

VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**Administration of Rabies Vaccinations****Q: Who is authorized to administer a rabies vaccination?**

A: Pursuant to Virginia Code § 3.2-6521, a rabies vaccination is to be administered by a *licensed* veterinarian or *licensed* veterinary technician who is under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises.

Code of Virginia – Comprehensive Animal Care

§ 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics.
A. The owner or custodian of all dogs and cats four months of age and older shall have such animal currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who is under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises unless otherwise provided by regulations. The supervising veterinarian on the premises shall provide the owner or custodian of the dog or the cat with a rabies vaccination certificate or herd rabies vaccination certificate and shall keep a copy in his own files. The owner or custodian of the dog or the cat shall furnish within a reasonable period of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane investigator, law-enforcement officer, State Veterinarian's representative, or official of the Department of Health, the certificate of vaccination for such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use in that species. At the discretion of the local health director, a medical record from a licensed veterinary establishment reflecting a currently vaccinated status may serve as proof of vaccination.

Q: Where may rabies vaccination clinics occur?

A: Pursuant to 18VAC150-20-180 of the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine*, veterinary medicine may only be practiced out of a registered veterinary establishment except in emergency situations as provided in 18VAC150-20-171. Rabies vaccination clinics may be offered outside of a registered veterinary establishment if the requirements found in § 3.2-6521 of the *Code of Virginia* are met which includes approval by the appropriate local health department and governing body.

Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine***18VAC150-20-180. Requirements to be registered as a veterinary establishment.***

A. Every veterinary establishment shall apply for registration on a form provided by the board and submit the application fee specified in 18VAC150-20-100. The board may issue a registration as a stationary or ambulatory establishment. Every veterinary establishment shall have a veterinarian-in-charge registered with the board in order to operate.

1. Veterinary medicine may only be practiced out of a registered establishment except in emergency situations or in limited specialized practices as provided in 18 VAC 150-20-171. The injection of a microchip for identification purposes shall only be performed in a veterinary establishment, except personnel of animal shelters or pounds may inject animals while in their possession.

18VAC150-20-171. Specialty practice in a limited setting.

A licensed veterinarian may conduct drug testing at animal shows and events or examine any animal and express a professional judgment as to its health at (i) genetic screening clinics where animals are examined for cardiac, ophthalmic and auditory diseases, (ii) agricultural fairs, (iii) 4-H or other youth organization competitions, (iv) livestock auctions, (v) horse races, (vi) hunt club events, (vii) pet adoption events, or (viii) animal shows including, but not limited to dog, cat, and horse shows.

Code of Virginia – Comprehensive Animal Care**§ 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics.**

B. All rabies clinics require the approval by the appropriate local health department and governing body... However, the county or city shall ensure that a clinic is conducted to serve its jurisdiction at least once every two years.

Q: What are the recordkeeping requirements for rabies vaccinations administered in a registered veterinary establishment?

A: The recordkeeping requirements for patients receiving rabies vaccinations administered in a registered veterinary establishment are found in the Regulations.

Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine**18VAC150-20-195. Recordkeeping.**

A. A legible, daily record of each patient treated shall be maintained by the veterinarian at the registered veterinary establishment and shall include at a minimum:

- 1. Name of the patient and the owner;*
- 2. Identification of the treating veterinarian and of the person making the entry (Initials may be used if a master list that identifies the initials is maintained.);*
- 3. Presenting complaint or reason for contact;*
- 4. Date of contact;*
- 5. Physical examination findings;*
- 6. Tests and diagnostics performed and results;*
- 7. Procedures performed, treatment given, and results;*
- 8. Drugs administered, dispensed, or prescribed, including quantity, strength and dosage, and route of administration. For vaccines, identification of the lot and manufacturer shall be maintained;*
- 9. Radiographs or digital images clearly labeled with identification of the establishment, the patient name, date taken, and anatomic specificity. If an original radiograph or digital image is transferred to another establishment or released to the owner, a record of this transfer or release shall be maintained on or with the patient's records; and*
- 10. Any specific instructions for discharge or referrals to other practitioners.*

B. An individual record shall be maintained on each patient, except that records for economic animals or litters of companion animals under the age of four months may be maintained on a per owner basis. Patient records, including radiographs or digital images, shall be kept for a period of three years following the last office visit or discharge of such animal from a veterinary establishment.

Q: What are the recordkeeping requirements for rabies vaccinations administered in a rabies clinic approved by the appropriate health department and governing body?

Code of Virginia – Comprehensive Animal Care

§ 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics.
B. ...The licensed veterinarian who administers rabies vaccinations at the clinic shall (i) provide the owner or custodian a rabies vaccination certificate for each vaccinated animal and (ii) ensure that a licensed veterinary facility retains a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The sponsoring organization of a rabies clinic shall, upon the request of the owner or custodian, an animal control officer, a humane investigator, a law-enforcement officer, a State Veterinarian's representative, a licensed veterinarian, or an official of the Department of Health, provide the name and contact information of the licensed veterinary facility where a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate is retained...

§ 3.2-6529. Veterinarians to provide treasurer with rabies certificate information; civil penalty.
A. Each veterinarian who vaccinates a dog against rabies or directs a veterinary technician in his employ to vaccinate a dog against rabies shall provide the owner a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The veterinarian shall forward within 45 days a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate or the relevant information contained in such certificate to the treasurer of the locality where the vaccination occurs.

The rabies vaccination certificate shall include at a minimum the signature of the veterinarian, the animal owner's name and address, the species of the animal, the sex, the age, the color, the primary breed, whether or not the animal is spayed or neutered, the vaccination number, and expiration date. The rabies vaccination certificate shall indicate the locality where the animal resides.

Any veterinarian that willfully fails to provide the treasurer of any locality with a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate or the information contained in such certificate may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10 per certificate. Monies raised pursuant to this subsection shall be placed in the locality's general fund for the purpose of animal control activities including spay or neuter programs.

Q: Who should be contacted for questions about rabies vaccination clinics that held in the community?

A: For more information contact your local health department at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/index.htm>.