
GUIDELINES FOR RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS

Please notify the College, in advance, of any rabies vaccination clinics you plan. Details should be provided in writing to the College. Once notification is received, the office sends the veterinarian(s) 1) an authorization form and 2) a copy of the regulations and guidelines on conducting rabies clinics. When the application for authorization is properly completed, signed by a member with a general license and returned to the College, the clinic is authorized under the authority of the Registrar.

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS (O.REG.1093, Section VI)

1. 45.-(1) If a member or group of members sponsors a program to vaccinate domestic animals in order to reduce human exposure to rabies, the member may advertise the location, date, and time of the program, the names of participating members and the cost of the vaccination if,
2. (a) all members practising in the area are invited to participate in the programs **at least two weeks** before the vaccinations are to be carried out;
3. (b) the co-operation of the medical officer or officers of health for the area is requested; and
4. (c) the Registrar is given written notification of the program at least two weeks before the vaccinations are to be carried out and the notice confirms that there has been compliance with clauses (a) and (b).
5. Veterinarians must apply, **in writing**, for authorization of the rabies clinic. The College provides a form for this purpose, which must be completed and signed by a member with a general license. The form indicates that the veterinarian has applied for the exemption permitted from the regulations, and has agreed to comply with the CVO guidelines. (e.g. even if humane societies or other interested parties organize the clinic, CVO requires that a member with a general license be responsible for the clinic)
6. Veterinarians may choose to conduct the rabies vaccination clinic from an accredited veterinary facility, or in other central locations (e.g. community centre, fire halls etc.).
7. 45.-(5) A conventional assessment or examination is not required before a rabies vaccination is performed at a rabies vaccination clinic.

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GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS (O.REG.1093, Section VI)
(Continued)

8. 45.-(6) The vaccination must be carried out by a veterinarian.
9. If the rabies clinic is to be held in a place other than an accredited facility, the veterinarian(s) must ensure that:
 - 45.-(2) (a) drugs suitable for use in conventional veterinary emergencies are available on the premises where the program is being conducted;
 - (b) vaccines are kept refrigerated;
 - (c) the premises where the program is being conducted are kept clean; and
 - (d) vaccines are administered by an aseptic technique.
10. The records in respect of rabies vaccinations performed at a rabies vaccination clinic must include:
 - 45.-(3) (a) a reasonable identification of the vaccinated animal;
 - (b) the owner's name, address and telephone numbers;
 - (c) the date and fact of vaccination; and
 - (d) the type of vaccine, including the lot and serial number of the vaccine administered.
11. 45.-(7) After the vaccination, the member shall sign and give to the custodian of each vaccinated animal a certificate of vaccination for that animal, which shall legibly set out the name and telephone number of the vaccinating member.
12. Additional records must be kept by at least one of the members for easy retrieval if the need of tracking an animal's vaccination history arises. Records may be kept by either filing duplicated certificates or by keeping a log.
13. Adequate staff or assistants should be on hand so that the facilities are kept clean. Members should aim for a professional, organized and well run clinic.

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(Continued)

14. Pamphlets and posters aimed at encouraging public awareness about rabies are published by the Ontario Ministry of Health and are available free of charge through the College office.
15. Members should keep in mind that a rabies clinic's priority is to help reduce human exposure to rabies by vaccinating domestic animals. A rabies clinic should not be held to promote a sponsoring agent or to satisfy local politics. Advertising should reflect this priority.
16. All professional fees received from the public must be paid directly to the member or group of members responsible for the program (N.B. this criterion does not preclude the member from donating any portion of the proceeds to a third party)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS POLICY, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARIANS OF ONTARIO 2106 GORDON ST., GUELPH, ONTARIO, N1L 1G6 PHONE: 1-800-424-2856 OR (519) 824-5600 FAX:(519) 824-6497 OR 1-888-662-9479