Rabies Virus: Incubation and Excretion
Statutes of confusion

130A – 196 vs. 130A - 197

10-day vs. 6-month quarantine

Incubation vs. “shedding”
§ 130A-196. Confinement of all biting dogs and cats

...All dogs and cats that bite a person shall be immediately confined for 10 days in a place designated by the local health director ...
§ 130A-197. Infected dogs and cats to be destroyed …

When the local health director reasonably suspects that a dog or cat has been exposed to the saliva or nervous tissue of a proven rabid animal or animal reasonably suspected of having rabies …(it) shall be destroyed immediately …As an alternative to destruction, the dog or cat may be quarantined at a facility approved by the local health director for a period up to six months, and under reasonable conditions imposed by the local health director.
An incubation period is the duration of time between the exposure to the virus and the onset of signs of disease.

6 months is the generally accepted outside limit of incubation for dogs and cats.
Timeline

Animal exposed to rabies virus

Incubation period

Onset of signs of disease
Incubation:

A bite introduces the virus ...
Incubation:

The virus starts to move from the site of the bite …
Incubation:

The virus has reached the CNS ...
The virus spreads through nerves to the salivary glands and may be excreted in saliva …
Incubation

Signs of disease appear…
§ 130A-197. Infected dogs and cats to be destroyed …

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“Shedding” period

- “Shedding” of virus occurs when rabies virus is excreted in the saliva

- We know the shedding period for dogs, cats and ferrets.

- We don’t know the shedding period for other species.
Timeline

- Animal exposed to rabies virus
- Incubation period
- Excretion of virus from salivary glands
- Onset of signs of disease
- Shedding period
Shedding
& the North Carolina Statutes

§ 130A-196. Confinement of all biting dogs and cats

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