  
14          at least ten (10) days prior to the pet's arrival. These  
15          items must be sent directly from the laboratory or the  
16          veterinarian, not hand-carried by the pet owner.

17           The Department of Agriculture may require at any time within one  
18          hundred twenty (120) days after arrival on Guam that results from off  
19          island laboratory tests be validated. If not confirmed to the satisfaction of  
20          the Department of Agriculture, then the Department of Agriculture may,  
21          pursuant to rules and regulations, place the pet in further quarantine or  
22          take other appropriate action.

23           The Department of Agriculture is authorized to promulgate rules  
24          and regulations in accordance with this Subsection."

25           **Section 3. Pets exempt from the provisions of quarantine if**  
26          **originating from rabies-free designation areas.** Subsection (c)(2) of



1 §34302 of Division 2 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated is *amended* to  
2 read:

3           “(c)(2). Rabies-free areas. The Director shall establish a list of  
4 rabies-free areas as designated by the World Health Organization  
5 and will constantly review the status of the rabies-free areas and may  
6 remove a designated rabies-free area from the list if it is shown, to  
7 the satisfaction of the Director, that the area has not remained free  
8 from rabies or has not maintained stringent entry and quarantine  
9 requirements. Dogs or cats originating from areas designated as  
10 rabies-free at the time the pet was placed in transit to Guam will be  
11 exempted from quarantine; provided, that they comply with all other  
12 requirements for entry into Guam.”



## Senator Rory J. Respicio

Chairperson

Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens • Federal & Foreign Affairs • Veteran & Military Affairs • Human & Natural Resources

APR 05 2004

The Honorable ben. c. pangelinan  
Speaker, *I Mina' Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guahan*  
155 Hessler Street  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Via: Honorable Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, Committee on Rules & Health

Dear Mr. Speaker:

*Buenas!* The Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens, Federal & Foreign Affairs, Military & Veteran Affairs, Human & Natural Resources to which was referred Bill No.249 An Act to provide for five working days or less quarantine program for pets entering Guam, provided that requirements are met prior to entry and now wishes to report back the same with the recommendation to pass.

Transmitted herewith for your consideration and action is our Committee Report on the above subject matter.

The Committee votes are as follows:

<u>7</u>	To Pass
—	Not To Pass
—	Abstain
—	Inactive File
—	Report Out

A copy of the Committee report and other pertinent documents are attached for your immediate reference information.

Should you have any questions on the narrative report and the accompanying documents, please do not hesitate to call my office at 472-RORY (7679). *Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

*Senseramente,*

  
RORY J. RESPICIO

**Mailing Address:** • Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature • 155 Hessler Street, Hagatna, Guam 96910

Location: Suite 101, CarlRose Building, 181 East Marine Drive, Hagatna 96910 • Tel: (671) 472-RORY (7679) • Fax: (671) 472-3547 • Email: rjr@ite.net



**Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio**  
**Mina Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guahan**

**Chairman: Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens, Federal & Foreign Affairs,  
 Military & Veterans Affairs, Human Resources, and Natural Resources**

VOTING SHEET ON:

Bill No. 249: An Act to provide for five (5) day or less quarantine program for pets entering Guam, provided that requirements are met prior to entry.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	INITIAL	TO PASS	NOT TO PASS	REPORT OUT ONLY	ABSTAIN
Sen. Rory J. Respicio Chairman	<i>RR</i>	<i>RR</i>			
Sen. Tina Rose Muna- Barnes Vice- Chair	<i>TR</i>	✓			
Sen. Carmen Fernandez Member	<i>CF</i>	<i>CF</i>			
Sen. Lou Leon Guerrero Member	<i>LLG</i>	✓			
Sen. John Quinata Member	<i>JQ</i>	✓			
Sen. Toni Sanford Member	<i>TS</i>	✓			
Sen. Joanne Brown Member					
Sen. Mark Forbes Member	<i>MF</i>	✓			
Sen. Robert Klitzkie Member					
Sen. Jesse Lujan Member					
Sen. Lawrence Kasperbauer Member					

## **Committee Report**

Bill No. 249

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR 5 DAYS OR LESS QURANTINE PROGRAM FOR  
PETS ENTERING GUAM, PROVIDED THAT  
REQUIREMENTS ARE MET PRIOR TO ENTRY**

The Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens, Federal & Foreign Affairs, Military & Veterans Affairs, Human Resources, and Natural Resources to which was referred Bill No. 249 (See Exhibit "A") held a public hearing on the measure at 9 AM, March 26, 2004 at the Legislative Public Hearing Room in Hagatna.

### **Summary of Testimony**

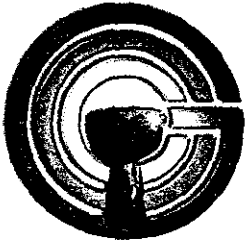
Testifying at the hearing were, Monty McDowell of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Atty. Mike Phillips of the Guam Schutzhund Club, Dr. Joel Schiff, Dr. Russell L. Wiessinger, Rufo Lujan, Paul Bassler, and Leslie Houston Mr. Mcdowell and Mr. Bassler submitted written testimony in favor of the measure (See Exhibits "B" and "C"). Subsequent written comments were received from Dr. Rebecca Diaz (See Exhibit "D"). Copies of audio recordings of testimony received at the public hearing are available on file with the Committee

### **Committee Findings**

The Committee finds that given the scientific advances in providing safeguards with respect rabies prevention, updating the current quarantine statutes is warranted and would well serve the public interest.

### **Committee Recommendation**

The Committee hereby recommends approval of Bill No. 249 as substituted by the Committee (See Exhibit "E").



**GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

12/3/4

March 26, 2004

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO  
Chairperson  
Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens,  
Federal & Foreign Affairs, Veteran &  
Military Affairs, Human Resources, and  
Natural Resources  
Twenty Seventh Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

**RE: BILL NO. 249 - AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FIVE (5) DAY OR LESS QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR PETS ENTERING GUAM, PROVIDED THAT REQUIREMENTS ARE MET PRIOR TO ENTRY**

Dear Chairman Respicio and Senators:

Good Morning. My name is Monty A. McDowell. I am the Acting Chairman of the Board of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the invitation to participate in today's public hearing on Bill No. 249, a measure that proposes amendments to Guam's pet quarantine program that the Chamber strongly endorses.

Guam's adoption of a Five- (5) day or less quarantine program called for in Bill No. 249 will resolve a very important quality of life issue for the island. The enactment of this bill and expeditious adoption of implementation rules and regulations will significantly lessen the emotional and financial burden on island residents, including military personnel, who desire to bring their pets to Guam.

The Chamber's Armed Forces Committee has received very positive feedback from both the Navy and Air Force Commands locally regarding Bill No. 249.

The Navy is hopeful that the new pet quarantine program will be in place before the arrival of the third submarine to be homeported on Guam this year, the USS Houston.

The 36th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander stated in correspondence that many Air Force members own household pets and that, *"Guam's quarantine requirements result in significant hardship for some military personnel and have caused others not to request, or to avoid, assignments to Guam. Modifying the quarantine requirement so that it is similar to Hawaii's would help reduce the reluctance of some personnel in volunteering for a Guam assignment and relieve some of the stress placed on those military families with pets who are ordered to Guam. In short, reducing the quarantine period on Guam would be a huge morale boost for many of our troops."*

In closing, we thank the author of Bill No. 249 for taking the lead in addressing a significant barrier to the community's efforts to attract more military personnel to Guam. We strongly recommend the expeditious enactment of the bill and seek your vote to pass Bill No. 249.

Sincerely yours,

MONTY A. MCDOWELL  
Acting Chairman of the Board



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS, 36TH AIR BASE WING, ACAF  
UNIT 1400E, APO AP 96543-1003

10 Jun 74

Honorable Fels J. Camacho  
Governor of Guam  
Executive Chambers  
P.O. Box 2950  
Hagatna, Guam 96913

Dear Governor Camacho:

Recent changes in the pet quarantine requirements for the state of Hawaii have significantly reduced the financial and emotional burdens facing individuals, including military members, who wish to bring pets to Hawaii. These changes reduced the number of days a pet must be kept in formal quarantine, shortened the class of tests, the quality for the reduced quarantine, pet owners must meet certain preconditions. These provisions are ensuring Hawaii will remain rabies free. If similar efforts to reduce quarantine requirements were made on Guam, it would be a tremendous benefit for the military members and other members of the community seeking to bring pets to the island.

As I'm sure you are aware, many Air Force members own household pets. Guam's quarantine requirements result in significant financial hardship for some military personnel and have caused others to not request or to avoid assignments to Guam. Modifying the quarantine requirement so that it is similar to Hawaii's would help reduce the reluctance of some personnel in volunteering for a Guam assignment and relieve some of the stress placed on those military families with pets who are ordered to Guam. In short, reducing the quarantine period on Guam would be a huge morale boost for many of our airmen.

Thank you for your assistance now and in the future.

Sincerely,

P.A. WHITE, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

cc. COMIN VAMAR  
Director, Department of Agriculture  
Director, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency



Felix P. Camacho  
Governor

Kaleo S. Moylan  
Lt. Governor

## Department of Agriculture Dipattamenton Agrikottura

192 Dairy Road, Mangilao, Guam 96913

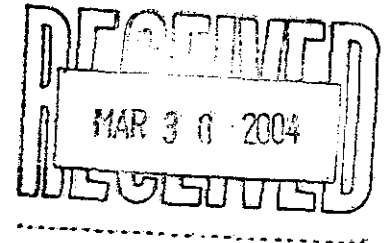


Paul C. Bassler  
Director

Joseph D. Torres  
Deputy Director

Director's Office	734-3942/43; Fax 734-6569
Agricultural Development Services	734-3946; 735-3946; 735-3950
Plant Nursery	734-3949
Aquatic & Wildlife Resources	735-3955/56; Fax 734-6570
Forestry & Soil Resources	735-3949/51; Fax 734-0111
Plant Inspection Station	475-1426/27; Fax 477-9487
Animal Health	734-3943; Fax 734-6569

March 29, 2004



### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senator Rory J. Respicio  
Chairperson, Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens  
Federal & Foreign Affairs, Military & Veterans Affairs,  
Human Resources, and Natural Resources

**FROM:** Director of Agriculture

**SUBJECT:** Written Testimony on Bill 249 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FIVE (5) DAY OR LESS QUARANTINE PROGRAM FOR PETS ENTERING GUAM, PROVIDED THAT REQUIREMENTS ARE MET PRIOR TO ENTRY."

Essentially, I am in favor of Bill 249, but with reservations. Those reservations are as follows:

- Over the years, funding for animal control has been continually reduced. The Department of Agriculture is now down to three employees with two vehicles who are responsible for both stray animals and road kill services. As the lack of adequate control services have continued, the stray animal population has continued to sky-rocket. Without resources to capture strays, enhance public education, provide spay and neutering services, enforce leash laws, implement and monitor an efficient animal tagging program etc., the problem is only going to get worse. So the question must be asked...is now the time to make importation of animals easier?
- As noted in the public hearing, it is important that the Department's resources are adequate to the task. Currently we are without a Territorial Veterinarian and are in the recruitment stage of filling that position. Additionally, Bill 249 allows for the

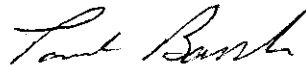
release of animals at the airport, if all documentation is complete. This would require trained personnel to conduct examinations of the animals at the airport prior to release. That would require another veterinarian.

- Current quarantine services are being provided under contract with one local kennel. If the volume of incoming quarantine business drops below profitability, the Department would have to provide quarantine services and we are currently without the resources to do so.

Once a Territorial Veterinarian was hired at the Department, re-examining our importation and quarantine laws was to be the first thing on our policy agenda, along with bird importation policies. Therefore, as stated, we are in favor of upgrading our quarantine laws and making importation easier for pet owners, both military and civilian. However, it should be done as a part of a comprehensive overhaul of our animal control system.

If Guam could get a handle on animal control through improved capturing of strays, enhanced public education, affordable spay and neutering services, enforcement of the island's leash laws, the implementation and monitoring of an efficient animal tagging program, then a more liberal quarantine policy in line with Hawaii and the other island's in our region would be welcome. Consideration must be given to the overall health of our animal control infrastructure before changing our laws and policies in ways that could make our challenges even more difficult.

Thank you for considering my testimony on Bill 249.



PAUL BASSLER

cc: All members of the Committee on Youth & Senior Citizens  
Federal & Foreign Affairs, Military & Veterans Affairs,  
Human Resources, and Natural Resources



1104  
March 31, 2004

The Honorable Senator Rory J. Respicio  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
The Twenty-seventh Guam Legislature

Dear Chairman Respicio:

This letter is being written in support of Bill 249 which will shorten the Guam quarantine period for dogs and cats. The proposed legislation provides more than adequate protection to Guam against the introduction of the rabies virus.

The first point I would like to make in support of this bill is that the incidence of rabies is effectively zero in vaccinated animals. There was a report of one dog in the United States in the 1999 in JAVMA (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association) that contracted rabies after vaccination. However, the dog had only received one vaccination at a young age, not two as is now required to import dogs and cats to Guam and would continue to be required under the new law. The reported incidence of rabies in domestic animals that have received two rabies vaccinations is 0. This is 0 out of a minimum of 50 million dogs and cats that are vaccinated against rabies in the United States. See attached memo from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Guam currently and under the new legislation would take further safeguards against the introduction of rabies with the requirements for importation:

- 1) positive identification by microchip is required;
- 2) proof of response to the rabies vaccination is required in the form of a blood test that measures protective antibody titers;
- 3) the animal must wait 120 days before being allowed to enter the island after proof of positive titer is established which, in the extremely unlikely event of vaccination failure (1 in 50 million chance if a number must be assigned), would be considered adequate for development of clinical signs prior to arrival.

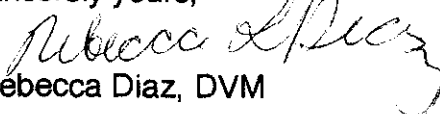
Each change in the quarantine law has provided Guam with greater protection from the introduction of both rabies and ancillary diseases than we enjoyed under the original 120-day quarantine rule.

Under the original law, an animal could enter Guam with only one rabies vaccine. As noted above, the one documented failure in all of America was in an animal with only one vaccine. The 30 day quarantine law requires an animal to have two rabies vaccines, positive identification, proof of protective titers, and a 90-day waiting period prior to entry; the new law would additionally require an additional 30 days before importation.

Effectively, what the new law accomplishes is to put an animal through a 120-day quarantine off island, thereby increasing the security against importation of the rabies virus.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information. I commend your committee and yourself for this important beneficial legislation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Rebecca Diaz, DVM

**Subject:** RE: Msg from WWW User:  
**From:** "Rabies" <rabies@cdc.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, 26 Mar 2004 09:39:09 -0500  
**To:** <drdiaz@netpci.com>

Thank you for your inquiry. Animal rabies vaccinations are generally regarded as nearly (virtually) 100% effective. "Breaks" (rabies cases that occur in vaccinated animals, usually dogs and cats) are extremely rare and each is carefully investigated. In a recent nationwide study performed in 1999, (*Epidemiologic characteristics of rabies virus variants in dogs and cats in the United States, 1999-2001*. McQuiston JH, PA Yager, JS Smith, CE Rupprecht. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* Vol 218(12):1939-1942.), only one vaccination failure was reported in a dog that did not receive a booster dose of rabies vaccine after exposure to a possibly rabid animal. The dog had received only a single dose of vaccine at 2 to 3 months of age, approximately 9 months before its death. The dog had been in a fight with a with animal a month before death and had not been boosted as recommended in the Rabies Compendium (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5205.pdf>) and reiterated in the ACIP guidelines (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/professional/publications/ACIP/ACIP99.pdf>) regarding human rabies prevention. Thus, reports of the incidents of rabies in vaccinated domestic animals would be zero, or sometimes one in an unknown denominator (rabies vaccination is not a notifiable event), but that denominator for even 50% (a vaccination underestimate for dogs) of the dogs and cats would be in the millions, putting at least 5 or 6 zeros in front of a single failure, if it (.000001) were to be used for an incidence figure. I hope this answers your question.

John Krebs

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rpath [<mailto:Rpath>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2004 4:12 PM  
**To:** Rabies  
**Subject:** Msg from WWW User:

Message-ID: <MCDC-US-IMSQGRwgCAF0001eb51@mcdc-us-ims.cdc.gov>  
X-OriginalArrivalTime: 25 Mar 2004 21:12:09.0431 (UTC) FILETIME=587DE70:01C412AD]

env.HTTP\_USER\_AGENT  
Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; U; PPC Mac OS X Mach-O; en-US; rv:1.4) Gecko/20030624 Netscape/7.1

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comments

There is a proposed change in the quarantine laws in Guam. I would like to find research that gives information regarding the incidence of rabies in vaccinated domestic animals. How effective is vaccination in domestic animals?

Thank you.

submit2  
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