Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 18, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to which was referred HB 387,

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.

Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Catherine Sofikitis

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Environment and Agriculture**
Bill Number:	**HB 387**
Title:	**relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.**
Date:	**February 18, 2021**
Consent Calendar:	**CONSENT**
Recommendation:	**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would have required rabies antibody titer tests as the method for determining whether dogs need to be re-vaccinated. While this is a well-intentioned bill, and it is our second time hearing it, we believe that the research is just not there yet. Rabies is 100% fatal and the use of titers is not ready to determine immunity in dogs.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Catherine Sofikitis
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

HB 387, relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Catherine Sofikitis for Environment and Agriculture. This bill would have required rabies antibody titer tests as the method for determining whether dogs need to be re-vaccinated. While this is a well-intentioned bill, and it is our second time hearing it, we believe that the research is just not there yet. Rabies is 100% fatal and the use of titers is not ready to determine immunity in dogs. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 387

BILL TITLE: relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.

DATE: February 17, 2021

LOB ROOM: Hybrid

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Sofikitis Seconded by Rep. G. Sanborn Vote: 19-0

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 387

BILL TITLE:

DATE: **February 17, 2021**

LOB ROOM: 206

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ❹ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ________
☐ Interim Study (2nd year) *(if offered)*

Moved by Rep. ___Sofikitis__________ Seconded by Rep. _____Sanborn_______ Vote: 19-0______

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st 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 (1st 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 (1st year) ☐ Adoption of Amendment # ________
☐ Interim Study (2nd year) *(if offered)*

Moved by Rep. ________________ Seconded by Rep. ________________ Vote: ________

CONSENT CALENDAR: ___X__ YES _____ NO

Minority Report? ______ Yes ______ No If yes, author, Rep: ______________ Motion ________

Respectfully submitted: ___Rep. Barbara Comtois______________________
Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

02/17/2021 9:57:30 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2021 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: HB387 **Motion:** ITL **AM #:** **Exec Session Date:** February 17, 2021

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Pearl, Howard C. Chairman	X		
Aron, Judy F. Vice Chairman	X		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	X		
Verville, Kevin G.	X		
Davis, Arnold G.	X		
Stapleton, Walter A.	X		
Homola, Susan	X		
Kennedy, Margaret Anne	X		
Mason, James L.	X		
Sanborn, Gail E.	X		
Bixby, Peter W.	X		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	X		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	X		
Dutzy, Sherry	X		
Murray, Megan A.	X		
Von Plinsky, Sparky	X		
Caplan, Tony	X		
Hyland, Stephanie M.	X		
Perez, Maria	X		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	

Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB387

BILL TITLE: AN ACT relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs

DATE: February 17, 2021

ROOM: 206 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order: _10:00 AM_____**

Time Adjourned: __10:59 am_____

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Pearl, Aron, Comtois, Verville, Davis, Stapleton, Homola, Kennedy, Mason, G. Sanborn, Bixby, Sofikitis, Andrew Bouldin, Dutzy, M. Murray, Von Plinsky, Caplan, Hyland, and Perez

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Buco, Carr. 2

TESTIMONY

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

Rep Buco – sponsor – introduction

Mary Anne O'Mara - written testimony – titer testing and variations between labs – is aware of only 2 testing labs for titer

Rep. Bouldin Q. the paragraph this applies to addresses Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets – why does this titer testing not pertain to cats and ferrets A. I am a dog person

Rep Sofikitis – Q. Dr. Rob testified before this committee – he had lost his ability to give rabies vaccinations has he obtained his license again A. the only reason I mentioned him is that he gives this service regarding titers

Rep. Aron – Q. interested to know more about the exemption, for any animal that did have a titer amount and could be exempted from getting a rabies vaccination, how do you see them being treated differently than any other animal A. they don't need to be in isolation because of a reaction to the vaccination, they just need to be boostered, why do I need to put my dog in rabies isolation when they had there titers done last year,

Rep. Hyland Q. Is this bill a preventive measure or due to an increase in rabies A. neither, it is about a dog who has had a severe reaction to a rabies vaccination and the dog needs to remain in isolation unless it is on a 6' leash and muzzled, I am no longer allowed to let my dog compete

Rep. Caplan Q. the bill seems to imply that all dogs get titers A. all dogs should get a titer after a rabies vaccination, because without that there is no way to tell if the vaccination worked Q. how common is it for a dog not to respond to a vaccination A. it more common than you think – how many dogs out there have a reaction to the rabies vaccine- used to be an obedience trainer

Rep. Kennedy – Q. what is the cost of a titer test, A. will vary depending on veterinarian – Dr. Rob is offering the service for $55

Rep. Dutzy – Q. if a dog cannot have a rabies shot and gets exempted, can they run free in the yard A. the way the law reads, if my dog has a waiver, it must be on a leash and muzzled

Rep. Hyland Q. is this precedent in other states A. not aware of any, however Delaware just passed a bill

Rep. Murray – Q. utilizing testing lab outside of NH, would a licensed veterinarian send the test to Dr. Rob – A. No, if you went through your local veterinarian, they will send it to KSU Q. do you know if it will affect the veterinarian/patient relationship A. my vet had no problem when I went through Dr. Rob.

Rep. Comtois Q. who draws the blood A. your Vet Q. then the local vet would handle the animal no matter what A. yes

*Angela Ferrari – Dog Owners of the Granite State - opposes – written testimony – it would require all dogs to get titer tested and shipped to KSU (Kansas State University) – a cost of over $100 on top of the rabies vaccination – what happens if the titer comes back too low, then the rabies vaccine would need to be administered again and another titer would need to be done – work needs to be done on the exemption portion

Rep. Murray Q. in addition to info from compendium, do you have concerns that if a dog would bite someone A.the current law works very well, but there is not enough research that titers are reliable Q. how long would it take to get a titer response back from one of these facilities A. it varies, delay to get into Vet for blood draw, then shipped to KSU – it is not a superfast turnaround

Rep. Bixby Q. do you have a sense of rabies in wildlife A. does not have the answer Q. compendium not titers are really reliable at this time - Dr. Crawford in his testimony, talked about the 2 different types of immunities A. not a scientist

Stacey Ober – opposes – AKC – written testimony growing questions around rabies titers – rather than amending state laws as it goes by the compendium and it is reviewed annually – some states are requiring it

Rep. Bixby – Q. do you have any data on the prevalence of rabies in wildlife A. has not seen a lot of transmission from wildlife to domestic pets, isolated incidences from dogs imported into this country – a ban was put on animals being imported from Egypt due to rabies being brought into country

Rep. Murray Q. is there a cure for rabies A. could not overemphasize the prevention of rabies as there is no cure, it is deadly

Commissioner Jasper – Dept of Ag – opposes – email from Dr. Crawford – the reason we have our pets vaccinated is to protect the public from rabies not to protect the pets – there was a study last year regarding titers

Rep. Bouldin – Q. do you know the cost of treatment to humans A. no

Rep. Aron – Q. regarding exemption of animals who have had a bad reaction to the rabies vaccine, is there a way we might be able to ease the exemption A. this might be a subject for another bill at another time

Nancy Holmes – opposes – written testimony – this is about human health -

House Remote Testify

Environment and Agriculture Committee Testify List for Bill HB387 on 2021-02-17

Support: 1 Oppose: 102 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 5

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Buco, Tom	Tom.Buco@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Neutral	Yes (5m)	No	2/8/2021 12:04 PM
Ober, Stacey	Stacey.Ober@akc.org	A Lobbyist	The American Kennel Club	Oppose	Yes (5m)	No	2/16/2021 11:00 AM
Ferrari, Angela	angelaferrari84@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Dog Owners of the Granite State	Oppose	Yes (3m)	No	2/16/2021 7:36 PM
O'Mara, MaryAnne	kkendasue@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	2/14/2021 11:47 AM
Arivella, Joyce	nhdogs@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes (0m)	No	2/16/2021 7:58 AM
Nickerson, Lana	fossmtnfarm@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:21 AM
Englander, Pamela	Mexaf4@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:21 AM
Fields, Marla	k9queen@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:24 AM
Korfiatis, Maria	korfi309@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:47 AM
VanPatten, Emily	emily.b.vanpatten@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:51 AM
Camarota, Hon. Linda Rea	lrcamarota@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 9:18 AM
Pike, Bonnie	suecross@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 9:32 AM
Kishinevsky, Rebecca	rp.kishinevsky@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 10:15 AM
Farley, Kathy	klindobes@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 10:40 AM
Clifford, Nova	Novaclifford5@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 10:52 AM
White, Melissa	marino_melissa@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/14/2021 1:03 PM
Cates, Tammy	tjcates@eagleswind.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/14/2021 5:31 PM
Babb, Paul	paulbabb@protonmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/14/2021 8:51 PM
Trexler, Larisa	trexlers@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/14/2021 8:20 PM

Trexler, Ryan	mollyssurvival@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/14/2021 8:30 PM
Libby, Heather	hmwilson04@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:39 AM
Mason, Angela	acmbogue@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:51 AM
Lail, Nicole	nlail@icloud.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:12 AM
Kelley, Rochelle	rochellerkelley@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:22 AM
Kelley, Samuel	Skelleyplumbing@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:23 AM
Rossal, Julie	Deut10_12@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:38 AM
Rossal, Dave	Deut10_12@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:39 AM
Courchaine, Sarah	sinplybalanced@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:32 AM
Molloy, Kathe	KatheMolloy@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 12:02 PM
Engelsen, Nicole	Nicki.dood3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 12:53 PM
Covey, Starr	Allxforxjesus@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 3:00 PM
Condon, Laura	lauracondon49@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 3:01 PM
Black, Kimberly	kimberly.black@ymail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 4:40 PM
Holmes, Nancy	fmkaffen@ix.netcom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 4:46 PM
Greenough, Jr, David	dgreenough62@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:08 AM
Greenough, Thomas	tjgreenough826@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:15 AM
St Hilaire, Emily	Leashlady1@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 7:10 PM
Dubuque, Carol	Vtweims@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 7:20 PM
Zalewski, Laurie	lauriejansmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 7:33 PM
Cote, Christine	Wccote@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 7:53 PM
Dewey, Karen	pkdewey@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:17 PM
Eliason, Cynthia	cyne@cmk4u.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:19 PM
Tennis, Laura	Laura.tennis1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:35 PM
Manney, Jeanne	thekingswife@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:45 PM
Robb, Kalla	kalla.robb@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:50 PM
Porter, Jandee	jandeeporter@live.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:58 PM

Dudak, Colemann	dudak93@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 8:59 PM
Dudak, Breanna	bdudak8820@icloud.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:00 PM
Marino, John	techlon11@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:01 PM
Nuchow, Leslie	leslienuchow@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:54 PM
Hartzell, Emily	emilyhartzell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 9:55 PM
Young, Scott	scott@animalpolicygroup.com	A Member of the Public	APG/Mars Veterinary	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:09 PM
COOK, GEORGE	georgecookiv@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:33 PM
Sanchez, Alison	alison.faye@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:42 PM
Hutson, Caitlen	cailtenhutson@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 10:47 PM
Rojas, Cali	calianne321@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 11:28 PM
Tzilianos, Harmony	harmonytz@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 11:28 PM
Rojas, Emily	emilyrojas27@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/15/2021 11:41 PM
McGraw, Dan	dmcgraw52@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 1:06 AM
Kimball, Joanna	blacksheepcardigans@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 1:24 AM
Greenough, Peggie	dgreenough62@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 1:53 AM
Leary, Heather	k2leary@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 7:24 AM
Lewis, Laura	somerri@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:08 PM
Mennella, Alexandra	amennella1@protonmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:09 PM
Wiliams, Carol	kotzheritage@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:15 PM
Methot, Jennifer	jennifer.s.methot@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 8:34 PM
Axelman, Elliot	aluaxelman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 10:02 PM
Thomas, Nicholas	nicholas.w.thomas@uconn.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 10:31 PM
Krajewska, Andrea	Letnialynne@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 1:07 AM
Hall, Edward	somerrijuj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 7:14 AM
Enos, Liz	pwrmine@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:00 AM
Capellan, Lisa	lisa71781@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:07 AM
Capellan, Jay	jay.lisacapellan@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:07 AM

Bemis, Amanda	apells88@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:50 AM
Bemis, Matt	xmattbemisx@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:51 AM
Cedolin, Alexandra	Ahwhyte@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:53 AM
Cedolin, Bradley	Bbcedolin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:55 AM
Wilson, Audra	h3islife@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 10:57 AM
McLeod, Thomas	tmcleod@naturalhealth.media	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 11:12 AM
LaLone, Edward	LaLone.Edward@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 11:20 AM
Groetzinger, Tonda	groetzinger6@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 12:21 PM
Bowers, Danielle	dannybowers81@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 12:29 PM
Bowers, Steven	smbowers70@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 12:32 PM
Cushman, Leah	Weare, NH leah.cushman@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 4:16 PM
Cushman, Stephen	Weare, NH cstephen521@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 4:22 PM
DiMasi, Alisha	Lyndeborough, NH alisha.dimasi@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/17/2021 9:56 PM
Richardson, Diane	Workingclasscanine@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 11:27 AM
Williams, Cindy	honeypothounds@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 11:38 AM
Heckman, Martha	venturaknl@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 11:48 AM
Stickney, Lacey	Lacey@birdsupplynh.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 12:23 PM
Peterson, Kathy	KatPeters18@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:08 PM
Webster, Cynthia	clwebster@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:21 PM
Heckman, Robert	venturaknl@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:22 PM
Wicks, Patricia	Nhrotties@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:44 PM
Witts, Laura	Drgussy@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 2:49 PM
Martin, Rachel	rachelmar@protonmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 3:15 PM
Judge, Donna	donnatjudge@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 3:34 PM
Jasilewicz, Christina	cljasilewicz@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 4:01 PM
Gonzalez, Ronnie	Gonz.ron@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 4:04 PM

Schwartz, Raymond	Prismsdad@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 4:09 PM
MacIntyre, Karen	Mackzwinger@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 4:41 PM
Dimaggio, Thomas	anuskaknnls@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 6:12 PM
McCartney, Evan	bebop0505@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 6:30 PM
McCartney, Michelle	michelleredmond2000@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/16/2021 6:32 PM

Testimony

HB 387 Rabies vaccinations for dogs

Dear committee members
My name is Diane Richardson, a lifetime NH resident and a very experienced layperson in dogs, training, grooming, boarding, working dogs and more.

I am writing this testimony to oppose HB 387 as written.
I urge you to either vote it ITL OR keep only the section II portion.

While I DO agree that the time has come to make rabies exemptions with titers from Kansas City Lab more available to pets with health issues. This bill is not the one I want to see pass- as written anyhow.

This bill as written would GREATLY increase the numbers of unlicensed dogs and dogs not vaccinated for rabies in NH.
Why? Because the titers required in this bill for every dog are cost prohibitive

In section I, the bill talks about mandatory Rabies titers for every dog after their first Rabies vaccine.
Rabies titers can only be done through the Kansas city laboratory and are in excess of $150. Some vets are charging $300+ for this test. (and it takes weeks for results)

Rabies vaccines are one of our most reliable vaccines as far as providing solid immunity (seroconversion). In fact so much so, that the AVMA issued guidance a few years ago that all dogs who have received two rabies vaccines and are subsequently late for boosters shall not be considered unvaccinated.

Non responders (failure to seroconvert/ develop immunity) in rabies vaccines is quite rare.

This expensive titer requirement will hands down vastly increase the numbers of unvaccinated dogs due to cost alone. A cost not balanced by the extremely rare risk of a non responder happening. Unvaccinated dogs also equals unlicensed dogs.

If you even consider this bill, I'd discard all of section I proposed changes in their entirety and leave that section of current law alone.

To be honest, the only changes I support to section I would be to change the age of puppy first Rabies vaccine to 4 months due to the large number of adverse events associated with this vaccine given to 3 month old puppies, but that's a subject for another bill I suppose.

Section II changes regarding the exemption are not horrible, I'd honestly change that section to say "Dogs that have received at least two Rabies vaccines" instead of the one mentioned.

I've owned a dog in my life that could not have rabies vaccines anymore and this adjusted exemption statute would have been much more welcome.

Here are some links for you

The Rabies compendium dictates how states manage their Rabies control programs. Titers (serology) are mentioned in Part 1 A section 11
http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/NASPHVRabiesCompendium.pdf

The Rabies Challenge fund did just publish a peer reviewed paper on duration of immunity of Rabies vaccines but the compendium has not been changed at this time.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7088826/

American Animal Hospital Association Rabies guidelines
They set policy recommendations for veterinarians
https://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/vaccination-canine-configuration/rabies-vaccination/

Thank you
Diane Richardson
Springfield, NH
603-558-9042

Archived: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:33:20 AM
From: Angela Ferrari
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:00:13 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: D.O.G.S. Opposes HB 387
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
DOGS Oppose HB387.pdf

Attach to permanent record for this bill

Dear House E&A,

Attached please find the letter of **opposition** from Dog Owners of the Granite State on **HB 387,** *relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.*

Sincerely,
Angela

--
Angela Ferrari

AKC Breeder of Merit
President, Dog Owners of the Granite State (D.O.G.S.)
Souhegan Kennel Club Treasurer
Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary
Doberman Pinscher Club of America Supporting Member
National Beagle Club Supporting Member

Archived: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:30:14 AM
From: Angela Ferrari
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:00:13 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: D.O.G.S. Opposes HB 387
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
DOGS Oppose HB387.pdf

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Attached please find the letter of **opposition** from Dog Owners of the Granite State on **HB 387,** *relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.*

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Souhegan Kennel Club Treasurer
Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary
Doberman Pinscher Club of America Supporting Member
National Beagle Club Supporting Member

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:48:42 AM
From: Diane Richardson
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:26:40 AM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Cc: Tom Buco
Subject: testimony oppose HB 387
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
rabiesbill.pdf

Dear Committee

As my internet is currently misbehaving and unstable I've attached my testimony opposing HB 387 as written at introduction. Please attach this to the hearing documentation
I've included informational links to guidelines and research in this testimony for you

Thank you so much
Diane Richardson
springfield

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:48:42 AM
From: Tom Buco
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 7:57:33 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB 387
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
House Bill 387.doc

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:48:42 AM
From: MaryAnne O'Mara
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 6:58:59 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB 387 Relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs 2/17/21
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
HB 387.odt

Attached is a copy of my testimony for HB 387.

MaryAnne O'Mara
kkendasue@gmail.com

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:48:42 AM
From: Kathe Molloy
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 12:01:10 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Opposition to NH HB 387
Importance: Normal

Dear HEA Committee:
I am opposed to NH HB 387 as written. The second visit to a vet is unnecessary and puts undue financial strain on pet owners who at this time are already struggling with finances and job losses (as are other NH citizens) due to the Covid restrictions currently in place in NH. In a time where many people need more emotional support than ordinary this bill seeks to legalize removal of pets from the homes and indefinite quarantine of the pet which more than likely is providing emotional support to their owners. This bill particularly targets seniors who are already on a tight budget.
Thank you for your time and effort.
Sincerely,
Kathe Molloy
148 Elm Street
Claremont, NH 03743

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:48:42 AM
From: Philip Reynolds
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 7:24:34 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB387
Importance: Normal

Dear Chairman Pearl and all Committee Members
Please ITL HB 387, I do not believe this is needed in NH. This bill will carry an unnecessary heavy burden on the citizens of NH, and be very costly. It will also over burden the the local town clerks who would have to keep track all of this. Who would have the time and energy to police this. As nonresponders would be required to be on a leach with a muzzle on in the full control of their owners when outside. Post being vaccinated at 30 days the pet would need to be checked by a vet to ascertain immunity. Have we had issues with animals not becoming immune after being vaccinated?
Thank You for your time Please ITL HB 387 as this bill would create a great deal of hardship on the citizens of NH including many elderly who live on a fixed income.

Philip C. Reynolds Jr

377 Calef Hill Rd. Sanbornton, NH 03269 Tel 603-455-5163

Archived: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:30:14 AM
From: Crawford, Stephen
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:37:38 AM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Cc: Jasper, Shawn; Harvey, Nathan
Subject: HB 387
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
rabvax testimony 2.19.pdf

Dear Environment & Agriculture Committee –

I have a Board of Veterinary Medicine meeting today and apologize that I will not be able to attend your hearings, but the department has several concerns about HB 387, *relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs*.

There are several scientifically inaccurate statements included in the proposed text that would materially and substantially diminish the public health protections gained by mandatory rabies vaccination. It is necessary to note that rabies is the only vaccine required of animals in New Hampshire, and it is required solely to protect public health. Protection of the individual animal is a happy side effect.

The department has been told that the bill's intent is to "identify non-responders" since it is incorrect to say that a titer will confirm immunity. Unfortunately, HB 387 states in three places that a titer indicates protection (lines 8, 16, and 28).

The department has also been informed that a goal is to "eliminate the rabies isolation mandate for dogs with a medical waiver". The basis for this desire is that "It stands to reason that if an owner is asking for a medical exemption, it would be due to a reaction from a previous vaccination". While most animals receiving exemptions may have previously received vaccines, a prior vaccine is neither a prerequisite for exemption nor is it documented on the exemption request forms. The presumption that prior reactions are the primary reason for exemption is inaccurate. The vast majority of the exception requests the department sees are for substantial current medical conditions – autoimmune disease, cancer treatments, etc. Prior vaccine reactions are a very small portion. In fact, the *Rabies Compendium,* the gold standard for rabies vaccination protocols, comments at length regarding "Adverse events". The overarching takeaways are that severe vaccine reactions are "extremely rare" and "can be medically managed". The *Compendium* subsequently cautions against any delay or exception because, "Animals not currently vaccinated that experience a rabies exposure are at greater risk for infection and death and also put their owners and the community at risk."

This same issue has come up a handful of times in the past decade, but unfortunately, the science has still not proven the value of rabies titers in dogs or cats. I have attached the department's testimony from the last time a bill attempted to codify the use of rabies titers for dogs. Since that time, the Rabies Challenge Fund (RCF) has completed and published its study (April 2020). The brief summary is that titers are not adequate proof of protection. Notably, a low or absent titer is not considered to mean a lack of vaccine response or protection, either. This fact would mean that mandatory use of an antibody test - a titer - to document reaction to a vaccine as proposed in HB 387, lines 7-14 would add cost for every dog owner with no provable benefit to either public health or to the individual animal.

Further, the level of protection conferred by cell-mediated immunity (not measured by antibody tests) versus humoral immunity (titers) is still unclear, so the use of titers as a regulatory tool has little to no value at this point. Unfortunately, the RCF study used live rabies vaccine to challenge vaccinated dogs *with known titers*. Many fell ill from the infection. At this point, there is simply no way to know which dogs are protected and which are not post-vaccine.

It is also important to note that there is no validated protective titer for non-human animals that has been established. From a review of the RCF research by *Dogs Naturally* magazine, "The purpose of this immune response testing was to establish a rabies antibody titer standard for protection against the disease. This standard doesn't currently exist…although there is a standard for humans, under the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)."

NASPHV's *Rabies Compendium* makes this statement regarding titers, "Titers do not directly correlate with protection because other immunologic factors also play a role in preventing rabies and our abilities to measure and interpret those other factors are not well-developed. Therefore, evidence of circulating rabies virus antibodies in animals should not be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposures or determining the need for booster vaccination."

New Hampshire is one of a minority of states that actually allows for vaccine exemptions (19 at last count), at all. We were early adopters (2009), and part of that discussion was the need to have some restrictions in place for animals that had been exempted since they are not legally vaccinated nor is there any way to prove protection. It has been inferred that various, undiagnosed health and behavior problems in pets are related to vaccination, "***Too often the health and behavior problems that are inherited or occur after a previous vaccination are treated as due to unknown cause, lack of training and/or completely ignored."*** The department is not aware of any refereed research to support that assertion.

In summary, at this point the department opposes the use of titers, because the most current science simply does not support it as a regulatory tool. Even the RCF in its 2020 research paper concludes, "… the current study was not able to prove a protective rabies titer standard…" when this study was designed to do just that.

As before, the department is absolutely willing to have conversations about using titers as regulatory tools when refereed science demonstrates the value, but until that time any efforts to include them in the regulatory framework are premature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Crawford

Stephen K. Crawford, DVM
New Hampshire State Veterinarian
25 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2404

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:50:30 AM
From: Scott Young
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:28:27 AM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: FW: Comments on HB387 and HB322
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
New Hampshire HB387 and HB322.pdf

Environment and Agriculture Committee,

Please accept the attached comments on HB387 and HB322 in advance of tomorrow's hearing. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you very much.

_____

Scott Young
Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Animal Policy Group (APG)

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:50:30 AM
From: NEH
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:06:15 AM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: opposition to HB387
Importance: Normal

Mr Chairman and Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee,

I am writing today in opposition to HB387 - relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs

As written this bill would require every dog vaccinated for rabies to be titer tested for immune response 30 days after being given the vaccine. The other two species that are required to be vaccinated do not have any such criteria.

Requiring such a costly test for every vaccinated dog is likely to reduce compliance with rabies vaccination.

http://www.rabiesaware.org/titer-test.php states that

Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization (FAVN)
Cost: $88 per sample. ($155 for expedited "Stat" service) + Shipping
(Prices are subject to change)

Bear in mind this is the lab cost not what a veterinarian would have to charge for appointment time, blood draw, test tubes, shipping etc.

From the CDC

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/specific_groups/veterinarians/vaccination.html

"**Serologic titers**
Titers do not directly correlate with protection because other immunologic factors also play a role in preventing rabies, and the ability to measure and interpret those other factors are not well developed. Therefore, evidence of circulating rabies virus antibodies should not be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposures or determining the need for booster vaccinations in animals."

I personally see no need to titer to check for rabies immunity unless there has been known exposure and there is no history of vaccination or the vaccination is out of date.

If the intent in this bill is to only titer those dogs that are being exempted from being vaccinated for rabies then the language needs to be amended.

This is a costly and unneeded procedure that puts an undue financial burden on dog owners with no evidence there is even an issue requiring it. This is likely to reduce rabies compliance which is far riskier than finding the miniscule few dogs (and only the dogs) for which the vaccine may not have worked.

I hope you vote to ITL this bill as written.

Sincerely,

Nancy Holmes

New Boston, NH

Archived: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:50:30 AM
From: Philip Reynolds
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 7:24:34 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB387
Importance: Normal

Dear Chairman Pearl and all Committee Members
Please ITL HB 387, I do not believe this is needed in NH. This bill will carry an unnecessary heavy burden on the citizens of NH, and be very costly. It will also over burden the the local town clerks who would have to keep track all of this. Who would have the time and energy to police this. As nonresponders would be required to be on a leach with a muzzle on in the full control of their owners when outside. Post being vaccinated at 30 days the pet would need to be checked by a vet to ascertain immunity. Have we had issues with animals not becoming immune after being vaccinated?
Thank You for your time Please ITL HB 387 as this bill would create a great deal of hardship on the citizens of NH including many elderly who live on a fixed income.

Philip C. Reynolds Jr

377 Calef Hill Rd. Sanbornton, NH 03269 Tel 603-455-5163

Archived: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:30:14 AM
From: Alex
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:19:03 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: HB387 Opposition
Importance: Normal

To the House Environmental and Agriculture Committee,

I'm writing as a member of the public in opposition of HB387, which would require dog owners to have a rabies test done on their dog, 30 days after getting a rabies vaccine.

We've come this far with out needing to do this and the human race has somehow been able to survive. We don't need or want you to legislate every single aspect of our lives.

I commend the good intentions of this, but the bill is excessive and unnecessary. Oppose HB387.

Alexandra Mennella
Hooksett

House Bill 387

February 17, 2021

Environment and Agriculture Committee

Representative Tom Buco

Thank you Mr. Chairman:

For the record my name is Tom Buco and I am a representative from Carroll County District 2.

I appear today to introduce HB 387 which I sponsored at the request of a constituent.

I recognized that my constituent had done a tremendous amount of research and had even written out the language for the proposed bill and therefore I felt obligated to sponsor the bill for her.

I explained to her that I know nothing about this issue and would not be able to testify in support of the bill or to answer any questions about the issue.

Therefore I request that you call on MaryAnne O'Mara to explain the intent of the bill and to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

ANIMAL POLICY GROUP

House Environment and Agriculture Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Committee Members,

We represent Banfield Pet Hospitals and Veterinary Clinics of America (VCA), with about a dozen clinics throughout New Hampshire, as well as Zoetis and others in the animal health profession. We thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on HB387 and HB322.

Regarding HB387, while we appreciate the focus on controlling rabies, we feel the requirement that every owner have a rabies antibody test on their dog 30 days post initial vaccination is an unnecessary cost for owners.

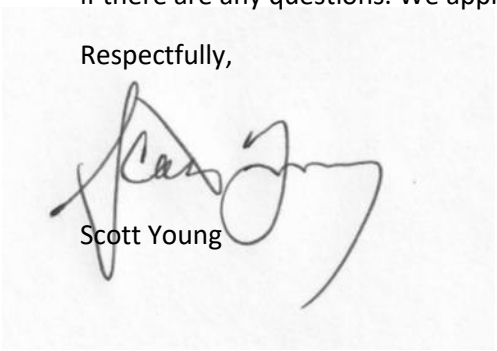
Rabies vaccinations have proven to be effective for decades. No state in the country requires antibody tests to be performed post vaccination. They are expensive for a lot of owners, and again, just unnecessary. In general, we encourage pet ownership and do not want to see undue burdens that could result in current owners abandoning their pets or prevent prospective owners from adopting new pets. As such, we are opposed to HB387.

We have less of a concern about HB322, but it would increase the costs on clinics and photos are not a reliable way to identify animals. From a personal perspective, I have two black Labradors. No one other than me could tell them apart in a photo and even I would need a good photo. The inclusion of a photo is going to have little benefit and the costs on the clinic include color printers, toner, a camera or smartphone (or asking staff to use personal smartphones), along with the additional time to take photos, upload them, and incorporate them into vaccination certificates. To use a common adage, the juice is not worth the squeeze.

Microchipping is the best way to identify our pets and help them get back to their families. While we don't want to recommend additional costs on the pet community, we do encourage microchipping and would note that a lot of states are considering requiring microchipping, in general, or at least for animals adopted out of rescues and shelters. Pet owners would be better off spending money on microchipping than antibody tests and then we would have a reliable way to identify our pets, which may end up helping them be reunited with their family, to which I can personally attest to, as well.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on these two bills. Please don't hesitate to contact us if there are any questions. We appreciate the committee's time and effort and stay safe.

Respectfully,



Scott Young

Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

(202) 744-5190

scott@animalpolicygroup.com

Bill as Introduced

HB 387 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0411
08/05

HOUSE BILL ***387***

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.

SPONSORS: Rep. Buco, Carr. 2

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill makes provisions for dogs that do not adequately react to a rabies vaccine.

- -

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

21-0411
08/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Rabies Vaccination Required; Exemption. Amend RSA 436:100 to read as follows:

436:100 Rabies Vaccination Required; Exemption.

I. Except as provided in paragraph II, every ***healthy*** dog, cat, and ferret 3 months of age and older shall be vaccinated against rabies. Young dogs, cats, and ferrets shall be vaccinated within 30 days after they have reached 3 months of age. Unvaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets acquired or moved into the state shall be vaccinated within 30 days after purchase or arrival, unless under 3 months of age, as specified above. ***A rabies antibody test is to be done 30 days post initial vaccination for dogs to confirm immunity. Results of the test are to be discussed with a licensed veterinarian who will determine what action is to be taken to ensure immunity and public safety. Any dog whose lack of response to the vaccine shall be considered a non-responder and shall be maintained in strict rabies isolation, under conditions that are at the discretion of the local rabies control authority. Non-responders 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. These restrictions shall be in effect until proof of adequate protection can be documented.*** Every dog, cat, and ferret shall be revaccinated between 9 and 12 months after the initial vaccination and subsequently receive booster vaccines as outlined in the most current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. In rabies infected areas, dogs, cats, and ferrets recently vaccinated shall be kept under control***, with dogs under leash control,*** for at least 30 days [~~before being allowed to run free~~].

II. A rabies immunization exemption may be issued, where illness or a veterinary medical condition warrants, by the local rabies control authority upon the written recommendation of a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B. The recommendation shall also be signed by an American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine diplomate and the state veterinarian. ***The exemption shall be valid for no more than one year from the date of the last signature on the written recommendation for exemption. Dogs that have had at least one rabies vaccine and where protection can be confirmed by titer at the time of exemption, shall not be subject to being maintained in rabies isolation. A dog with a current exemption thought to have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected rabid animal, shall be considered as having an out-of-***

date vaccination status. Post exposure management and quarantine shall be carried out in accordance with the information listed in the most current National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control.
[~~The exempted animal shall be maintained in strict rabies isolation, under conditions that are at the discretion of the local rabies control authority, until such time as the medical condition has been resolved and the animal can be immunized against rabies. 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. The exemption shall be valid for no more than one year from the date of the last signature on the written recommendation for exemption.~~]

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2022.