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States' Animal Identification Statutes:

North Carolina



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N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 80, Art. 6, Sec. 45

N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch.80, Art. 8

N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 106, Art. 34, Part 5, Sec. 337

N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 106, Art. 34, Part 5, Sec. 389

N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 106, Art. 34, Part 5, Sec. 405.16

The statutes and Constitution are current through S.L. 2024-21 of the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly, subject to changes made pursuant to direction of the Revisor of Statutes.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-45. Owners of stock to register brand or marks.

Every person who has any horses, cattle, hogs or sheep may have an earmark or brand different from the earmark or brand of all other persons, which he shall record with the clerk of the board of commissioners of the county where his horses, cattle, hogs or sheep are; and he may brand all horses 18 months old and upwards with the said brand, and earmark all his hogs and sheep six months old and upwards with the said earmark; and earmark or brand all his cattle 12 months old and upwards; and if any dispute shall arise about any earmark or brand, the same shall be decided by the record thereof.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-57. Purpose.

The purpose of this Article is to discourage livestock theft by allowing for the voluntary individual registration of brand marks for certain livestock.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-58. Definitions.

(a) "Board". - The term "Board" means the North Carolina Board of Agriculture.

(b) "Brand". - The term "brand" means an identification mark permanently affixed into the hide of livestock by a hot iron or an extremely cold brand known as a "freeze brand."

(c) "Commissioner". - The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of North Carolina.



(d) "Livestock". - The term "livestock" means cattle, horses, ponies, mules, and asses.

(e) "Person". - The term "person" means an individual, firm, company, association, partnership or corporation.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-59. Responsibility and authority of Commissioner of Agriculture; application for registration; transfer of ownership of brand.

The Commissioner shall record livestock brands and maintain a record of such brands pursuant to this Article. Such records shall be public and shall be prima facie evidence of ownership of livestock which is properly branded under this Article. The Commissioner shall authorize such agents within the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as he deems necessary to implement this Article.

Any person desiring the exclusive use of a brand shall make application to the Commissioner on forms prescribed by the Board. The transfer of ownership of a brand registration may be done only at the written request of the brand registrant of record. The Commissioner shall receive a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for recording such transfer.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-60. No brands duplicated.

No brand shall be registered that is a reasonable facsimile of another registered brand or that will likely be confused with another brand registered under this Article.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-61. Rules and regulations.

The Board shall have authority to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for implementation of this Article which shall include, but not be limited to, the location of and the size of brand marks.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-62. Fees for recording.

The Commissioner is authorized to collect a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the recording of each new brand, or for rerecording of each brand, and shall issue one certified copy of each brand recording to the holder of said brand. Duplicate certificates of registration may be issued by the Commissioner upon payment of a fee of two dollars (\$2.00). Revenues collected pursuant to this Article shall be deposited with the State Treasurer to the account of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-63. Records to be kept of sales and slaughter.

Persons or agents selling or bartering or exchanging branded livestock in the State of North Carolina shall provide the purchaser or new owner with a bill of sale showing a reasonable facsimile of the brand on any and all livestock having a



brand as defined in this Article. Such bills of sale shall be prima facie evidence of transfer of ownership of branded livestock. Slaughter facilities in the State of North Carolina shall affix to their normal records of receipt of livestock a reasonable facsimile of the brand on any branded livestock received by them. Such records shall be maintained for at least 12 months.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-64. Defacing of brands prohibited.

No person may change, conceal, deface, disfigure or obliterate any brand previously branded, impressed, or marked on any livestock, or put his or any other brand upon or over any part of any brand previously branded or marked upon any livestock, and no person shall make or use any counterfeit of any brand of any other person.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-65. Rerecording.

Every brand recorded under this Article, in order to remain effective, must be rerecorded with the Commissioner during the tenth year from its next previous recordation. Each person having a brand registered in the State of North Carolina shall be notified in writing by the Commissioner that said brand must be rerecorded to prohibit its disenrollment from the record of such brand maintained by the Commissioner.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 80-66. Violation a misdemeanor.

Any person who violates any provision of this Article or any rule or regulation of the Board promulgated hereunder shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-337. Animals to be branded.

All veterinarians who, either by clinical examination or by tuberculin test, find an animal affected with tuberculosis, shall, unless the animal is immediately slaughtered, properly brand said animal for identification on the left jaw with the letter "T," not less than two inches high, and promptly report the same to the State Veterinarian.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-389. Brucellosis defined; program for vaccination; sale, etc., of vaccine; cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Brucellosis" shall mean the disease wherein an animal is infected with Brucella organisms (including Brucella Abortus, B. Melitensis and B. Suis), irrespective of the occurrence or absence of abortion or other symptoms. An animal shall be declared affected with brucellosis if it is classified as a reactor to a serological test for the disease, or if the Brucella organism has been found in the body, its secretions or discharges. The State Veterinarian is hereby authorized and empowered to set up a program for the vaccination of calves in accordance with the



recommendations of the Brucellosis Committee of the United States Livestock Sanitary Association, and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, when in his opinion vaccination is necessary for the control and eradication of brucellosis. Vaccinated animals shall be permanently identified by tattooing or other methods approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Above the ages designated by regulation of the Board of Agriculture, all such vaccinates classified as reactors on an official test for brucellosis, shall be considered as affected with brucellosis and shall be branded with the letter "B" in accordance with G.S. 106-390. It shall be unlawful to sell, offer for sale, distribute, or use brucellosis vaccine or any product containing live *Brucella* organisms, except as provided for in regulations adopted by the Board of Agriculture.

The control and eradication of brucellosis in the herds of North Carolina shall be conducted as far as available funds will permit, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the Board of Agriculture. The Board of Agriculture is hereby authorized to cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture in the control and eradication of brucellosis.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-405.16. Animals infected with or exposed to equine infectious anemia declared subject to quarantine.

It is hereby declared that the disease of horses, ponies, mules and asses (and other equine animals) known as equine infectious anemia is of an infectious and contagious nature and that animals infected with, exposed to, or suspected of being carriers of the disease shall be subject to quarantine and identification as required by the rules and regulations of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

