FLORIDA
VETERINARIAN ACCREDITATION
COURSE

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Animal Industry

State Veterinarian/Division Director: Dr. Michael Short
PURPOSE

• To qualify accredited veterinarians to perform accreditation work in the State of Florida

• To provide orientation to accredited veterinarians in regards to Florida laws

• To provide information to accredited veterinarians about unique animal health-related programs in Florida

• To provide valuable contact information to assist accredited veterinarians in accreditation work
ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN
FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

• **Primary responsibility** is directed toward assuring that regulated animal diseases are not introduced into animal populations in other states or countries by:

  • Assisting producers with selling, purchasing and transporting livestock

  • Containing the spread or outbreak of disease

  • Accommodating clients in meeting certification requirements for domestic and international shipping of pets

  • Working cooperatively with state and federal regulatory veterinarians in the prevention, control and eradication of certain animal diseases
DIVISIONS WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

• Administration
• Ag. Environmental Services
• Animal Industry
• Aquaculture
• Consumer Services
• Florida Forest Service

• Food Safety
• Food, Nutrition and Wellness
• Fruit and Vegetables
• Licensing
• Marketing and Development
• Plant Industry
OFFICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

- Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE)
- Office of Agricultural Water Policy
- Office of Communications
- Office of Energy
- Office of General Counsel
- Office of Inspector General
INTRODUCTION

The Division of Animal Industry is responsible for preventing, controlling and eradicating certain infectious or communicable diseases of pests, livestock and other domestic animals in the State of Florida.
DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

• One of the 12 divisions within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

• The Division is also known as the State Veterinarian’s Office

• Division Director: Dr. Michael Short, DVM

• Headquarters: Tallahassee, Florida

Animal Industry Homepage
DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

Missions/Responsibilities

• Administration of animal health regulatory programs related to the prevention, control and eradication of certain animal diseases

• Regulation of intrastate and interstate movement of animals

• Registration of livestock marks and brands and carcass haulers permits

• Provide laboratory support for veterinarian practitioners for disease diagnosis

• Animal & agricultural emergency response management for the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
STRUCTURE OF THE DIVISION

Division of Animal Industry

- Bureau of Diagnostic Laboratory
- Bureau of Animal Disease Control (BADC)
BUREAU OF DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

**Function:**
Provides laboratory support for veterinarian practitioners for disease diagnosis

**Location:**
Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab
2700 N. John Young Pkwy.
Kissimmee, Florida 34741-1266
(321) 697-1499
# BRONSON LAB SECTIONS

## Pathology
- Gross anatomic pathology
- Histopathology
- Immunohistochemistry

## Clinical Pathology
- Blood count and chemistry
- Cytology
- Aquaculture
- Parasitology
- Serology

## Microbiology
- Virology
- Bacteriology
- Molecular Biology
- Serology

## Toxicology
(sent to an outside laboratory)
- Mycotoxin Screen
- Herbicide Screen
- Drug screen
- Alkaloids & Organic Bases
- Anticoagulant Rodenticide
- Metals
- Insecticide Screen
BUREAU OF ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL (BADC)

Functions

• Administer and monitor disease prevention, control, eradication program activities and enforce regulatory compliance

• Conduct inspections at livestock sales, shows, exhibitions and perform disease surveillance activities

Locations

• Main office located in Tallahassee, Florida
• Six district offices throughout the state
REPORTABLE DISEASES

“Practicing veterinarians are the eyes and ears for animal disease control in the State of Florida”
REPORTABLE DISEASES

Q: What is a reportable disease?

A: Any animal disease having been identified by:

- USDA/APHIS (Program Diseases – TB, Brucellosis, etc)
- Code of Federal Regulations (Foreign Animal Diseases)
- Florida Statute 585.15, and Rule 5C-20
- Any animal disease identified by Florida Statutes as a dangerous transmissible disease
REPORTABLE DISEASES

5C-20.004 Requirement to Report Suspicious Disease Incidents

“Any person who has knowledge of, or suspects, the existence of any other unusual animal disease or pest in the state which may be foreign or a newly-emerging disease that might result in unusually high animal loss, economic damage, or is suspected of causing human disease, should immediately report suspicions or findings to the State Veterinarian”.
# Reportable Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Diseases</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African horse sickness</td>
<td>African horse sickness</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Swine Fever</td>
<td>African Swine Fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthrax</td>
<td>Anthrax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avian influenza</td>
<td>Avian influenza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bont Tick (Amblyoma)</td>
<td>Bont Tick (Amblyoma)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bovine Piroplasmosis (Cattle Tick Fever)</td>
<td>Bovine Piroplasmosis (Cattle Tick Fever)</td>
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<td>Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)</td>
<td>Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brucellosis (B. abortus, suis)</td>
<td>Brucellosis (B. abortus, suis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlamydiosis (Psittacosis, Ornithosis)</td>
<td>Chlamydiosis (Psittacosis, Ornithosis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic Wasting Disease</td>
<td>Chronic Wasting Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Swine Fever</td>
<td>Classical Swine Fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contagious bovine or caprine pleuropneumonia</td>
<td>Contagious bovine or caprine pleuropneumonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contagious Equine Metritis</td>
<td>Contagious Equine Metritis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dourine</td>
<td>Dourine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equine encephalitis (EEE, WEE, VEE, WNV)</td>
<td>Equine encephalitis (EEE, WEE, VEE, WNV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equine herpesvirus (EHV-1)</td>
<td>Equine herpesvirus (EHV-1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equine infectious anemia</td>
<td>Equine infectious anemia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equine piroplasmosis</td>
<td>Equine piroplasmosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equine Viral Arteritis</td>
<td>Equine Viral Arteritis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exotic Newcastle Disease</td>
<td>Exotic Newcastle Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foot and mouth disease</td>
<td>Foot and mouth disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glanders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heartwater</td>
<td>Heartwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious bronchitis</td>
<td>Infectious bronchitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Laryngotracheitis</td>
<td>Infectious Laryngotracheitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumpy Skin Disease</td>
<td>Lumpy Skin Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mycoplasmosis (poultry)</td>
<td>Mycoplasmosis (poultry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pestis des Petits Ruminants</td>
<td>Pestis des Petits Ruminants</td>
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<td>Pseudorabies</td>
<td>Pseudorabies</td>
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<td>Pullorum disease</td>
<td>Pullorum disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabies</td>
<td>Rabies</td>
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<td>Rift Valley Fever</td>
<td>Rift Valley Fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rinderpest</td>
<td>Rinderpest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salmonella enteritidis</td>
<td>Salmonella enteritidis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scabies of sheep or cattle</td>
<td>Scabies of sheep or cattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrapie of sheep or goats</td>
<td>Scrapie of sheep or goats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screwworm infestation</td>
<td>Screwworm infestation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep and Goat Pox</td>
<td>Sheep and Goat Pox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern cattle tick (Boophilus)</td>
<td>Southern cattle tick (Boophilus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Viremia of Carp</td>
<td>Spring Viremia of Carp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strangles (Equine)</td>
<td>Strangles (Equine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swine Vesicular Disease</td>
<td>Swine Vesicular Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tropical horse tick infestation (D. nitens)</td>
<td>Tropical horse tick infestation (D. nitens)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vesicular exanthema</td>
<td>Vesicular exanthema</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vesicular stomatitis</td>
<td>Vesicular stomatitis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of Reportable Diseases

Screwworm Larvae

Housefly Larvae

Screwworm Infestation
Examples of Reportable Diseases

- Scabies
- Goat Pox
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Strangles
- Avian Influenza
REPORTABLE DISEASES
THE 5 W’S

WHO

• The practicing veterinarian is the first line of defense

WHAT

• Any reportable disease

WHERE

• The Division of Animal Industry
• USDA/APHIS Gainesville office

WHEN

• Immediately-Don’t Delay!

WHY

• Early reporting is required of accredited veterinarians and required of all veterinarians
• Early reporting is the veterinarian’s ethical and professional responsibility
• Early reporting can save on economic losses to both government and producers
• Early reporting helps prevent sanctions placed on our state because of the spread of disease
REPORTABLE DISEASES
HELP IS HERE!

1. Diagnosticians are available to assist in epidemiological investigations:
   • Division of Animal Industry – Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOS), Lab Staff
   • USDA/APHIS – Gainesville Area Office, VMOS

2. State Diagnostic Laboratory:
   • Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab – Kissimmee, FL

3. Federal Diagnostic Laboratories
   • National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) – Ames, Iowa
   • Plum Island (PIADC)- New York
“More veterinarians face disciplinary action because of improper completion of paperwork than any other reason”

“All forms, records, test charts, etc. used to document the work performed by an accredited veterinarian are legal documents”
COMPLETING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

• All official documents completed by an accredited veterinarian and must be:
  • Legible
  • Complete
  • Accurate

• Terminology
  • Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection = “OCVI”
    o a.k.a. “Health Certificate”
All OCVIs and health certificates require official signatures. Meaning, the signature must be the veterinarian’s personal handwritten signature for all Intrastate, Interstate, International health certificates, and Negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) tests aka Coggins.
COMPLETING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Intrastate Signature Requirements (OCVI for sale of dog/cat)
Florida Only

- Veterinarians personal handwritten signature
- Properly used signature stamp
- Electronic signature

Corrections to Documents

- Corrections, write-overs, and strikethroughs must be clearly marked, initialed and dated by the veterinarian

* Strikeout any blocks or blank areas not used
COMPLETING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Document Integrity

The veterinarian must be willing to apply the same ethical and professional standards in completing such documents as provided for in the care and treatment of their patients.

Lack of Document Integrity Results in:

- Accreditation hearings for violations
- Possible loss of accreditation status
- Potential lawsuits
- Ultimately provides a great disservice to your clients
COMPLETING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

All applicable parts of the OCVI need to be filled out with:

- Name and address of consignor (the owner)
- Name and address of consignee (the purchaser)
- Individual animal identification
- Description of animals
- Test date and results
- Laboratory conducting test (if applicable)
Reproductions of OCVIs

• Copies are **not acceptable** as official documents

**Exceptions:**

• Shipments of animals requiring *multiple loads*:
  • All animals individually identified on the original OCVI
  • *Same* farm of origin or assembly point
  • All animals are consigned to a *single* destination

• Seller/Veterinarian copies of a completed OCVI for **Intrastate**
  Sale of a Dog or Cat (not an Interstate OCVI)
Reproductions of OCVIs

• Reproduction of blank OCVIs is **ILLEGAL**: (Pertains to numbered, interstate health certificates)

  “. . .A person who forges, counterfeits, simulates or alters, or who knowingly possesses, uses presents or utters any forged, counterfeited, altered or simulated official certificate of veterinary inspection . . . commits a felony of the third degree”

• Security Measures and Proper Use:

  “. . .An accredited veterinarian shall be responsible for the security and proposed use of all official certificates...and shall take reasonable care to prevent the misuse thereof”
COMPLETING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Distribution of completed documents

- Rule of Thumb= Within 7 days of issuance (Interstate/Intrastate OCVIs)
  - State Vet Copies to Tallahassee (white & yellow)
  - Vet Office Copy – retain for 1 year (goldenrod)
  - Client/Shipper Copy (pink)

*The State Veterinarian’s office then sends the OCVI to the state of destination

Retention of OCVIS
(9CFR Sect 86.3-5)

Interstate OCVIs (Livestock/Poultry):

- Swine/Poultry – 2 years
- Equine, Cattle/Bison, Sheep/Goats, Cervids – 5 years
- All others – 1 year per State Vet Rules

*Medical Records in Florida – 3 years per The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR)
Electronic OCVIs

CFR 160.1 allows digital signatures on electronic documents. Official OCVI providers include:

• **GlobalVetLink**
  - Approved in all 50 states – commercial company
  - [GlobalVetLink](#) homepage

• **Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS)**
  - USDA online portal for OCVIS and EIA health certificates
  - [VSPS](#) homepage

• **Vet Sentry**
  - Online portal for OCVIs, EIA health certificates, and document storage
  - [Vet Sentry](#) homepage
Examples of OCVIs

Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for Livestock

(FDACS Form 09000)
Examples of OCVIs

Official Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

(FDACS Form 09002)
Examples of OCVIs

Interstate Movement of Dogs and Cats and Other Non-livestock Species

(FDACS Form 09086)
A completed form must have the following information filled out:

- The owners location and address
- The horse’s location and physical address (if different from the owner’s address)
- A complete and accurate description of the horse which must include:
  - A drawing of the horse’s markings or 3 digital images of the horse (i.e., right and left sides and straight on head picture)
  - A narrative description of the markings

**Exception:**
- Foal under 6 months of age & accompanied by the mare

- **Original** or **certified laboratory copy** is required for change of ownership
  - A notarized copy may be used for exhibitions, shows, trail rides, etc.
REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERSTATE SHIPMENT AND EXPORT OF ANIMALS

“Generally, most animals departing Florida for other states and/or other countries must be accompanied by a Florida or other officially recognized OCVI . . . completed by a Florida licensed and federally accredited veterinarian”
REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERSTATE SHIPMENT AND EXPORT OF ANIMALS

1. USDA/APHIS requirements

2. Code of Federal Regulation (9 CFR) requirements

3. Specific requirements of the state or country of destination
REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERSTATE SHIPMENT AND EXPORT OF ANIMALS

Assistance in obtaining current movement requirements

1. Guess or refer to an old OCVI – *Not recommended*

2. Contact USDA Area Office – Gainesville (352) 415-4050, or the Miami Import-Export Center (305)876-2186 for *international* export requirements only

3. Refer to the Division of Animal Industry Website

4. Call the State Veterinarian’s Office in the state of destination{**BEST OPTION**}
“The Pet Law was enacted by the 1991 legislature to insure that cats and dogs sold in the state of Florida comply with certain veterinary medical standards.”
PET LAW
F.S. 828.29

Requirements for the sale of a dog or cat in Florida:

• Must be at least eight weeks of age

• Must have a completed OCVI for each animal offered for sale

• Must have required vaccinations, anthelmintics and tests
Required Vaccinations for sale of a Dog

- Canine Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Parainfluenza
- Canine Parvovirus
- Leptospirosis
- Bordetella

Rabies vaccine if older than three months of age

Required Vaccinations for sale of a Cat

- Panleukopenia
- Feline viral rhinotracheitis
- Calici virus

Rabies vaccine if older than three months of age
PET LAW
F.S. 828.29

**Required Tests for sale of a Dog**
- Fecal test
- Heartworm test (if older than six months of age)

**ALL test results must be listed on the OCVI**

**Required Tests for sale of a Cat**
- Fecal test
- Feline leukemia test

**ALL test results must be listed on the OCVI**
PET LAW
F.S. 828.29

Required treatments for the sale of a dog or cat:

The dog or cat must be free of all internal parasites:
- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Whipworms
- Coccidia
- Giardia

The dog or cat must be free of all external parasites except, fleas or ticks

“In the absence of a definitive parasitic diagnosis, each dog or cat must be given a broad spectrum anthelmintic”
EXCEPTIONS FOR REQUIRED VACCINATIONS AND/OR TREATMENTS

F.S. 828.29

“The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered before the dog/cat is offered for sale in the state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to inoculate or deworm the dog/cat is not in the best medical interest of the dog/cat in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be administered to that particular dog/cat.”
Issuing Veterinarian’s Certification

“I hereby certify that the described animal was examined by me on the date shown; that the vaccines, anthelmintics, and diagnostic tests indicated herein, were administered by me, or under my direction; said animal is found to be healthy in that to the best of my knowledge it exhibits no sign of contagious or infectious diseases and has no evidence of internal or external parasites, including coccidiosis and ear mites, but excluding fleas and ticks; and to the best of my knowledge the animal has not been exposed to rabies, nor did the animal originate from an area under a quarantine for rabies.”
Where to Find the FDACS-09085 Form:

- Fill out and fax The Health Certificate Order Form to the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (321) 697-1467 ($65 per book of 25 / 3-part carbonless sets)
- Download for free from the DAI website: (Adobe Acrobat PDF format)
- Official web-based portals(refer to slide 31)

* A separate OCVI must be used for each dog or cat sold
PET LAW
Official Documents
FDACS-09085

An OCVI must have:

- Age, sex, breed, color of the animal
- Tests performed and their results
- Vaccinations administered
- Anthelmintics administered
- Name(s) and addresses of the seller and purchaser
- Name, address and Florida license number of the examining veterinarian
- Official signature of the examining veterinarian
PET LAW
OCVI Distribution Procedure

ORIGINAL SIGNED COPY: given to the purchaser at the time of sale
(Seller responsibility)

Carbon Copy 1: retained by the seller for at least one year from the date of sale

Carbon Copy 2: retained by the issuing veterinarian for at least one year from the date of examination
Veterinarian certification is required for buyer notification of a pet problem to the seller (Dealer Only):

- Notification to the seller is required within 14 days, after sale, due to illness or disease OR within 1 year, after sale, due to congenital or hereditary defect

- The veterinarian must certify that at the time of the sale, the animal was unfit for purchase due to illness or disease OR congenital or hereditary defect (usually copy of a bill with diagnosis)
ENFORCEMENT OF PET LAW

• Enforcement actions can be initiated against seller/dealer by state, county or municipal law enforcement officer or by agents of animal control or humane society
• Buyer must contact law enforcement agency and request they file a sworn complaint for violation of Florida Statute 828.29
• Sworn complaints are forwarded to the local state attorney’s office for resolution

Violations of Pet Law

• Violations related to forged, altered, and/or improperly completed OCVIS are enforced by the Division of Animal Industry
• Complaints related to performance of a veterinarian are forwarded to the Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DBPR) and Board of Veterinary Medicine
Rabies

Introduction

• Veterinarians play a strategic role in controlling the spread of rabies throughout the state

• Rabies control procedures and regulations are enforced by local county/municipal agencies (Animal Control and Public Health)

• It is important for each veterinarian to establish a good working relationship with county Health Department health officer who takes the lead for rabies control locally

• The Florida Department of Health’s State Public Veterinarian provides DOH oversight of zoonotic disease.
State Rabies Vaccination Law

The State Vaccination Law (F.S 828.30) states:

“All dogs, cats, and ferrets four months of age or older must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian against rabies with a United States Government approved vaccine. The cost of vaccination must be borne by the animal's owner.”

- There are licensed rabies vaccine products for dogs, cats, ferrets, horses, cattle and sheep

- There is no vaccination currently licensed for use in wolf or feline hybrids
State Rabies Vaccination Law

Exceptions to Rabies Vaccination

• A dog or cat is exempt from vaccination against rabies if:
  
  • If a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and has certified in writing that at the time vaccination would endanger the animal's health because of its age, infirmity, disability, illness, or other medical considerations.

    o An exempt animal must be vaccinated against rabies as soon as its health permits.
Vaccinating Certain Animals

Wolf Hybrids

- Currently there are no approved vaccinations for wolf hybrids
- Using a rabies vaccine in wolf hybrids is considered “off-label”
- The veterinarian is encouraged to have the owner sign consent form stating that the vaccination is “off label” and will not change the general guidelines for euthanasia and testing if the animal should bite a person.

Wild Animals

- Current state vaccination laws do not restrict the use of rabies vaccine by licensed veterinarians to only animals specified on the vaccine label.
- Veterinarians are encouraged to educate the owner that many wild animals maintained as pets require Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission permits.
Vaccinating Certain Animals

Form for Owners Requesting Rabies Vaccination of Wild or Wild-Domestic Hybrids is included in the State Rabies Guide

Note:

• Can be given “off-label”
• Killed or inactivated vaccine
• Not considered official vaccination
• No Certificate of Vaccination issued

Appenda 15

OWNER REQUEST FORM FOR RABIES VACCINATION OF A WILD ANIMAL OR WILD-ANIMAL HYBRID.

I request that my __________________________, a wild animal or wild animal hybrid, receive an inactivated (killed virus), rabies vaccine.

Animal Name ____________________________________________ Age _____ Sex _____

I further acknowledge that I have been advised by the attending veterinarian of the following:

1. While inactivated rabies vaccine has been proven effective in domestic animals, their effectiveness in wild animals or their hybrids has not been tested, and therefore, is unknown.
2. Because the effectiveness is unknown, there may still be considerable risk of vaccinated wild animals or their hybrids contracting rabies if exposed (bitten) by a rabid animal.
3. Because the effectiveness is unknown, there may still be considerable risk to humans who come in contact with vaccinated wild animals or their hybrids that have been exposed to rabies.
4. Because the effectiveness is unknown, a wild animal or its hybrid that bites a human will be considered non-vaccinated, regardless of its vaccination history. The recommendation in such cases would be to sacrifice the biting animal and examine the brain for rabies.
5. Because the effectiveness is unknown, a wild animal or its hybrid that bites another animal will be considered non-vaccinated, regardless of its vaccination history. The recommendation in such cases depends on the animal bitten and its vaccination history, but the appropriate action could be to sacrifice the biting animal and examine the brain for rabies.

OWNERS SIGNATURE ______________________
DATE __________________
ADDRESS ______________________

WORK PHONE ______________________
HOME PHONE ______________________
Vaccination Protocol

Upon rabies vaccination (for approved species) the licensed veterinarian must provide:

1. Vaccination certificate to the animal’s owner
2. A copy of the rabies vaccination certificate to the city/county animal control authority

*The State Veterinarian’s office does not need a copy of the certification
Rabies Information

Current Department of Health (DOH) policy on animals to be tested for rabies:

• DOH Bureau of Laboratories does not charge for rabies examination of “high risk” animals (raccoons, bats, skunks, foxes, feral cats, etc.) that have bitten or otherwise exposed people to rabies.

• If the county health department determines no rabies exposure has occurred, fee based testing at Kansas State University Rabies Laboratory is available.

  • Must be submitted by a veterinarian
  • Submitter is responsible for cost of testing, shipping, etc.
When Animals Bite…

When Animals Bite People

• Contact the county health department

• Dogs, cats, and ferrets must be observed for
  • 10 days for signs of clinical neurological disease at the owner’s home if vaccinated.
  or
  • At a facility approved by the County Health Officer (e.g. veterinary clinic, animal control facility, etc.) if unvaccinated

• Domestic farm animals must be observed for 14 days

• Other animals considered high risk for rabies (raccoons, fox, skunks, bats, etc.) may be euthanized and tested

• Animals considered low risk for rabies (squirrels, rabbits, pocket pets, etc.) are evaluated on a case by case basis
When Animals Bite…

When Animals are Bitten by Potentially Rabid Animals

• Contact animal control and county health department

• Currently vaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets must be:
  • Revaccinated
  • Observed at the owner’s home for 45 days for clinical signs of neurological disease

• Starting in January 2016, previously vaccinated but not current dog, cats and ferrets must be:
  • Re-vaccinated promptly
  • Observed at the owner’s home or other location approved a the county health officer for 45 days for clinical signs of neurologic disease.
When Animals Bite…

When Animals are Bitten by Potentially Rabid Animals

• If the biting animal is a dog, cat, ferret or domestic livestock the “biter” must be observed for 10 (dog, cat, ferret) or 14 days (domestic livestock)

• If the biting animal is not a domestic species, it should be tested for rabies in consultation with the county health department
When Animals are Bitten by Rabid Animals or Animals Not Available for Testing

- **Currently vaccinated** dog, cats, ferrets, horses, cattle or sheep bitten by potentially rabid animals that test positive for rabies or are not available for observation:
  - Promptly re-vaccinated
  - Observed at the owner’s home for 45 days for clinical signs of neurologic disease.

- **Unvaccinated** dog, cats, ferrets, horses, cattle and sheep or domestic animals vaccinated off-label (e.g. goats, pigs, etc.) can be either:
  - Euthanized
  - Quarantined at a location approved by the county health officer (e.g. animal control facility, veterinary clinic, etc.) for 180 days and must be vaccinated immediately or at least one month prior to release.

- Other animals should be euthanized in consultation with a county health officer.
Rabies Resources

Rabies information is frequently updated and can be found at these following sites:

1. Florida Rabies Guidebook:
   - Prepared by the Florida Rabies Advisory Committee
   - Available through the Florida Department of Health (DOH)
   - [DOH Rabies Website](#)

2. National Compendium of Animal Rabies Control:
   - Reviewed by the Animal Rabies Control Committee of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians ([NASPHV](#)).

3. American Veterinary Medical Association
HELP

If you have any questions or need assistance in your role as an accredited veterinarian you can reach out to:

• USDA/APHIS Area Office
  Gainesville, FL
  (352)415-4050 or (352) 313-3060

• The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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