

NEW JERSEY STATE STATUTE

RE: RABIES

SUBCHAPTER 4. RABIES INOCULATION

8:23A-4.1 Requirements for licensure

(a) Except as otherwise provided in N.J.A.C. 8:23A-4.3, no municipal clerk or other official designated to license dogs shall grant any such license and official metal registration tag for any dog unless the dog owner provides evidence that the dog to be licensed and registered has been inoculated against rabies with a vaccine having duration of immunity which extends throughout at least ten of the 12 months of the licensing period. Dogs with a duration of immunity against rabies that expires prior to the tenth month of the licensing period shall be revaccinated prior to issuance of a license.

(b) The rabies inoculation required in (a) above shall be made by a duly licensed veterinarian. The vaccine used must be approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered to the animal at the dosage and route of administration in accordance with the specifications of the product label and package insert.

(c) The veterinarian immunizing the animal shall issue and sign a National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Form #51, "Rabies Vaccination Certificate," indicating the date of inoculation, the duration of immunity, the name and serial number of the product used, description of the animal and the full mailing address of the owner. Computer-generated forms containing the same information are acceptable. The animal owner shall retain the certificate of inoculation and exhibit it to the animal licensing official of the municipality when application for a license is made.

8:23A-4.2 Recognized durations of immunity

(a) The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services recognizes the following durations of immunity for dogs and cats:

1. Rabies vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture for a three-year duration of immunity:

i. Animals three months of age or older receiving their first known immunization are recognized as having one-year duration of immunity.

ii. Animals over three months of age, but less than six months of age, receiving the second or subsequent booster inoculation are recognized as having a one-year duration of immunity.

iii. Animals six months of age or older receiving the second or subsequent booster inoculation are recognized as having a three-year duration of immunity.

2. Rabies vaccines approved by the United States Department of Agriculture for a one-year duration of immunity are recognized as having one-year duration of efficacy for immunity for all animals vaccinated at three months of age or older.

8:23A-4.3 Certification of exemption

Municipal dog licensing officials shall grant an exemption to the rabies inoculation requirement for any dog that a duly licensed veterinarian certifies in writing to be incapable of being inoculated because of an infirmity, other physical condition, or regimen of therapy.