

OFFICIAL PROTOCOL

RABIES VACCINATION POST-EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

- -If the animal doing the biting is an owned animal, and is known to be current on its rabies vaccine, than the bitten animal does not need a rabies booster due to that exposure.
- -If the animal is bitten by a stray or wild animal that is submitted for rabies testing, the bitten animal can be boostered when seen or can wait until the test results are known.
- -Please note that an animal is not considered current on it rabies vaccine until **28 days** after receiving its first rabies vaccine.
- -Animals are considered to be overdue the day after their current vaccine duration expires.

2016 Rabies Compendium Guidelines

Post exposure management for any animal exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal

- (1) Dogs, cats, and ferrets that are <u>current</u> on rabies vaccination
 - a. Immediately receive veterinary medical care for assessment and wound cleansing
 - b. Booster rabies vaccination within 96 hours
 - c. The animal should be kept under the owner's control and observed for 45 days
- (2) Dogs, cats, and ferrets that have <u>never been vaccinated</u>
 - a. Euthanized immediately OR
 - b. Placed in strict quarantine for 4 (dogs and cats) or 6 (ferrets) months
 - i. Strict quarantine in this context refers to confinement in an enclosure that precludes direct contact with people and other animals.
 - c. A rabies vaccine should be administered at the time of entry into quarantine to bring the animal up to current rabies vaccination status.
 - It is recommended that the period from exposure to vaccination <u>not exceed 96</u> <u>hours</u>
 - ii. If vaccination is delayed, public health officials may consider increasing the quarantine period for dog and cats from 4 to 6 months, taking into consideration factors such as the severity of exposure, the length of delay in vaccination, current health status, and local rabies epidemiology.
- (3) Dogs and cats that are <u>overdue</u> for a booster vaccination and have <u>appropriate documentation</u> of having received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine <u>at least once</u> previously
 - a. Treatment is the same as #1 above
 - b. If booster vaccination is delayed, public health officials may consider increasing the observation period for the animal, taking into consideration factors such as the severity of

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exposure, the length of delay in booster vaccination, current health status, and local rabies epidemiology.

(4) Dogs and cats that are <u>overdue</u> for a booster vaccination and <u>without appropriate documentation</u> of having received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine <u>at least once</u> prior to the incident.

- a. Immediately receive veterinary medical care for assessment, wound cleansing, and consultation with local public health authorities.
- b. The animal can be treated as unvaccinated, <u>immediately</u> given a booster vaccination, and placed in strict quarantine.
 - i. See #2 above
- c. Alternatively, <u>prior to booster vaccination</u>, the attending veterinarian may request guidance from the local public health authorities in the possible use of prospective serologic monitoring. Such monitoring would entail collecting <u>paired blood samples</u> to document prior vaccination by providing evidence of an anamnestic response to booster vaccination
 - i. If an <u>adequate anamnestic response</u> is documented, the animal can be considered to be overdue for booster vaccination and observed for 45 days.
 - 1. See #3 above
 - ii. If there is <u>inadequate evidence</u> of an anamnestic response, the animal is considered to have never been vaccinated and should be placed in strict quarantine.
 - 1. See #2 above

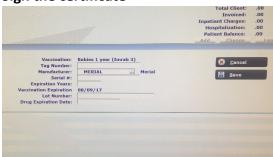
(5) Ferrets that are overdue for a booster vaccination

- a. Should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the below listed factors to determine the need for euthanasia or immediate booster vaccination followed by observation or strict quarantine.
 - i. Severity of exposure
 - ii. Time elapsed since last vaccination
 - iii. Number of previous vaccinations
 - iv. Current health status
 - v. Local rabies epidemiology

How to enter charge/document the rabies vaccine and create a rabies vaccination certificate

- 1. Choose the appropriate rabies vaccine and get a rabies tag (both will be in Cubex)
 - a. Choose Purevax (NOT the 3 yr Purevax) rabies for cats
 - i. Give SQ low on the right hind leg
 - b. Choose Imrab 3 for dogs
 - i. Give SQ in the right shoulder
- 2. Place rabies sticker from the vial on the vaccination line in the medical record
 - a. Write the tag number below the sticker
 - b. Write 1 year under the sticker

- 3. You will need to <u>enter the charge</u> for the rabies vaccine into Vetstar under the service the patient was registered as it will not update the charge when the vaccine is obtained from Cubex.
 - a. V1090 for cats
 - b. V1126 for **dogs**
- 4. When you go to exit the charge, the system will populate the rabies certificate. You will need to enter in the following information <u>in this order</u>:
 - a. The first line will automatically state the name of the chosen vaccine
 - b. Enter rabies tag number
 - c. It will automatically have the manufacturer (Merial) listed on the next line, so enter through it.
 - d. Enter the serial number of the vaccine (this is on the sticker)
 - e. Expiration years (this is the duration of the vaccine)
 - i. Enter the number "1" for this section as all the vaccines will be considered good for 1 year for simplicity.
 - f. Vaccine expiration (also the duration of the vaccine)
 - i. This will automatically populate for a year from the vaccine date. Do not change.
 - g. Lot number
 - i. It will not accept a number. Enter on through it.
 - h. Drug expiration date (this is the shelf life of the vaccine)
 - i. Enter as mmddyy. You do not need to enter the back slashes, but it will also take it if you do. This date is on the sticker.
 - i. Hit enter and it should bring up the option to print the certificate. If you go through it too quickly and miss the printing option, you can reprint a certificate by entering these codes in the command line:
 - i. rbc1 (dogs)
 - ii. rbrc (cats)
 - j. Sign the certificate



5. If an <u>owner refuses</u> to have a booster given for whatever reason, document this in the discharge instructions. Also include a clause stating the animal should have a rabies booster within 96 hours of the incident.