



## Overview/description

### Rabies & rabies vaccination: The “Must Know” Issues

It's fair to say that veterinarians are among the health care providers who have an excellent understanding of the risks associated with rabies virus: all mammals (including humans) are susceptible; infected dogs and cats pose a high risk for transmission to humans; infection is virtually fatal; rabies vaccination of dogs and cats is an exceptionally safe and effective public health measure, etc. Despite the effectiveness of rabies control programs throughout North America; the threat of rabies persists... In fact, the global rise in human deaths from canine-mediated rabies in just the past 2 years is evidence that veterinarians in Canada and the US must remain vigilant in promoting public awareness and routine vaccination of all dogs and cats.

This presentation is a “must know” update for practicing veterinarians on the most current issues surrounding rabies today.

Discussion includes:

- why human deaths from rabies are increasing,
- how dog importation laws are changing and what that means for Canadian veterinarians,
- our role in promoting rabies awareness among pet owners,
- the selection and use of rabies vaccines in clinical practice.



### Speaker's bio and credentials

**Richard Ford, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM and (Hon) ACVPM  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, North  
Carolina State University**

A graduate of The Ohio State University, Dr. Ford practiced small animal and equine medicine for 3 years prior to completing the internal medicine residency at Michigan State University. Subsequently, he taught internal medicine at Purdue University for 4 years, after which he joined the faculty at North Carolina State University. Dr. Ford was the Lead Editor of the 2017 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines and has served as a co-author on the AAFP Feline Vaccination Guidelines. He currently coordinates the rabies awareness initiative in the US and the rabiesaware.org website, a State-level



resource (US) for veterinarians on laws and regulations governing rabies and rabies vaccination. Outside of veterinary medicine, Dr. Ford spent 28 years with the US Air Force as a Biomedical Scientist. He retired from the USAF Reserve as a Brigadier General, where he was assigned to the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General at the Pentagon.

## Questionnaire

- 1. ZERO by '30 is a World Health Organization initiative dedicated to:**
  - Promoting World Rabies Day, September 2030
  - Eliminating dog-mediated rabies virus globally by 2030
  - Eliminating the shortfall in human rabies vaccines globally by 2030
  - Establishing rabies control programs in third-world countries by 2030
- 2. Globally, during the past 2 years, human deaths from rabies have:**
  - Remained at 59,000 annually
  - Decreased due to widespread availability of rabies vaccines
  - Have declined in North America due to increased surveillance
  - Have increased significantly in third-world countries
- 3. In Canada and the US, the primary wildlife reservoir for rabies virus is the:**
  - Raccoon
  - Fox
  - Skunk
  - Bat
- 4. New requirements (as of August 1, 2024) for the importation of a dog to the US from Canada (if that dog has resided only in Canada) includes each of the following except:**
  - Proof that rabies vaccine was administered within 30 days prior to entry
  - A CDC Dog Import Form completed 2–10 days prior to entry
  - An ISO-compatible microchip implanted prior to administration of the most recent rabies vaccine
  - Proof the dog is 6 months of age or older
- 5. In Canada, dog/cat bites to a human must be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health (MOH):**
  - Only after assessing whether or not the biting animal is likely to be rabid
  - Only in cases where proof of prior rabies vaccination is not available
  - Following administration of a rabies booster to the dog/cat involved
  - As soon as possible for any bite injury with potential to transmit rabies virus



6. **The consequences for any dog, not currently vaccinated against rabies, that causes a penetrating skin injury to a person is:**
  - Immediate euthanasia and testing for rabies virus
  - **No vaccination; impose a 10-day confinement period**
  - Vaccinate immediately and impose a 14-day quarantine in a designated facility
  - Photograph the dog and send a written report to the Public Health Agency of Canada with the owner's contact information
  
7. **In Ontario, does a veterinarian have the authority to issue a Statement of Exemption from the rabies vaccination requirement for medical or health reasons?**
  - No, exemptions must be approved by the local Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
  - No, exemptions are not authorized in any Canadian province or territory
  - **Yes, but only after the veterinarian conducts a thorough assessment of the patient and determines that vaccination may not be safely administered**
  - Yes, but only after establishing that the medical disorder would significantly compromise the patient's immune response to the vaccine
  
8. **An acute vaccine adverse vaccine reaction (event) is most likely to be associated with:**
  - Administration of a *Leptospira* booster
  - **One or more excipients in the vaccine**
  - Administration of a killed bacterial with a modified-live virus vaccine
  - Administration of any vaccine that has not reached room temperature
  
9. **Recombinant vaccines licensed for use in veterinary medicine...**
  - Immunize by incorporating inactivated virus or bacteria into an adjuvant
  - Must contain a soluble adjuvant to induce a protective immune response
  - **Entails administering the genetic code expressing the immunizing antigen without need for adjuvant**
  - Are limited to use in dogs only
  
10. **In Canada, a rabies virus antibody titre...**
  - If positive, replaces the need to administer a rabies booster
  - **Is not a substitute for a required booster vaccination**
  - Can only be used to diagnose suspected rabies in a dog or cat
  - Distinguishes canine-variant rabies virus from other wildlife variants



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**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

**First name:**

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**Last name:**

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**Type:**

*(Veterinarian, Technician)*

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**Licence number:**

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**Province where you practise:**

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**Email:**

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## **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

**Educational webcast**

**Rabies & rabies vaccination: The “Must Know” Issues**

**Presented by**

**Richard Ford, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM and (Hon) ACVPM  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine,  
North Carolina State University**

**This document confirms that**

***Dr. Lorem Ipsum***

has viewed the above-mentioned webcast and has answered and submitted the questionnaire meant to evaluate the understanding of the content.

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