



Veterinary Health Center

AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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 boosted when seen or can wait until the test results are known.
- Please note that an animal is not considered current on its 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 current 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 never been vaccinated**
 - 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.
 - i. It is recommended that the period from exposure to vaccination **not exceed 96 hours**
 - 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 overdue for a booster vaccination and have appropriate documentation of having received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine at least once 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

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

(4) **Dogs and cats that are overdue for a booster vaccination and without appropriate documentation of having received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine at least once 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, immediately given a booster vaccination, and placed in strict quarantine.
 - i. See #2 above
- c. Alternatively, prior to booster vaccination, 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 paired blood samples to document prior vaccination by providing evidence of an anamnestic response to booster vaccination
 - i. If an adequate anamnestic response 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 inadequate evidence 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 **enter the charge 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 **in this order**:
 - 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**

The screenshot shows a software window with a title bar. In the top right corner, there is a summary of financial data: Total Client: .00, Invoiced: .00, Inpatient Charges: .00, Hospitalization: .00, Patient Balance: .00. Below this, there are buttons for 'Add', 'Change', and 'Log'. The main area of the window contains a form titled 'Vaccination: Rabies 1 year (Imrab 3)'. The form has several fields: 'Tag Number:' (empty), 'Manufacturer: Merial' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Serial #:' (empty), 'Expiration Years: 08/09/17' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Lot Number:' (empty), and 'Drug Expiration Date:' (empty). To the right of the form are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Save'.

5. If an **owner refuses** 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.