

# RABIES VACCINATION CHALLENGE IN TENNESSEE

## FACTS ABOUT THE RABIES VACCINE AND YOUR PET

- The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Compendium of Rabies Prevention and Control used to develop Tennessee's anti-rabies law declares that "All vaccines must be administered in accordance with the specifications of the product label or package insert. .... Vaccines used in state and local rabies control programs should have at least a 3-year duration of immunity. .... No laboratory or epidemiologic data exist to support the annual or biennial administration of 3- or 4-year vaccines following the initial series."
- Tennessee's state anti-rabies law, Title 68 Chapter 8 Section 103 (i) declares that "Nothing in this section shall be construed to require more frequent rabies vaccinations or a greater number of rabies vaccinations than are required by the rabies compendium," and defines the "compendium" under Section 102 (3) as "the most recent issue of the national 'Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control' published by the Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.."
- Colorado State University's Small Animal Vaccination Protocol for its veterinary teaching hospital states: "Even with rabies vaccines, the label may be misleading in that a three year duration of immunity product may also be labeled and sold as a one year duration of immunity product."
- According to Dr. Ronald Schultz, Chair of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, "There is no benefit from annual rabies vaccination and most one year rabies products are similar or identical to the 3-year products with regard to duration of immunity and effectiveness."
- The American Veterinary Medical Association's 2001 Principles of Vaccination state that "Unnecessary stimulation of the immune system does not result in enhanced disease resistance, and may increase the risk of adverse post-vaccination events."
- This is very important because the rabies vaccine is the most potent of all veterinary vaccines and is associated with significant adverse reactions, it should not be given more often than is necessary to maintain immunity. Adverse reactions such as autoimmune diseases affecting the thyroid, joints, blood, eyes, skin, kidney, liver, bowel and central nervous system; anaphylactic shock; aggression; seizures; epilepsy; and fibrosarcomas at injection sites are linked to rabies vaccinations.
- Veterinarians are not required by law to report adverse reactions to vaccines, to which the World Small Animal Veterinary Association stated in their 2007 Vaccine Guidelines that there is: "gross under-reporting of vaccine-associated adverse events which impedes knowledge of the ongoing safety of these products," In light of the 10,000 adverse reactions to the rabies vaccine in the JAVMA report, 65% of which were in dogs, the estimated 1% reporting of "serious" events by the former head of the FDA means that the actual number of dogs that had adverse reactions to the vaccine would be more like 650,000!!!!

### What can you do?

- Talk with your vet. Request your pet only receive the three year rabies vaccine. It may have to be ordered, so plan ahead.
- Write to your State of TN representatives. Let them know you would like the State Recommendations for the three year rabies vaccine, Title 68 Chapter 8 to be enforced consistently statewide.

For more information, please check these websites:

The Rabies Challenge Fund: <http://www.rabieschallengefund.org/>

Information about the Rabies Challenge in Tennessee: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/>