

# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**February 27, 2019**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to  
which was referred HB 331,**

**AN ACT relative to the duties of a veterinarian. Having  
considered the same, report the same with the following  
resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO  
LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. Jane Beaulieu**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	<b>Environment and Agriculture</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 331</b>
Title:	<b>relative to the duties of a veterinarian.</b>
Date:	<b>February 27, 2019</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE</b>

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would allow veterinarians to make decisions regarding rabies vaccines for companion animals. According to the NH State Veterinarian, all companion animals must be vaccinated. It is a public health issue. A rabies immunization exemption may be issued where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Jane Beaulieu  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

**HB 331**, relative to the duties of a veterinarian. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Jane Beaulieu for Environment and Agriculture. This bill would allow veterinarians to make decisions regarding rabies vaccines for companion animals. According to the NH State Veterinarian, all companion animals must be vaccinated. It is a public health issue. A rabies immunization exemption may be issued where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants.

**Vote 20-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Environment & Agriculture

BILL NUMBER: HB 331

TITLE: Relative to the duties of a veterinarian.

DATE: 2/26/19 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES  NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
  - OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
  - INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
  - INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2<sup>nd</sup> year of biennium)
- Amendment No.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF INTENT:**

*This bill, as drafted, would allow veterinarians to make decisions regarding rabies vaccines for companion animals. According to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> State Veterinarian, all companion animals must be vaccinated. It is a "public health issue." A rabies immunization exemption may be issued where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants.*

COMMITTEE VOTE: 20-0

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rep. Jane Beaulieu  
For the Committee

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 331

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the duties of a veterinarian.

**DATE:** February 26, 2019

**LOB ROOM:** 303

**MOTIONS:** INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Beaulieu

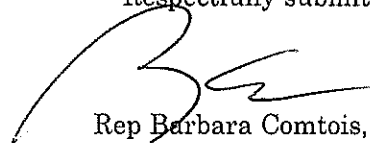
Seconded by Rep. Bixby

Vote: 20-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,



Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 331

BILL TITLE: relative to the duties of a veterinarian.

DATE: February 26, 2019

LOB ROOM: 303

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MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Beaulieu      Seconded by Rep. Byrby      Vote: 20-0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP       OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP       OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

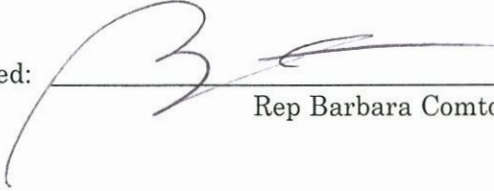
- OTP       OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

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CONSENT CALENDAR:  YES       NO

Minority Report? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      If yes, author, Rep: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk





2019 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: 331 Motion: OTP AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 2-26-19

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Gourgue, Amanda L. Chairman	✓		
Bixby, Peter W. Vice Chairman	✓		
Beaulieu, Jane E.	✓		
Ellis, Donna R.	✓		
Richards, Beth S.	✓		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	✓		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	✓		
Chretien, Jacqueline H.	✓		
Dutzy, Sherry	✓		
McConnell, Liz A.	✓		
Murray, Megan A.	✓		
O'Connor, John T.	✓		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	✓		
Pearl, Howard C.	✓		
<del>Verville, Kevin</del> <u>Marzullo, JP</u>	✓		
Aron, Judy F.	✓		
Bean, Harry H.	✓		
Furbush, Michael E.	✓		
Melvin, Charles R.	✓		
<del>Viens, Harry H.</del> <u>M. I. E. Z., David</u>	✓		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	

# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 331

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the duties of a veterinarian.

**DATE:** February 19, 2019

**LOB ROOM:** 303

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 12:15 p.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 1:45 p.m.

**Committee Members:** Reps. Gourgue, Bixby, Comtois, Beaulieu, Ellis, Sofikitis, Andrew Bouldin, Chretien, Dutzy, McConnell, M. Murray, Pearl, Aron, Bean, Furbush, Melvin and Viens

**Bill Sponsors:**

Rep. Viens

Rep. Plumer

Rep. Potucek

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**Rep. Harry Viens** – Prime sponsor introducing bill – Introduced on behalf of a constituent – has received over 100 emails regarding bill – 50/50 split – most people who are for the bill are by people whose animals died and they believe were over vaccinated – con side from veterinarians mostly a public safety issue – efficacy of titer test based from earlier today HB 426 – cannot speak to science.

**Nancy Holmes** – Opposed – Several issues – a titer does not mean anything – There is a new phenoma in the world – internet if you say it enough it must be true even if it is false – if you are not vaccinating your pets you are putting others at risk – we now have fox and raccoon rabies and sometimes an occasional skunk – statistics show the rabies vaccine is pretty safe – people mean well and think they are doing well by their animals – she would be embarrassed as a breeder that her dogs could not handle a vaccine – printouts.

**Mark Pilant** – Supports – Their Belgian Sheep Dog – She gets a ceasure every time she gets a rabies shot – July issue of VMA – immunological issue – a titer would be a good way to discuss if they were covered – suggestion – diagnostic lab regarding titer.

Rep. Aaron – Given your dogs health issues have you considered getting an exemption – the stipulation outlined seems very egregious.

**Robert Medynski** – Supports – Getting some type of waiver would be acceptable if titer test shows they have the immunity.

Rep. Murray – Are you aware of the Rabies Challenge Fund? – NO – they issued a statement that they are not confident in a titer test.

**\*Dr. Jane Barlow Roy & Dr. David Stow** – NHVMA – Chair of Legislative Committee – Opposed – written testimony – rabies is a public health issue – once symptoms are shown it is 100% fatal.

**\*Honorable Valerie Frasier** – Supports – written testimony – RN and Vet.

Rep. Chretien – Do you know what the evidence is for positive/negative – World Health Organization recognizes titer's –(standard) – Hawaii requires titer.

Rep. Dutzy – What is the % of animals reacting to vaccine – Enough for her to know there is a problem.

Rep. Aaron – is it due to changes in vaccine? – She doesn't know if it is due to that w/dogs that react - We are forcibly giving these dogs the vaccine – just doing a vaccine does not show proof of immunity.

**\*Dr. Steve Crawford – State Vet – Opposes –** written testimony – this as an issue is a little premature – Rabies Challenge Fund is the entity leading the research on this – Dr. Schultz is doing most of the research – the only vaccination we require in this state is the rabies vaccination – Public Health Issue.

Rep. Bouldin – Is there an explanation for the spread of data – in an email from Dr. Susan Moore – Keene State - .5 is extrapolated from human data. Since we have different studies going in different directions – he is okay with divergent data.

Rep. McConnell – How many people have this titer test taken? - He doesn't know – Why are people doing titer's – It is useful depending when moving to another country/state.

Rep. Aaron – testified earlier 1,101 exemptions have been signed – what was the reason – he has declined less than a handful – severe vaccine reactions, autoimmune disease, and chemotherapy For those animals that are exempted – the law is complicated and egregious for some – how does that exemption operate and why could it keep someone from seeking the exemption – he agrees that they are stringent.

**\*Gray Grazyna Medynski –** Written testimony – She, herself, hasn't been vaccinated in years – why are titers acceptable for humans but not for animals – her dog has Lyme and should qualify for exemption but she wants her dog to have a life – scared to bring dog to Vet to get rabies vaccination – believes in titers – she believes in vaccinations not in over vaccination – CBB – only 1% of adverse reactions gets reported – her vet knew the lump on dog Max was caused by vaccine – Pharmaceutical companies do not need to report to public the number of adverse reactions caused by vaccine – discussed one of the adjuvants in vaccines – side effects.

**Dr. John Robb – Protective Pets –** Fairfield, CT – Supports - We Vets have a booth for titer testing – titer test – circulating antibodies – Rabies Challenge Fund – has supported titer in the past – 40 scientific articles – when you lower the volume – Dr. Schultz he can measure any titer than .1 – this is about money – this is how you get animals in the door – Dr. Dodd – 5 years with 2 vaccines – the immunity status is determined by titers – Titers show immunity not the vaccine – he has the science – vaccine reactions.

Rep. Murray – What is the cost of a titer – he charges \$50 – can get it for as low as \$27 – make the law give them shot, a year later give them another shot – then do a titer.

Rep. McConnell – Have you squared away the State of CT? – working on it and this bill is in 4 other states – He is the Voice in this movement – 27 states with FB pages up.

**Ellen Phinizy – Opposes –** For many of same reasons Dr. Crawford does – According to the CDC titers are not an actual science – Rabies Kills – you can have a reaction to any medicine it doesn't mean we stop using them – emailed written testimony.


**Sandy Gosselin – Supports –** Protect the Pets – When is enough enough? - Spoke about dogs that have received vaccines and had adverse reactions – paralysis – respects Dr. Robb – she wants to see pets protected – too many have suffered and died – she is an animal advocate.

Rep. Dutzy – How long ago did you have the vaccine? - Oct 2014 – died in 2016 – she found Dr. Robb on the internet.

Rep. Aaron – When your 1<sup>st</sup> dog had a reaction from the rabies shot what were you told – He was old and probably didn't need it – When your 1<sup>st</sup> dog had this reaction your Vet admitted that it was due to the vaccine – not definitive – he said his immune system was not where its supposed to be – She is here to support Dr. Robb.

**Bethany Polston** – farrier – Here on behalf of clients – She has seen animals get ill and die due to vaccine – having a titer available would benefit everyone – people are not vaccinating their animals.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Barbara Comtois  
Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

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(please circle if present)

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HB 331 – relative to the duties of a veterinarian

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# SIGN UP SHEET

23

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 331 Date February 19, 2019  
 Committee Environment + Agriculture

\*\* Please Print All Information \*\*

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one)	
				Pro	Con
REP. JOHN POTOCER - ROCK & DERRY				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep John & Lou				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SARAH + NICK COURCHANE	SANBORTON, NH		SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
LARISA TREXLER RN	Stoddard NH		Health Freedom Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Trexler	STODDARD NH		self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BOENA	ARMSTRONG		SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Madeline Kadle	Peterborough NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tan Kadle	Peterborough		Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jenny Casella	Box 252 Hampden NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(Please protect the pets)					
Peter Kasser	Hampden Falls			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Carol Orr	Greenland, NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jan Nelson	Littleton NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sally Trumble	Littleton NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jim Bell	36 STATE ROUTE 37		New FAIRFIELD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Glen Athans	Bethel, CT			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bethany	Canterbury NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MELODIE FAY	310 DEERFIELD RD		ALLENSTOWN NH 603-682-7216	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Lagan	25 County Rd West		Bedford NH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hillary Simpson	11 Hovey Rd		Londonerry NH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jack Shimek	Weare,		Health Freedom NH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tonja Hebert	Weare, NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Amaris Hebert	Weare, NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Alex Hebert	Weare, NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

# Testimony



*The Honorable Amanda Gourgue  
Chair, House Committee on Environment and Agriculture  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
107 North Main Street  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301*

Dear Representative Gourgue,

I write to you today to register the strong opposition of the Animal Health Institute to New Hampshire House Bill 331: AN ACT relative to the duties of a veterinarian. The Animal Health Institute (AHI) is the national trade association representing manufacturers of animal medicines: the biologics, pharmaceuticals and feed additives used to keep livestock and pets healthy.

If passed as written this bill would grant veterinarians the authority to reduce the amount of rabies vaccine administered to a veterinary patient below that which has been clinically-validated for efficacy, while still certifying that the animal patient is adequately protected from rabies. Enactment of this bill would violate federal law and leave pets, their owners and other members of the public who come in contact with these animals less protected from an almost universally fatal disease.

HB 331 allows a veterinarian to vary the vaccines dosage protocols and to administer a rabies antibody titer test to determine the need for a rabies booster vaccine. Animal vaccines are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). CVB mandates labels that include directions for use that are based on the data submitted by sponsors. Allowing veterinarians to vary from these instructions goes against this regulatory guidance and is without scientific merit for two reasons:

- Vaccines are not dosed by weight/size of the patient, and so administering a reduced dosage of rabies vaccine to a veterinary patient would not have the same protective effect as administering the proper dosage. Additionally, rabies vaccines are already dosed at the lowest amount they can be while still maintaining effectiveness (see Additional Information at the end of this letter).
- A protective rabies antibody titer level has not been established for dogs and cats. This means that the very method mentioned in the text of the bill by which a veterinarian would "...determine the need for a rabies booster vaccine" is not accepted by the USDA.

Again, the Animal Health Institute strongly opposes the passage of this bill in the interest of animal and public health. As mentioned, I've attached a document with additional details on the risks of this bill. Please let me know if you have additional questions on this issue.

Sincerely,



*Will McCauley, DVM, MBA*  
Director, Veterinary Biologics  
Animal Health Institute

**Additional Information Pertaining to New Hampshire HB 331**

- Vaccine dosages are not based on weight/size
  - When determining the effective dosage of a vaccine, manufacturers are already required to use the smallest amount possible that generates an appropriate immune response.
    - *9 CFR §113.209 (b)(2)- The dose of vaccine to be used in the immunogenicity test shall be no more than the amount which, on the basis of The NIH Test For Potency, has been diluted to the proposed minimum acceptable potency value.<sup>1</sup>*
  - As cited in the World Health Organization's Laboratory techniques in rabies (pg. 364), a dose of inactivated (killed) vaccine should only be released if its potency is 1.0 IU or greater per dose. Since the dose is stipulated as a specific volume (usually in milliliters as demonstrated here), reduction of the administered volume would result in a less-than-potent amount of vaccine being delivered. Reduction of the dosage amount (titration) for individual patients compromises efficacy without an appreciable reduction in adverse events. This is because the risk of adverse events resulting from vaccination are not linearly dose-dependent (i.e. reducing the dosage amount by half will not result in a 50% decrease in the expected rate of adverse events occurring).
- A protective rabies titer level is not established for dogs & cats
  - A validated rabies titer exists for mice used in potency studies as outlined in the USDA's Supplemental Assay Method 315. However, this procedure cannot be extrapolated to dogs and cats given that 9 CFR §113.209 (b)(3) states that, "*Test animals shall be uniform...*" meaning all test subjects must be of the same species, breed, age, weight, etc., which is not possible due to the wide-range of pets seen by clinical veterinarians.
  - Saying that a practitioner may "*...administer a rabies antibody titer test to determine the need for a rabies booster vaccine*" implies that such a test has been validated/approved by federal regulatory health authorities, which it has not. The Animal Health Institute is not aware of any private entities claiming to have a validated rabies titer product that can demonstrate protective antibody levels in pets; this is backed by the American Animal Hospital Association's statement on Rabies Vaccination.
- It is unclear on the party of liability for failure of improperly-dosed vaccination
  - An incorrect "guess" at the proper dose of rabies vaccine for a given pet leaves that pet vulnerable to contracting rabies at a later date. This also puts the owner of said pet at risk for rabies exposure, and it is unclear as to what party will be held responsible for the failure of that vaccination.
    - It cannot be the manufacturer, as they follow all federal guidelines for ensuring proper efficacy of a product when it is administered in the manner stated on its label (i.e. proper dose via proper administration route).

- That leaves either the veterinarian who administered the sub-potent dose, the pet owner for requesting said sub-potent dose, or the state legislative/regulatory agency that allowed the option of the sub-potent dosage.
- Likewise, substitution of a rabies titer in place of vaccination leaves open the possibility of a pet being susceptible to contracting rabies, since a protective antibody titer has not been established or validated as explained above. What party assumes liability for an animal or human contracting rabies in the cases where a veterinarian uses an unvalidated titer to make a clinical decision not to vaccinate a pet? Again, not the manufacturer, as they are not involved in this exchange. That leaves the veterinarian, the pet owner, or the legislative/regulatory body that allowed the titer to be substituted for proper vaccination.
- This bill would go against the current regulatory guidance applicable to veterinary vaccines
  - Regulatory power over the manufacture and distribution of veterinary biologics is conveyed upon the United States Department of Agriculture under the tenets of the federal Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (VSTA).
  - Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations details specific requirements that must be met for claims of duration of immunity beyond one year:
    - 9 CFR 113.209 (c) states: *If more than 1-year duration of immunity is to be claimed, a duration of immunity test for the additional time shall be conducted and interpreted as prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section for the 1-year test. The test animals shall be monitored serologically at least every 180 days. The time of challenge may be adjusted accordingly.*
    - This has allowed manufacturers to prove protective immunity at three years post vaccination, and many owners/veterinarians choose to use the three-year vaccine in order to provide prolonged protection.
      - However, additional duration of immunity studies past the three-year mark have not been performed due to the cost and complication of maintaining an appropriately-sized population of test animals beyond that point.
      - To allow veterinarians to unilaterally assume protective immunity beyond the three-year timepoint is not supported by any validated testing procedures, and to do so would be to make assumptions based on incomplete or non-existent information.
  - The usage of veterinary biologics is not covered under the VSTA or 9 CFR; instead, veterinarians are expected to follow the policies and guidelines established by professional associations such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, which endorses the 2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control as developed by the National Association of State and Public Health Veterinarians.
    - The 2016 Compendium states that, following administration of the first booster one year after initial vaccination, “...*the animal is considered currently*

*vaccinated and should be placed on a booster vaccination schedule consistent with the label of the vaccine used.*” As stated above, all manufacturers recommend administering the full dosage of their vaccine at either 1 or 3-year intervals. There are no labelled recommendations for reduction of the vaccine dosage on any rabies products. To do so would be using a biological product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling as mandated by the USDA.





Dog Owners of the Granite State  
*Protecting the interests of NH pet owners since 1991*

February 20, 2019

Chairman Amanda Gourgue and Members of the House Environment & Agriculture Committee –

I am writing on behalf of Dog Owners of the Granite State (D.O.G.S.) to thank you for your consideration of our position on HB 331, relative to the duties of a veterinarian. On behalf of our membership of responsible local pet owners and breeders, D.O.G.S. respectfully opposes this bill.

D.O.G.S. is an American Kennel Club affiliated non-profit organization founded in 1991 to represent the interests of all pet owners in New Hampshire. Our membership includes a vibrant and active community of specialty breed clubs, all breed kennel clubs, dog and cat breeders, veterinarians, mushers, hunters, and livestock guardian dog owners.

We are always monitoring changes in technology and advances in science to help promote healthier options for our canine friends. But the science needs to be there to support that a change is appropriate. At this time, we do not feel the science backs rabies titers being a safe option for exemption to obtaining a rabies vaccination. Current RSA 436:100 *Rabies Vaccination Required; Exemption* does allow for an exemption “where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants” and we feel this is satisfactory in the meantime. The national study known as the Rabies Challenge Fund, headed by veterinarian Dr. Jean Dodds as the lead researcher, has been in progress since 2016. However, a published peer-reviewed analysis is not yet available, and although we hope to see one soon, we cannot provide support for rabies titers until that time.

With lack of scientific research to stand behind the purpose of HB 331, we request you vote this bill inexpedient to legislate.

Sincerely,

Angela Ferrari, President  
Dog Owners of the Granite State

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### Comments regarding HB331, NH General Court Session Year 2019

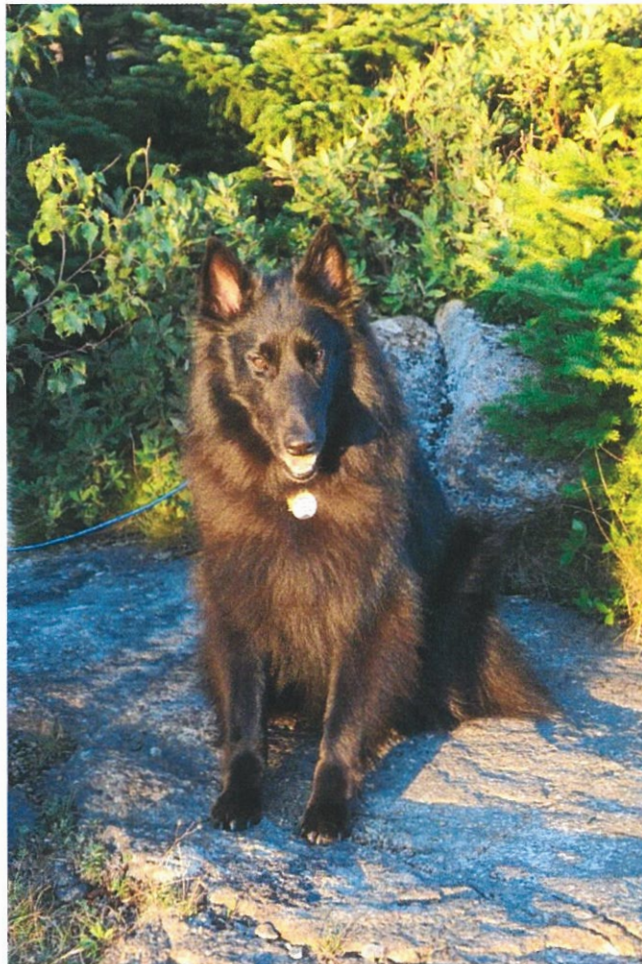
Our interest in, and support of, this bill is a result of our dog, Cheyenne, having epileptic seizures since she was 14 weeks old; she will be 10 years old in July 2019. Cheyenne take four daily medications, for life, and is under the care of a Veterinary Neurologist for her seizures. Due to her medical issues, every time she receives the rabies vaccine, she will have at least one grand-mal seizure.

As rabies vaccination is required by law, we are left with little choice but to vaccinate. This requires us to assist her when the resulting seizures occur and for several days afterwards as she is recovering from the effects of the seizures as well as adding a fifth anti-epileptic drug to her daily medications.

Having an option to obtain a rabies certificate with a titer instead of the actual vaccine would be a real benefit to the overall quality of life of Cheyenne and possibly many other animals.

Our only suggestion would be to add the laboratory information for the laboratory performing the rabies titer test. Such as the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Thank you from Cheyenne.



Cheyenne, Belgian Sheepdog. Epileptic



# NEWStat

VeterinaryBreakingNews

American Animal Hospital Association

Legislation & regulation

Advancements & research

Veterinary trends

<< Erasing rabies one vaccination at a time | Hoo, doggies! Why does cat poop smell so bad? >>

Apr  
30  
2018

## Reassure your clients: Ignore the anti-vaxxers, vaccinations won't give their pets autism

Tony McReynolds



Dogs cannot get autism.

The British Veterinary Association (BVM) took the unusual step of **making that definitive announcement** last week to counter the impact of the antivaccine movement led by “anti-vaxxers.” Although their views are widely refuted by the medical communities in both Great Britain and the United States, anti-vaxxers maintain that immunization can have harmful side effects that may cause autism in children.

The BVM isn't so much worried about homegrown antivaccination fears as they are imported ones: “We are aware of an increase in antivaccination pet owners in the US who have voiced concerns that vaccinations may lead to their dogs developing autism-like behavior. But there is currently no scientific evidence to suggest autism in dogs or a link between vaccination and autism.”

The BVM issued the statement amid growing reports by British veterinarians that some clients are refusing to have their pets vaccinated, due in part to the antivaccination fears on the part of pet owners in the United States.

Not that those fears are widespread.

In fact, a lot of the news reports about the so-called pet anti-vax movement seems to be isolated to a relatively small section of Brooklyn, New York. Veterinarians there have **reported a significant rise** in the number of pet owners rejecting immunization for their pets. And the news stories indicate that those pet owners rejecting immunization tend to belong to be a small minority of young, hip, urban Millennials.

Still, that small cohort of Brooklynites was vocal enough to move the BVM to issue their statement.

NEWStat asked AAHA's Senior Veterinary Officer, Heather Loenser, DVM, to comment on the BVM's assertion.

Loenser said, "As a parent and a veterinarian, I understand the drive to look to prevent behavioral issues in both our pets and our children. However, I support our colleagues' concise, current scientific reasoning that not only can dogs not develop autism, but even if they did, it wouldn't be associated with vaccines."

"I also believe that vaccination protocols should be tailored to the risk factors and lifestyle of the individual patient," Loenser added. "That is why I am so proud of **AAHA's Canine Lifestyle-Based Vaccine Calculator**, which can be used as a bridge between pet caregivers and veterinarians when discussing vaccination protocols for individual dogs."

If you ever wondered how the antivaccination movement made the leap from concern about children developing autism to concern about pets developing autism, some news stories about the phenomenon link to a 2014 **study** co-led by Nicholas H. Dodman, BVMS, DVA, DACVAA, DACVB.

Dodman, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Science at the Cumming School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts, and his colleagues found that neurotensin (NT) and corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) were elevated in some autistic children compared to children without autism.

Here's the kicker that caught everyone's attention: The researchers also found those same hormones (NT and CRH) were elevated in some bull terriers who chased their tails obsessively compared to bull terriers who didn't. The tail-chasing bull terriers also demonstrated other behaviors similar to those observed in people with autism.

More significantly, the researchers noted that "Many owners of [bull terriers] in the aforementioned study reported that their dogs were 'socially withdrawn' and some spontaneously used the term 'autistic' to describe their personality." [Italics added for emphasis.]

In other words, the owners of the dogs in the study were self-describing their dogs as autistic. That was not the finding of the researchers.

And the study certainly didn't mention a link between autism and vaccinations.

So, tell your clients they can rest easy. And to keep their pets' vaccinations up to date.

*Photo credit: © iStock/ilona75*

Boarding kennels

What happens if someone is bitten

What will owners do if their pet is bitten

Exposure of people and animals

A titer does not mean the dog is immune or will fight off the disease.

A titer may mean the animal is fighting the disease

A titer in a young pup may be due to immunity conveyed by colostrum from mother

## The New York Times

# *No, Your Dog Can't Get Autism From a Vaccine*

By Ceylan Yeginsu

April 27, 2018

LONDON — The anti-vaccine movement has come for the pets.

A spreading fear of pet vaccines' side effects has prompted the British Veterinary Association to issue a startling statement this week: Dogs cannot develop autism.

The implicit message was that dog owners should keep vaccinating their pets against diseases like distemper and canine hepatitis because any concerns that the animals would develop autism after the injections were unfounded.

The warning has a long tail. It grew out of an anti-vaccine theory that rippled across the United States and Europe as networks known as “anti-vaxxers” claimed that childhood vaccinations could cause autism. The belief, promoted by some celebrities like the television personality Jenny McCarthy, who says her son has autism, spurred many parents to begin boycotting traditional vaccines.

The theory gained prominence in 1998, after a study published in the medical journal *The Lancet* purported to show a link between autism and the measles-mumps-rubella vaccination. It caused a firestorm in health circles and among parents, resulting in a significant drop in vaccination rates for children in Britain.

But the study has since been thoroughly discredited. It was formally retracted by the medical magazine and its lead author, Andrew Wakefield, who at the

time was a doctor at the Royal Free Hospital in London, was subsequently struck off the British medical register over ethical lapses.

The theory, however, has jumped species. It is increasingly being applied to pets in the United States and is gaining momentum in Britain — raising concerns that the already low vaccination rates in this country could fall further.

Those who fear vaccine side effects in their dogs claim the animals could develop canine autism, thyroid disease and arthritis.

Then, on Monday, the television show “Good Morning Britain” on ITV put out a call on Twitter to hear from dog owners who believed their pets showed symptoms of autism after receiving vaccinations, and from others who had stopped getting their pets vaccinated against dangerous diseases.

The next day, the veterinary association put out a statement on Twitter.

“We are aware of an increase in anti-vaccination pet owners in the U.S. who have voiced concerns that vaccinations may lead to their dogs developing autism-like behavior. There’s currently no reliable scientific evidence to indicate autism in dogs (or its link to vaccines),” the association said in its tweet.

It added: “Potential side effects of vaccines are rare and outweighed by the benefits in protecting against disease. BVA would be happy to provide evidence-based information on the issue.”

Many dog owners criticized the TV program for reporting what they called baseless anti-vaccine conspiracies. But others were intrigued: “I can’t believe I’m saying this but, how could you even tell your dog had autism?” one Twitter user asked.



The support for vaccinating pets was echoed by other agencies.

Britain's independent Veterinary Products Committee, which reviewed all authorized dog and cat vaccines in the United Kingdom between 1999 and 2002, concluded that the "overall risk/benefit analysis strongly supports the continued use of vaccines."

"It is extremely rare for any serious side effects to follow vaccinations," the British Veterinary Medicines Directorate said in a statement. "Any adverse effect is generally far outweighed by the benefit of protection against serious disease."

For a time, the anti-vaxxer movement in the United States gave rise to a public health crisis in at least 14 states, as outbreaks of measles, a disease that health officials had long declared beaten, reappeared in alarming numbers.

In 2017, Minnesota reported the largest outbreak of measles in almost 30 years. New measles cases popped up in Nebraska and Minnesota, New York and Marin County, Calif.

Fear of vaccines spread to Europe, and cases of measles rose in 2017, with the virus finding its way into areas with unvaccinated children from Romania to Britain. At least 35 children died of the disease in 2017, according to the World Health Organization.

Italy had 5,006 cases of measles and three deaths last year; 88 percent of those cases were in people never vaccinated, the European Center for Prevention and Disease Control said.

A version of this article appears in print on April 28, 2018, on Page A6 of the New York edition with the headline: Vaccines Won't Cause Autism For Buddy, Britain Implores

## AVMA@Work Blog

### “Anti-vaxxers” and pet health

February 6, 2015 | [Dr. Kimberly May](#)

There's been a lot of media attention to the anti-vaccination movement, particularly its role in the [ongoing measles outbreak](#) in the U.S. Yes, measles – a disease that was virtually eradicated more than a decade ago, but is showing a resurgence. Over the past few years, veterinarians have been noticing an uptick in the number of pets that are not being vaccinated, due to [similar anti-vaccination ideology](#).

Like measles, viruses such as [canine distemper](#), [canine parvovirus](#), and feline parvovirus (which causes [panleukopenia](#) in cats) are highly contagious; they're easily spread from an infected pet to another. In many cases, an infected pet does not have to appear ill to infect others. This means that a disease can rapidly gain a foothold in a population with even a small number of at-risk and unvaccinated animals. [Rabies](#), which isn't spread as readily as these other diseases, is a significant risk to people and animals, and vaccination against rabies – even for indoor pets – is required in most areas.

Vaccination is the primary reason we no longer have the domestic dog variant (strain) of rabies in the U.S.



Vaccination is also the reason that diseases like distemper, parvo and panleukopenia have become less common in our pets, but this trend could easily be reversed by the same circumstances that are allowing measles to regain a foothold. And that’s a terrifying thought to veterinarians, who’ve been on the front lines fighting these devastating diseases.

Unvaccinated pets are not only at risk themselves, but put other pets at risk. Pets that are at highest risk include young pets who haven’t had their full series of vaccines yet and are not fully protected; and pets with immunosuppressive diseases or that are receiving steroids, chemotherapy, or other medications or treatments that reduce their immune system’s ability to ward off infection and disease. And because there are no vaccines that are 100% effective, there are animals who’ve been vaccinated but the vaccine hasn’t quite provided enough protection (either due to the vaccine or due to some factor associated with the individual pet), putting them at risk if exposed to an infected animal.

We **vaccinate** against these diseases because they’re not only contagious, they’re deadly. And in many cases, if your pet survives the illness, he or she may have long-term health problems.



Like any medication given to or procedure performed on you or your pet, vaccination does carry risk. The potential **adverse responses** to vaccines can vary from mild to severe, but most of these vaccine responses are mild and resolve quickly. For cat owners, the risk and fear of sarcoma formation is real, but the frequency of sarcoma formation has dramatically reduced due to **improvements in vaccines**, vaccine frequency, and **guidelines** for location of vaccination. For the majority of pets, the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks.

How frequently should you vaccinate your pet? It’s not a one-size-fits-all thing, and not every pet needs every vaccine. For dogs, the American Animal Hospital

Association develops **Canine Vaccination Guidelines**. For cats, the American Association of Feline Practitioners develops **Feline Vaccination Guidelines**. For your own dog or cat, your veterinarian can use these guidelines to tailor a vaccination program that provides the right protection for your pet.

We understand pet owner’s concerns about vaccination, but urge pet owners to base their opinions on science and not ideology. Vaccinating your pet not only protects your pets, but your friends’ and neighbors’ pets as well. You’ve got enough other things to worry about, and having your pet’s health threatened by a preventable disease shouldn’t be one of them. Talk to your veterinarian about the vaccination schedule that’s right for your pet, based on your pet’s risk of exposure.

**Related**

[New Canine Distemper Strains in the News: Real Threat, or Scare Tactic?](#)

[Observe World Rabies Day with AVMA resources](#)  
September 26, 2017

[AVMA IN THE NEWS: Week of January 25, 2015](#)  
February 3, 2015



February 9, 2012  
In "Animal Health"

In "Animal Welfare"

In "AVMA in the News"

This entry was posted in [Animal Health](#), [Canine](#), [Companion Animals](#), [Feline](#) and tagged [vaccination](#) by [Dr. Kimberly May](#). Bookmark the [permalink](https://atwork.avma.org/2015/02/06/anti-vaxxers-pet-health/) [<https://atwork.avma.org/2015/02/06/anti-vaxxers-pet-health/>].

#### 17 THOUGHTS ON “ANTI-VAXXERS” AND PET HEALTH”

Dr. Patricia Burke

said:

May 2, 2015 at 3:07 pm

Granted there is a continuing problem with pet owners thinking inside cats don't need any vaccines, or their pets not need X Y or Z because not exposed, but the number of clients I have met who are “anti-vaccination “ for reasons similar to human anti-vaccination sentiments, is minuscule compared to — the number of clients who have been told, almost always by a university, or an emergency / specialty hospital (wrongly thinking this reflects human medicine) that their pet should never be vaccinated again -for anything – because

— it has or had, or there was some vague reference to , or maybe...

– a reaction –no matter how small,

– it has been solidly, or tentatively, or possibly, or maybe or someone overheard whispering the hallway-, a diagnosis of a past, current, short term or long term, immune related condition (immunosuppressed, immuno-proliferative, immune-incompetent, on immune modulating drugs ) .

In human medicine, with certain conditions, sometimes vx ( usually MLV ) are avoided. But for important vaccinations ( say, rabies in a rabies exposure ) even previous anaphylaxis ( even in a pregnant woman) is not considered a total contraindication – they will try to medicate and vaccinate . In many instances, a patient's immune condition dictates more frequent or sooner re-vaccination.

What is most egregious, when dealing with Rabies vaccination , are the staff of said institutions who tell a client to “check with their rDVM about getting an exemption’ never mentioning the animal will be considered legally unvaccinated, and if there is possible rabies exposure- it will be vaccinated, quarantined 2-3-6 months – or– killed. To which I say “Write your own damn exemption request”. Meanwhile, these same places , worried they may step on referring veterinarians' toes, neither ask nor



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## NH Veterinary Medical Association

PO Box 4017

Concord, NH 03302-4017

603-715-9946 - nhvma@comcast.net

February 19, 2019

### Statement on NHVMA's opposition to HB 331, relative to the duties of a veterinarian

Chairwoman Gourgue & members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee:

House Bill 331, relative to the duties of a veterinarian, states in part, *"The veterinarian may vary from the vaccine dosage protocols when in the best interests for the health of the animal and administer a rabies antibody titer test to determine the need for a rabies booster vaccine."*

Rabies in humans is rare in the United States, due to high compliance with vaccination of pets, availability of prompt treatment, and vigilance of state public health officials.

This is not true of many other countries. Approximately 60,000 people -worldwide- die each year from rabies, mostly in countries where unvaccinated pets are common. Canine rabies is the cause of 98% of human rabies deaths worldwide.

HB 331 would allow veterinarians to vary the dosage of vaccine administered in dogs, cats, and ferrets, going against the vaccine manufacturer's label recommendations. A rabies vaccine works by injection of killed particles into the animal in order to trigger an immune response and the production of protective antibodies. The dose is not weight dependent. A minimum dose of vaccine immunizing virus particles is required to trigger an immune response whether that animal is a Chihuahua or a Great Dane. Similarly, a 90-pound person receives the same dose of flu vaccine as a 500-pound person. Arbitrarily altering the dose of the vaccine is unscientific and not proven to provide any protection.

HB 331 would also allow for a rabies vaccination titer to be used in place of a rabies vaccination in dogs, cats, and ferrets. A rabies titer is a blood test that measures the level of antibodies in the pet's blood. According to the Centers for Disease Control there is no "protective" titer against Rabies virus. Even if a person who has been vaccinated has a high titer, they will still be advised to follow the post-exposure protocol if they are exposed to rabies. We do not use a rabies titer to predict if a person will survive exposure.

Both the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) are also in agreement that rabies titers should not be used in lieu of vaccination. Both of these organizations adhere to recommendations in the Compendium of Rabies Control, which is compiled periodically by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, with which the current rabies laws in New Hampshire comply.

Another issue is the cost of titers, which is significantly higher than the cost of rabies vaccination for pets. There is no financial incentive to pet owners to choose a titer in place of vaccination.

HB 331 AN ACT relative to the duties of a veterinarian  
Testimony of The Honorable Valerie A. Fraser RN, DVM  
February 19, 2019

"Conformity to Custom is not in itself an exercise of care as a matter of law"

HB 331 introduces the idea to allow Veterinarians to make certain decisions regarding rabies vaccinations for companion animals.

Similar legislation has been introduced in 4 or 5 other states; CA, SC, CT, AZ, DE and is out of the need by pet owners who have experienced their pets side effects from over vaccination.

Over vaccinations is not a new phenomena, but is becoming more widely recognized. "Over- Vaccination" is defined here as increased frequency of vaccinations which often result in harmful adverse reactions or death.

I spoke with Dr. Ronald Schultz and he agrees that a rabies titer is the only correlate with immunity.

The problem this bill is trying to fix is the problem of not really knowing if a companion animal is immune to the rabies virus.

Currently the only accepted proof is a certificate of rabies vaccination. What remains unknown is if the dog developed a positive antibody blood titer. And the custom is to blindly re-vaccinate every 3 years. One could argue that the vaccine manufacturers challenged dogs at 3 years only, and therefore licensed the vaccine to be effective for 3 years. They will not spend the money to redo that original testing and therefore blood titer testing is the best way to not over vaccinate an animal while at the same time proving immunity to rabies.

Failure of immunity could be due to inappropriate vaccination with inadequately stored or improperly injected vaccine among other reasons.

A positive antibody titer indicates that the animal has the ability to neutralize rabies virus. Virus Neutralizing Antibodies are IgM and IgG. The animals ability to neutralize rabies virus after vaccination is the indicator of immunity.

By giving the animal the first rabies vaccination at 16 weeks (the ideal time according to some research which is when maternal antibodies that could interfere with the rabies vaccine, are gone and the immune system development and overall health development), and then between 8 to 30 days after that, a blood sample is sent to a certified rabies titer lab, (Kansas State Univ. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is the national reference lab) the results will show immunity by a blood titer level of 0.5IU/ml. If the animal doesn't show a positive titer, then he should be retested later before considering revaccination. The World Health Organization-for international travel- recognizes blood titers and requires a 0.5 IU/ml blood titer level.

The goal of recognizing blood titers allows for testing every 3 years in lieu of another rabies vaccine where a dog is more likely to over respond to booster rabies vaccinations with adverse events such as hemolytic anemia, tumors, seizures, meningitis, encephalitis or auto immune delayed or immediate death. Of course, blood titer tests can be done at any time for assurance of a positive titer.

This bill is about common sense, protecting our pets from rabies and at the same time allowing an avenue to prove a positive blood titer test, to prevent harm from over vaccination and still preserve the public health. Please support OTP on HB 331. Thank you.

## **Liability Related to Vaccination**

This article appeared in JACMA, Vol 221, No. 10, November 15, 2002

**by Duane Flemming, D.V.M., J.D., D.A.C.V.O**

In the United States, licensed vaccines are subject to the Virus, Serum, and Toxin Act (VSTA) of 1913 (9 CFR ?101.2(w) [1991]). Consequently, use of animal vaccines is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), not the Food and Drug Agency (FDA). Regulations incorporated in the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) do not apply to animal vaccines, so using a vaccine in a manner other than stated on the package insert is not considered extra label use; a more appropriate term is "discretionary" use. The VSTA applies only to the preparation, sale, barter, exchange, or shipment of biologics. It does not regulate use of vaccines by veterinarians. Although there are usage guidelines within specific state or federal eradication and control programs and perhaps as isolated rules within some state practice acts, there are no overreaching federal regulations concerning the after-sale use of licensed animal vaccines by veterinarians or lay persons in the United States.

Even so, many veterinarians rely on the vaccine label to protect them. In the past, this was not an unreasonable approach, because by adhering to label instructions, veterinarians could, in most cases, shift the focus of litigation to the vaccine manufacturer. However, in 1996 the United States Supreme Court refused to review the Seventh Circuit Court's decision in *Lynbrook Farms vs. SmithKline Beecham Corp* (117 S.Ct. 178). In that decision, the Circuit Court upheld the contention by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that the VSTA preempted all state court tort remedies that would have the effect of imposing requirements different from or in addition to those imposed by the USDA regarding the safety, efficacy, potency, or purity of a product. In effect, this action eliminated vaccine manufacturers as defendants in all state vaccine tort cases unless it was alleged that the vaccine was improperly manufactured.<sup>b,c</sup> However, professional negligence and breach of warranty claims against veterinarians using these products were not preempted. As a result, future consumer claims involving vaccines will, in all likelihood, be centered around veterinary malpractice or the failure of veterinarians to adhere to prevailing standards of practice in selecting and administering vaccines, as well as claims that vaccines were given without the proper informed consent.

If, in a court of law, the quality of care provided by a practitioner is being called into question, the practitioner's actions will likely be compared with the prevailing standard of care? a legal term of art that, simply defined, is the care a practitioner of equal experience and training would deliver under the same or similar circumstances. The prevailing standard of care regarding the use of vaccines is in a state of flux, as exemplified by the recommendation of an increasing number of veterinary virologists, veterinary colleges, professional organizations, and practitioners to extend the revaccination interval for certain vaccine antigens. However, by and of themselves, a few published articles or stated opinions of recognized experts do not define a new standard of care; rather, it is their adoption and utilization by a substantial portion of the veterinary community. Vigorous debate within the profession will undoubtedly result in a new standard of care in the selection and use of vaccines. Although many veterinarians will, for various reasons, resist and delay adoption of new protocols, they should know that adherence to



Dear Dr Robb

I have been appalled to hear of your experiences after refusing to give a full dose of unnecessary vaccines to pets whilst in practice at a Banfield franchise.

Through Canine Health Concern, I have been campaigning to end unnecessary pet vaccination for the last 20 years. It was known in 1978, when Drs Ronald D Schultz and Tom R Philips were published in Kirks Veterinary Therapy, that once immune, dogs remain immune to viral disease for years or life. Fraud is defined in the UK as 'obtaining a pecuniary advantage through deception' and the veterinary vaccine industry has been obtaining a pecuniary advantage through deception for over 35 years. There is absolutely no scientific evidence to say that pets need annual shots and, as you have stated, over-vaccination can be harmful.

From the early 2000s, veterinary bodies in America (namely the American Animal Hospital Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Australian Veterinary Association, and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association) have been stating that we should stop over-vaccinating our pets, and that vaccination can be harmful. Further, they have advocated titer testing to ascertain whether circulating antibodies are present. If so, revaccination is neither required nor beneficial. If antibodies are present, they simply cancel out the booster vaccine and no more immunity is provided.

Published scientific literature shows that vaccines can cause encephalitis (brain inflammation), epilepsy, behavioural changes, atopy and other allergies, autoimmune diseases such as arthritis, diabetes, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, and even cancer and leukaemia. How bitter a loss when our beloved pets are killed by vaccines they didn't even need.

My prayer is that your dreadful experiences, and your willingness to speak out, will contribute to the abolition of annual vaccination. You have our full support.

With kind regards

Catherine O'Driscoll

Author: What Vets Don't Tell You About Vaccines, and Shock to the System.

Hello!

*Razynne Medynski*

Full support of HB 331!

I have done so much reading & research about rabies in the past few weeks.

The information is out there -

The research & Testing have been done.

Titers should be accepted as proof of immunity and dosage should be adjusted to the animals size. All the studies that have been done, titers show immunity, It is time we updated the rabies law in NH.

Not against vaccinating, but I am against over-vaccinating.

No vaccines since I was a child – because vaccines work!

Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association – 11/15/99  
JAVMA

“rabies in canids have been nearly eliminated through out most of the US via vaccination and control of stray dogs.”

“Moreover, current cases of rabies in human beings have developed, not because of vaccination failures, but because of apparently unrecognized exposures from bats or the risks that such exposures may pose.”

20 years ago!

Lisa A. Pierson, DVM

“According to the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Vaccine

Guidelines Group. "A positive test result would lead to the conclusion that re-vaccination is not required"

5 ½ pound cat [Splattahpus](#), will be receiving the same dosage as my 140 lbs dogs!

The practice of one size fits all is just wrong.

With every vaccination you're just taking a chance on your pets health. You don't know what the outcome will be.

The risk and severity of chronic disease that vaccines cause increase with every vaccine given.

Article by Dana Scott – Dogs naturally magazine

"The CVB (Center for Veterinary Biologics, division of the USDA) is responsible for tracking adverse events in animal vaccines, but the information is considered "proprietary" and property of the vaccine manufacturers."

We do not get to see these reports.

"Only 1% of adverse reactions to vaccines are likely to be reported."

"90% of adverse reactions don't get reported to the CVB. They go directly to the vaccine manufacturers. The only time the CVB receives adverse reports from the vaccine manufacturers is if they request them.

"When the vaccine manufacturers receive those reports, they are not obligated to send them to the CVB and the CVB doesn't routinely request them."

"The minuscule number of reports that do reach the CVB aren't accessible to vets or the general public. So there's no way for vets and pet owners to find out just how many adverse reactions are



caused by vaccines.”

Max 12 yrs old, 140 lbs. Crossbred Chinook - Lump on rump, bumps developing in belly area.

### CDC - says Center for Disease Control

“More than 90% of all animal cases reported annually to CDC now occur in wildlife; before 1960 the majority were in domestic animals.”

CDC – April, 22, 2011

The number of rabies-related human deaths in the US has declined from more than 100 annually at the turn of the century to one or two per year in the 1990's.” “human fatalities associated with rabies occur in people who fail to seek medical assistance, usually because they were unaware of their exposure.”

Most vaccine labels state that only healthy animals should be vaccinated. Unfortunately, vaccines are given to ALL animals, regardless of the condition of their health, history or genetics so the same safety seen in the lab simply won't be seen in our pets.

Min – Lyme – Exemption or shot. With the titer, Now I would have an option.

Min 2013 – 6 yrs contracted Lyme disease when he was young which compromises his immune system. Technically, he should not be given the rabies vaccination.

However, I had two choices. Ask the veterinarian for an exception or give him the unnecessary rabies vaccination again.

The law in NH for a rabies exemption is as follows:

“Exempted animals shall not be allowed outdoors without being on a leash and shall be under the direct physical control of an adult owner at all times. In addition, when the animal is outdoors, it shall be muzzled in a manner approved by the local rabies control authority.”

So to let him have a normal dogie life, I chose the over-vaccinating. Titer testing would have been a perfect solution.

Patricia Jordan, DVM

”My experience in veterinary clinic show that about 15% of most clinics' income is from vaccines and then another 65% is spent addressing the vaccine -induced diseases that result.

Studies by Dr. Ronald Schultz (U of Wisconsin, Dept. of Pathology, school of Vet Med)

show that rabies vaccines protect for a minimum of 7 years – and probably for the life of the animal.

“The one year rabies vaccine is identical to the tree year rabies vaccine, just labeled differently.

Most conventional vets don't recognize rabies vaccine damage unless your dog has an instant reaction while he's still in the clinic. But the fact is, one little vaccine can cause not only immediate illness, but long term, dangerous, chronic disease that can change your dog's life forever. Vaccine reactions are more likely to happen when your dog gets multiple vaccines at once; and small dogs are more likely to suffer from ill effects, because they receive the same dose as big dogs.”

Merck Animal Nobivac 3-Rabies On the package Misleading. Nobivac MSD



“In 1990. a total of 4,881 cases of animal rabies were reported to the CDC by all 50 states.” -

Only info from CDC showed that during that around that time using their chart the # of Cats, Dogs and Cattle totaled around 200 cases each. The majority of cases were from wild animals.

“formulated with a highly purified adjuvant” Adjuvated with aluminum phosphate – Per MSDS looks pretty bad to me!

“contain extraneous protein in addition to rabies antigen that can lead to autoimmune disease”

### Merck says

“.. Federal guidelines for protection of dogs and cats against virulent challenge administered 3 years after vaccination”

Did not test further?

Further testing has been done, and the results are in.

### RABVAC - Brand

Gentamicin and thimerosal added

Gentamicin - Side effects:

Hearing loss

dizziness

weak or shallow breathing

numbness or tingly feeling

twitching, muscle tightness or contraction

seizure (convulsions)

severe stomach pain, diarrhea that is water or bloody

fever, blisters or ulcers in the mouth, red or swollen gums, trouble swallowing

kidney problems – little or no urinating; painful or difficult urination;

swelling in your feet or ankles: feeling tired or short of breath  
signs of an electrolyte imbalance – confusion weakness, bone pain,  
increased urination or  
increased pressure inside the skull – severe headaches, ringing in  
your ears, dizziness, nausea, vision problems, pain behind your eyes.

Common side effects:

vision problems  
nausea, vomiting loss of appetite, weight loss  
a light-headed feeling  
itching or rash  
pain where the medicine was injected  
headache mood change  
or joint pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur.

[Dr. Karen Becker February 11, 2011 Green Dog](#)

Estimates are between 1 and 10 out of every 10,000 vaccinated cats will develop VAS – vaccine-associated sarcomas.

[According to ABC new.com:](#)

Many veterinarians believe the practice of annual vaccinations is an unnecessary evil, responsible for such diseases as allergy, seizure, anemia, even cancer. And rather than building up immunity we are overwhelming their immune system.

[Dana Scott: article Dogs naturally magazine](#)

Vaccines can both save lives and take lives. So the idea is to give as few vaccines as necessary to protect your dog from infectious disease and hope he doesn't develop autoimmune disease. But this isn't what

happens.

“20 years ago a piece was published. Veterinary immunologist, Dr. Ronald Schultz studied every major vaccine in over a thousand dogs...and every study delivered the same conclusion, every time..

“Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity”

### Dana Scott article Dogs naturally magazine

At that time vets were vaccinating every year! After that study in 2003, based on Dr. Schultz findings, the AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) and AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) changed the re-vaccination guidelines from annual to every three years.

Research has repeatedly shown is that even every three years is excessive.

Based on what I knew before and with all the research I've done, HB331 should be the norm not the exception!

Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wound we inflict on our soul when we look the other way. .... Attributed to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let's again make NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRST IN THE NATION FOR ALL PETS!



Dear Representative,

HB331: 2.19.19

**PLEASE SUPPORT HB331.** It is very important to restore veterinarian discretion; science-based decision-making power to the veterinarian; that they will be allowed to give safer science-based care to our pets.

Bill opposition will likely tell you that titers are not an effective means. But, TITERS ARE MORE DEFINITIVE THAN RE-VACCINATION. As a nurse, my positive vaccine titers have always sufficed for proof of immunity for employment at Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH and every other nursing job since 1995. Having a vaccine certificate does not demonstrate antibody response or immunity. **TITERS INDICATE IMMUNITY. TITERS MEASURE ANTIBODIES TO A VIRUS. RABIES IS A VIRUS. VACCINES ARE NOT EVIDENCE OF ANTIBODY RESPONSE.**

They'll probably also use their fear tactics to let you think people will die from rabies. **As you know, this bill will NOT change the requirement for rabies protection coverage in NH; it just provides more prudent and scientific practice.** New Hampshire pets are exposed to rabies vaccine over-dosing that has been proven to cause chronic disease or death in many pets\* Pets will often have provable antibody response, which translates to immunity to cover rabies.

*\* previously vaccinated pets*

Not long after our dog, Stan got his final rabies shot in 2010 (he was 4 year old), he started having severe behavior changes and severe nerve twitching. We buried him in 2011 due to a rapid onset brain cancer. He had been having reactions to his shots and forming large cysts at the injection sites. We were concerned, but at the time the veterinarians said that we had no choice but to continue to vaccinate him. Due to vaccine overdosing, we are concerned that Addie (English Setter age 7) will not make it

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 331 - AS INTRODUCED

2019 SESSION

19-0595  
08/04

HOUSE BILL           **331**

AN ACT               relative to the duties of a veterinarian.

SPONSORS:          Rep. Viens, Belk. 1; Rep. Plumer, Belk. 6; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 6

COMMITTEE:        Environment and Agriculture

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows veterinarians to make decisions regarding rabies vaccines for companion animals.

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Explanation:       Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.  
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 331 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 training activities pertinent to functional canine activities. Cats and ferrets shall not be required to  
2 wear the collar or harness with the tag.

3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.