

Posted May 9, 2008

Tennessee dog owners have launched an effort to change the annual rabies immunization laws required by various counties in Tennessee to the 3 year standard recommended by the CDC's National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and The American Veterinary Medical Association (see letter below from professional dog trainer, Jan Casey). I will be writing in a letter of support soon as well.

What You Can Do to Help

Send an e-mail to the contacts below -- it's easy to copy and paste addresses into an e-mail. If you're ambitious, please phone some of the contacts or fax them a letter, and circulate this message to all of your dog-owning contacts and ask them to help the dogs of Tennessee by sending an e-mail to request a change in rabies immunization protocol from a 1 year to the national 3 year standard.

Cookeville Contacts <http://www.cookeville-tn.org/> Mayor Sam Sallee mayor@cookeville-tn.org
Phone: 931-520-5241 City Manager Jim Shipley jshipley@cookeville-tn.org Phone: 931-526-9591 Fax: 931-526-4897 Cookeville City Council Members: mayor@cookeville-tn.org;
jshipley@cookeville-tn.org; jdavis@cookeville-tn.org; rshelton@cookeville-tn.org;
aanderson@cookeville-tn.org; rwilliams@cookeville-tn.org; clm@cookeville-tn.org

Putnam County Contacts County Executive: Kim Blaylock debby@putnamco.org 300 E. Spring Street Room 8, Cookeville, TN 38501 Phone: (931) 526-2161 Fax: : (931) 528-1300
County Attorney Jeffrey G. Jones, 1420 Neal Street, Cookeville, TN 38501; Phone: 931-372-9123, Fax: (932) 372-9181

Many thanks for assisting the dogs in your own and other states! Your efforts helped defeat a proposed change in Maine's laws and are making the change to a 3 year protocol in Cheyenne possible and may also result in Wichita switching to the 3 year standard (negotiations are encouraging on that front). Excellent work!

Regards, Kris
Kris L. Christine
Founder, Co-Trustee
The Rabies Challenge Fund
www.RabiesChallengeFund.org

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From: jan casey
To: mayor@cookeville-tn.org; jshipley@cookeville-tn.org; jdavis@cookeville-tn.org;
rshelton@cookeville-tn.org; aanderson@cookeville-tn.org; rwilliams@cookeville-tn.org;
debby@putnamco.org; rep.henry.fincher@legislature.state.tn.us
Cc: ron.wilson@state.tn.us; bob.mcmillan@herald-citizen.com
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 12:06 PM
Subject: rabies vaccination protocol

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am writing to you to request a change in the rabies immunization requirements in Cookeville and Putnam County. Having recently changed veterinary services from Overton County to Putnam County, I was astounded to find that this county still mandates a yearly rabies vaccination rather than the three year of surrounding counties. I am writing to you to request you review and change this policy and adopt the national 3 year standard. As a dog trainer, board member for the Friends of the Cookeville/Putnam County Animals, and advocate for healthy dogs, I ask you to review the current facts available on this topic.

I will begin with the fact that the State of Tennessee, after thorough review of studies done nationwide by leading veterinary vaccine research scientists and universities, has deemed the three year rabies vaccination to be effective in preventing the spread of rabies. The annual rabies vaccine now given is simply a three year vaccine that has been relabeled for 1 year use. The University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Ronald Schultz of this school have determined "There is no benefit from the annual rabies vaccination and most one year rabies products are similar or identical to the 3-year products with regard to duration of immunity and effectiveness." Likewise, the CDC's National Association of State Public Health Veterinarian's 2008 *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* states "Vaccines used in state and local rabies control programs should have at least a 3-year duration of immunity. No laboratory or epidemiologic data exist to support the annual or biennial administration of 3- or 4-year vaccines following the initial series.All vaccines must be administered in accordance with the specifications of the product label or package insert."

My request for the change in the vaccination protocol stems from the fact that the rabies vaccine carries significant adverse reactions due to its potency. According to a review of literature by the Rabies Challenge Fund, autoimmune diseases may result that affect the thyroid, joints, blood, eyes, skin, liver, kidney, bowel, and central nervous system; anaphylactic shock; aggression; seizures; epilepsy; and fibrosarcomas at the injection sites. All have been linked to the rabies vaccination.

Also noted is the fact that rabies vaccines include aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, and aluminum potassium. These ingredients are listed as Class III/IV carcinogens with Class IV being the highest risk. The August 2003 Journal of Veterinary Medicine documents fibrosarcomas at the presumed injection sites of rabies vaccines. The 2003 AAHA Canine Vaccine Guidelines state "...killed vaccines are much more likely to cause hypersensitivity reactions (e.g., immune-mediated disease.)"

Obviously, the dangers involved in over-vaccinating our dogs far outweighs other considerations for retaining the yearly vaccinations. I respectfully request that Putnam County follow the State of Tennessee guidelines to require the three year rabies vaccination protocol for the well-being of our dogs. Please contact me if you require more information.

Respectfully,

Jan Casey, Dog owner, trainer, and Board Member of the Friends of the Cookeville/Putnam Co. Animals

Resources for more information:

1] Center for Disease Control's National Association of State Public Health Veterinarian's Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control
<http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf>

[2] The American Veterinary Medical Association's 2007 RABIES VACCINATION PROCEDURES The 2006 American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Guidelines are downloadable in PDF format at <http://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocumen...s06Revised.pdf>

[3] What Everyone Needs to Know about Canine Vaccines, Dr. Ronald Schultz <http://www.puliclub.org/CHF/AKC2007Conf/What%20Everyone%20Needs%20to%20Know%20About%20Canine%20Vaccines.htm>

Duration of Immunity to Canine Vaccines: What We Know and Don't Know, Dr. Ronald Schultz http://www.cedarbayvet.com/duration_of_immunity.htm

World Small Animal Veterinary Association 2007 Vaccine Guidelines <http://www.wsava.org/SAC.htm> Scroll down to Vaccine Guidelines 2007 (PDF)

[4] IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Volume 74, World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Feb. 23-Mar. 2, 1999, p. 24, 305, 310

[5] Fibrosarcomas at Presumed Sites of Injection in Dogs: Characteristics and Comparison with Non-vaccination Site Fibrosarcomas and Feline Post-vaccinal Fibrosarcomas; *Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, Series A August 2003, vol. 50, no. 6, pp. 286-291(6)

[6] The 2003 American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Guidelines are accessible online at http://www.leerburg.com/special_report.htm

Tennessee Legislature <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>

Tennessee Senators and Representatives e-mails:

sen.mae.beavers@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.andy.berke@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.diane.black@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.dewayne.bunch@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.tim.burchett@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.charlotte.burks@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.rusty.crowe@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.lowe.finney@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.raymond.finney@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.ophelia.ford@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.thelma.harper@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.joe.haynes@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.douglas.henry@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.roy.herron@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.doug.jackson@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.jack.johnson@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.bill.ketron@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.tommy.kilby@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.rosalind.kurita@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.jim.kyle@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.beverly.marrero@legislature.state.tn.us; sen.randy.mcnally@legislature.state.tn.us;
sen.mark.norris@legislature.state.tn.us; lt.gov.ron.ramsey@legislature.state.tn.us;
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rep.bill.dunn@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.jimmy.eldridge@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.ioanne.favors@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.dennis.ferguson@legislature.state.tn.us;
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rep.richard.floyd@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.dale.ford@legislature.state.tn.us;
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rep.ga.hardaway@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.bill.harmon@legislature.state.tn.us;
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rep.matthew.hill@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.john.hood@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.curtis.johnson@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.phillip.johnson@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.sherry.jones@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.ulysses.jones@legislature.state.tn.us;
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rep.joe.mccord@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.gerald.mccormick@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.steve.mcdaniel@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.michael.mcdonald@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.steve.mcmanus@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.larry.miller@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.richard.montgomery@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.gary.moore@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.jason.mumpower@legislature.state.tn.us; speaker.jimmy.naifeh@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.frank.niceley@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.gary.odom@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.doug.overbey@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.phillip.pinion@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.joe.pitts@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.mary.pruitt@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.jeanne.richardson@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.randy.rinks@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.dennis.roach@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.gary.rowe@legislature.state.tn.us;
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rep.johnny.shaw@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.david.shepard@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.janis.sontany@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.park.strader@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.eric.swafford@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.john.tidwell@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.harry.tindell@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.curry.todd@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.joe.towns@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.larry.turner@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.mike.turner@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.nathan.vaughn@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.eric.watson@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.ben.west@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.kent.williams@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.john.windle@legislature.state.tn.us;
rep.leslie.winningham@legislature.state.tn.us; rep.eddie.yokley@legislature.state.tn.us

Posted May 6, 2008

Wyoming update: The e-mail below, shared with permission from the recipient, from the President of the Cheyenne City Council, Don Pierson, was received 4/29/08 by the lead activist in Wyoming, Karon Volk:

"Hello Mrs. Volk Just a followup to let you know that **the Mayor and I are working together and have instructed the city attorney to prepare an ordinance or a resolution to take care of the 1 year vs 3 year problem. All the research I have found says that to require our city residents to get the vaccination for their pets every year is unnecessary.** I will let you know when it will be ready for introduction and would hope that you would like to attend our meetings and testify about the situation. Let me know if there is anything else I can do at this time about this situation. Thanks for all your info you provided and your concern."

ISDRA-International Sled Dog Racing Association: After Steve Goldman, a concerned ISDRA member, contacted the International Sled Dog Racing Association about ISDRA sanctioned races requiring annual rabies vaccinations for sled dogs and asked for assistance, I wrote the letter to the Executive Director Below. Mr. Steele responded immediately and will be publishing announcements in 2 issues of *Dog and Driver* before the proposal comes before the full ISDRA Board.

What You Can Do

If you are concerned about racing events that require sled dogs to receive redundant annual rabies boosters, please e-mail Dave Steele at dsteELE@brainerd.net

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March 18, 2008

Mr. Dave Steele, Executive Director
International Sled Dog Racing Association
22702 Rebel Road
Merrifield, MN 56465, USA
E-mail: dsteELE@brainerd.net

Greetings Mr. Steele:

One of the objectives listed in the International Sled Dog Racing Association's (ISDRA) Constitution and By-Laws under Article II C is to: **"Promote the welfare of sled dogs in all activities and endeavors."** Further on, under Article IX Section 2 A 4, it declares one of the duties of the Animal Welfare Committee shall be to: **"Inform the membership of new advances in canine nutrition and all areas related to the physical and mental well-being of sled dogs."**

With those objectives and the physical and mental well-being of sled dogs in mind, I am writing to request that ISDRA's Board of Directors seriously consider alerting its membership to the potential health hazards associated with redundant annual rabies vaccinations, which some U.S. and Canadian races require for team entrants.

Annual rabies vaccinations after the initial puppy series are medically unnecessary and contrary to the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) National Association of State

Public Health Veterinarian's (NASPHV) *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* which declare that: **"Vaccines used in state and local rabies control programs should have at least a 3-year duration of immunity,"[1]** and should be administered no more often than specified by the product label or package insert. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) endorses a 3 year protocol as does the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA).[2]

Many, if not most or all, annual rabies vaccines are the 3 year vaccine relabeled for annual use. According to Dr. Ronald Schultz of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, whose canine vaccine studies form a large part of the scientific base for the 2003 and 2007 AAHA Canine Vaccine Guidelines as well as the World Small Animal Veterinary Association's (WSAVA) Vaccine Guidelines, **"There is no benefit from annual rabies vaccination and most one year rabies products are similar or identical to the 3-year products with regard to duration of immunity and effectiveness."**[3]

Because the rabies vaccine is the most potent of the veterinary vaccines and associated with significant adverse reactions, it should not be given more often than is necessary to maintain immunity. Adverse reactions such as autoimmune diseases affecting the thyroid, joints, blood, eyes, skin, kidney, liver, bowel and central nervous system; anaphylactic shock; aggression; seizures; epilepsy; and fibrosarcomas at injection sites are linked to rabies vaccinations. Rabies is a "killed" vaccine, for which internationally accepted scientific data have demonstrated a *minimum* duration of immunity of 3 years by challenge and 7 years serologically. The rabies vaccine, and other killed vaccines such as Leptospira and Lyme, contains adjuvants such as aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, and aluminum potassium sulfate to enhance the immunological response. In 1999, the World Health Organization " **classified veterinary vaccine adjuvants as Class III/IV carcinogens with Class IV being the highest risk,"**[4] and the results of a study published in the August 2003 Journal of Veterinary Medicine documenting fibrosarcomas at the presumed injection sites of rabies vaccines stated, **"In both dogs and cats, the development of necrotizing panniculitis at sites of rabies vaccine administration was first observed by Hendrick & Dunagan (1992)."**[5] According to the 2003 AAHA Canine Vaccine Guidelines, **"...killed vaccines are much more likely to cause hypersensitivity reactions (e.g., immune-mediated disease)."**[6]

With the physical challenges of the trail to meet, sled dogs should not be exposed to the health hazards associated with medically unwarranted annual rabies boosters in order to enter racing events. I strongly urge you to inform your membership of the potential risks associated with unnecessary annual rabies vaccinations and request that ISDRA only sanction races that conform to the 3 year standard recommended by the Center for Disease Control's National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Animal Hospital Association.

If you have any questions or would like copies of the material referenced above, please contact me at xxxxxx.

Sincerely,
Kris L. Christine
Founder, Co-Trustee
The Rabies Challenge Fund
www.RabiesChallengeFund.org

[1] Center for Disease Control's National Association of State Public Health Veterinarian's Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control

<http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf>

[2] The American Veterinary Medical Association's 2007 RABIES VACCINATION PROCEDURES www.avma.org/products/scientific/biologics.pdf

The 2006 American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Guidelines are downloadable in PDF format at <http://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocumen...s06Revised.pdf>

[3] What Everyone Needs to Know about Canine Vaccines, Dr. Ronald Schultz
<http://www.puliclub.org/CHF/AKC2007Conf/What%20Everyone%20Needs%20to%20Know%20About%20Canine%20Vaccines.htm>

Duration of Immunity to Canine Vaccines: What We Know and Don't Know, Dr. Ronald Schultz http://www.cedarbayvet.com/duration_of_immunity.htm

World Small Animal Veterinary Association 2007 Vaccine Guidelines

<http://www.wsava.org/SAC.htm> Scroll down to Vaccine Guidelines 2007 (PDF)

[4] IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Volume 74, World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Feb. 23-Mar. 2, 1999, p. 24, 305, 310

[5] Fibrosarcomas at Presumed Sites of Injection in Dogs: Characteristics and Comparison with Non-vaccination Site Fibrosarcomas and Feline Post-vaccinal Fibrosarcomas; *Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, Series A August 2003, vol. 50, no. 6, pp. 286-291(6)

[6] The 2003 American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Guidelines are accessible online at http://www.leerburg.com/special_report.htm

More information on the rabies vaccine can be found at the following links :

Animal Wellness Magazine Article Vol. 8 Issue 6, **How Often Does he REALLY Need A Rabies Shot** <http://www.animalwellnessmagazine.com/m/m86/main.htm>

The Rabies Challenge Animal Wise Radio Interview

<http://www.animalarkshelter.org/animal/Animal+Wise+Segments.nsf/HighlightsListen?OpenForm&Segment=43AF377786A21CFC862573AC007EE99B"> (scroll down to The Rabies Challenge 12/9/07)

The Vaccine Challenge <http://www.animaltalknaturally.com/2007/05/01/the-vaccine-challenge-show-91>

Animal Talk Naturally Online Radio Show » The Vaccine Challenge - Show #91

US Declared Canine-Rabies Free -- CDC Announces at Inaugural World Rabies Day Symposium <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2007/r070907.htm> [CDC Press Release - September 7, 2007

Rabies Prevention -- United States, 1991 Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP), Center for Disease Control's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly March 22, 1991 / 40(RR03);1-19

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00041987.htm> **"A fully vaccinated dog or cat is unlikely to become infected with rabies**, although rare cases have been reported (48). In a nationwide study of rabies among dogs and cats in 1988, only one dog and two cats that were

vaccinated contracted rabies (49). All three of these animals had received only single doses of vaccine; **no documented vaccine failures occurred among dogs or cats that had received two vaccinations.** "

Announcing a Joint \$35,000 Matching Gift to the Rabies Challenge Fund

J

Jan Rasmusen, author of the national-award winning book, *Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care*, and two anonymous dog lovers announce a combined \$35,000 matching gift to The Rabies Challenge Fund. Jan's gift is being made on behalf of her dog, Chiclet, in honor of Chiclet's companion, Jiggy, who developed autoimmune liver disease after a rabies shot.

Jan Rasmusen says, "**By helping to fund the Rabies Challenge studies, we have the chance to help better the lives of, not just hundreds of dogs, or even thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of dogs. We can potentially help to improve the health of every pet dog in America. How exciting is that!**"

The anonymous donors add: "**We are totally dedicated to the Rabies Challenge Fund and its mission and are so pleased to be able to support it with this matching gift of \$25,000.**"

From May 1st to August 31st, for donations of \$100 or more, Jan and the anonymous donors will match \$1 of every \$2 donated up to \$35,000, and Jan will send an autographed copy of her book for donations above \$500 as well. Also, Chiclet has enlisted the support of canine movie star, Benji, who says "***This important study is long overdue. I give the Rabies Challenge study four BIG paws up!***"

"**Donations from our team of dedicated supporters, like Jan and the anonymous dog lovers, along with steady grass-roots public contributions have launched our second year of fund-raising with a bang!**" responds Fund Co-Trustee, Dr. W. Jean Dodds.

Funded by grass-roots donations, the rabies challenge studies began in November 2007 with the goal of extending the required interval for rabies boosters to five, and then seven years. Dr. Ronald Schultz, Chair of the Department of Pathobiology of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, is conducting the studies according to USDA vaccine-licensing standards. Previous French research on the rabies vaccine demonstrated a minimum of five years duration of immunity by challenge. American serological studies showed a minimum duration of immunity of seven years.

"**It is so exciting and important to get support for the Rabies Challenge Fund from as many dog owners as possible. The very generous combined \$35,000 matching gift from Jan Rasmusen and the anonymous donors will go a long way to provide the funding required for these critically important rabies vaccine studies,**" comments Dr. Schultz.

Fund founder, Kris L. Christine, says, "**We're thrilled about these generous gifts and Benji's endorsement, which will make a huge difference in helping us meet our second year's budget for the studies!**"

Find more information on the matching \$35,000 gift to The Rabies Challenge Fund at our website designed by Andrea Brin www.RabiesChallengeFund.org and on Jan Rasmusen's Truth 4 Dogs website at www.Truth4Dogs.org.

Posted April 15, 2008

To update you on efforts to change Wyoming's rabies laws, on Saturday April 12, 2008, an article entitled ***Changes to vaccine ordinance unlikely*** http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2008/04/13/news/19local_04-13-08.txt was published in the *Wyoming News*.

Below is a copy of a letter to the editor I sent to the paper this morning.

What You Can Do To Help

- 1.) Contact **Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker** mayor@cheyennecity.org Phone: (307) 637-6200; Fax: (307)637-6378
- 2.) Leave a comment on the newspaper article at http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2008/04/13/news/19local_04-13-08.txt
- 3.) Write a letter to the editor of the *Wyoming News* (Scott Smith) ssmith@wyomingnews.com
Fax: 307-633-3189

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April 14, 2008

To the Editor:

There are a number of issues in the April 12, 2008 article entitled *Changes to Vaccine Ordinance Unlikely* that need to be addressed.

The state veterinarian, Dr. Walter Cook, seems to be unaware that the national organization of which he is supposed to be a member, the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), currently recommends a 3 year rabies vaccination protocol in their 2008 *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* and has done so since at least 2001. The American Veterinary Medical Association also endorses the NASPHV's 3 year rabies immunization protocol.

Contrary to Dr. Cook's statement, veterinarians are not required to report adverse reactions to vaccines and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) stated in 2007 there is "**gross under-reporting of vaccine-associated adverse events which impedes knowledge of the ongoing safety of these products.**" In an article entitled, *A New Approach to Reporting*

Medication and Device Adverse Effects and Product Problems, (JAMA - June 2, 1993. Vol.269, No.21) Dr. David Kessler, former head of the Food & Drug Administration, reported that **"only about 1% of serious events are reported to the FDA."**

Studies demonstrating long-term (more than 3 years) duration of immunity for the canine rabies vaccine have already been published. In 1992, a French research team led by Michel Aubert published the results of a rabies challenge study in *Scientific Technical Review* (Rev. sci.tech. Off. int. Epiz.) 1992, 11 (3), 735-760 in which they demonstrated that dogs were immune to a rabies challenge 5 years after vaccination. The serological studies of Dr. Ronald Schultz of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine showed that dogs had antibody titers counts at levels known to confer immunity to rabies 7 years after vaccination, the results of which have been incorporated into the 2003, 2006 American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Guidelines as well as WSAVA's 2007 Vaccine Guidelines.

Because the rabies vaccine is the most potent of the veterinary vaccines and associated with significant adverse reactions, it should not be given more often than is necessary to maintain immunity. Adverse reactions such as autoimmune diseases affecting the thyroid, joints, blood, eyes, skin, kidney, liver, bowel and central nervous system; anaphylactic shock; aggression; seizures; epilepsy; and fibrosarcomas at injection sites are linked to rabies vaccinations.

Rabies is a "killed" vaccine and contains adjuvants to enhance the immunological response. Mercury (Thimersol) is commonly found as a preservative in killed, adjuvanted veterinary vaccines such as Rabies, Leptospira, and Lyme. The combination of mercury with adjuvant components (aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate) are of considerable concern because of the reactive properties of aluminum, when in contact with mercury. Reactivity with aluminum is so acute that mercury may not be packed in checked or carry-on baggage on commercial airplanes, and there is currently a petition to Congress Petition to Congress, *Removal of Aluminum Additive in Vaccines Resolution and Petition*, citing as cause for removing aluminum in human vaccines that: **"The combination of mercury plus aluminum is far worse than the sum of the two toxicities added together. The synergistic toxicity could be increased to unknown levels."**

In 1999, the World Health Organization " **classified veterinary vaccine adjuvants as Class III/IV carcinogens with Class IV being the highest risk,**" and the results of a study published in the August 2003 Journal of Veterinary Medicine documenting fibrosarcomas at the presumed injection sites of rabies vaccines stated, **"In both dogs and cats, the development of necrotizing panniculitis at sites of rabies vaccine administration was first observed by Hendrick & Dunagan (1992)."** According to the *2003 American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine Guidelines*, **"...killed vaccines are much more likely to cause hypersensitivity reactions (e.g., immune-mediated disease)."**

A clarification on the *Postmarketing Surveillance of Rabies Vaccines for Dogs to Evaluate Safety and Efficacy* referenced in the story. Only the 246 adverse reactions to the rabies vaccine reported directly to the Center for Veterinary Biologics by the public, veterinarians, and pet owners had 72% of the dogs receiving other vaccines or drugs at the same time as the rabies shot. That is not stated to be the case further on in the report where they discuss the 10,000 adverse reactions reported by the rabies vaccine manufacturers, 65% of which were in dogs.

If the 6,500 of canine adverse rabies vaccine reactions reported by the vaccine manufacturers represents "only about 1% of serious events are reported to the FDA," then that would translate into 650,000 if all reactions were reported.

Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker and State Public Health Veterinarian, Dr. Cook, should be guided by the recommendations of the CDC's National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and the American Veterinary Medical Association to determine the state's and city's rabies immunization protocols rather than seeking the advice of local animal shelters and veterinary practitioners to determine appropriate protocols.

Sincerely,

Kris L. Christine
Founder, Co-Trustee
THE RABIES CHALLENGE FUND
www.RabiesChallengeFund.org

Posted March 31, 2008

WYOMING Rabies Laws

Following a 3/22/08 article entitled **Vaccine overkill?** in the *Wyoming News* http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2008/03/23/local_news_updates/19local_03-23-08.txt by Baylie Davis and inspired by encouraging developments in Kansas, **Wyoming** dog breeders have contacted Wyoming's Governor, Attorney General as well as the Mayor of Cheyenne imploring the state to adopt the national standard of a 3 year rabies vaccination protocol. They need your assistance to help them get the annual rabies booster ordinances in the state changed.

What You Can Do To Help

Please contact any/or all of the **Wyoming** public officials listed below. You can copy and paste e-mail addresses listed. I will be sending a letter of support as well and will keep you updated on developments. **After the Wyoming contact list, there will be updated information on rabies law efforts in Kansas and Arkansas as well.**

PERMISSION GRANTED TO CROSS-POST THIS MESSAGE

Wyoming Contacts

Attorney General Bruce A. Salzburg Phone: (307) 777-7841 Fax: (307) 777-6869;
Consumer Protection Division 307-777-7874 or 1-800-438-5799 Fax: 307-777-7956
baylwa@state.wy.us

Governor Dave Freudenthal Phone: 307-777-7434 Fax: 307-632-3909 (fax)
cboswe@state.wy.us; rlance@state.wy.us; ccroft@state.wy.us; ceastw@state.wy.us;
bwarbu@state.wy.us; jyoung@state.wy.us; mbaine@state.wy.us; mgeist@state.wy.us

Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker mayor@cheyennecity.org Phone: (307) 637-6200; Fax: (307)637-6378; **City Council:** citycouncil@cheyennecity.org Phone: (307) 637-6357 Fax: (307)637-6356 jcase@cheyennecity.org; playbourn@cheyennecity.org; jvaldez@cheyennecity.org; pcollins@cheyennecity.org; mrinne@cheyennecity.org; tsegrave@cheyennecity.org; jbrown@cheyennecity.org; gbroyles@cheyennecity.org; dpierson@cheyennecity.org

Wyoming Legislators

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/email/email.htm> dalden@wyoming.com; randerso@wyoming.com; g.bagby@bresnan.net; rberger@wyoming.com; sblake@wyoming.com; bbrechtel@wyoming.com; kermitbrown@wyoming.com; ebuchanan@wyoming.com; childers@wyoming.com; royc@alluretech.net; bcraft@wyoming.com; kdavison@wyoming.com; diercks@wyoming.com; ddockstader@wyoming.com; aedmonds@wyoming.com; warpaint@wyoming.com; fesquibel@wyoming.com; kesquibel@wyoming.com; mgilmore2@wyoming.com; kgingery@wyoming.com; pgoggles@wyoming.com; mary.hales@realestateincasper.com; tphallinan@bresnan.net; dhammons@wyoming.com; sharshman@wyoming.com; harvey00@tctwest.net; jiekell@wyoming.com; pete_chloeilloway3@msn.com; ajaggi@wyoming.com; aljones@wyoming.com; pjorgensen@jorgensenassociates.com; jlandon@wyoming.com; tlockh1617@aol.com; tlubnau@vcn.com; madden@wyoming.com; mmartin@wyoming.com; dmcomie@wyoming.com; emercer@wyoming.com; slmey@wyoming.com; davidmiller@wyoming.com; lorimillin@bresnan.net; molsen@wyoming.com; opetersen@wyoming.com; fphilp@wyoming.com; lquarberg@wyoming.com; dswyo@wyoming.com; msemlek@wyoming.com; lshepperson@wyoming.com; csimpson@skelaw.com; slater@wyoming.com; jebsteward@union-tel.com; tim@stampedeforstubson.com; mteeters@wyoming.com; billthompson@wyoming.com; mthrone@wyoming.com; sue.wallis@vcn.com; jwbeardog@bresnan.net; elkuw@wyoming.com; dzwonitzer@wyoming.com; dzwonitzer@wyoming.com; jamesda1@msn.com; paullman@wyoming.com; senbebout@wyoming.com; bburns@dbburns.com; ccase@wyoming.com; hcoe@wyoming.com; scooperwy@gmail.com; kDecaria@wyoming.com; bob@robertfecht.com; ggeis@wyoming.com; jhastert2@wyoming.com; jhines@wyoming.com; kit@kitsenate.com; rjob@wyoming.com; wajohnsonsd6@yahoo.com; blanden@bresnan.net; senlarson@wyoming.com; mamassie@msn.com; cmeier@wyoming.com; jmockler@wyoming.com; phil.nicholas@lariat.org; drew@schwartzbon.com; rpeterson@wyoming.com; tross@wyoming.com; jschiffe@wyoming.com; charlesscott@wyoming.com; ksessions@wyoming.com; ctown@wyoming.com; bvasey@wyoming.com; mvonflatern@wyoming.com

Kansas Rabies Law Update & Arkansas Dog Owners Organizing to Challenge Arkansas Rabies Laws

Kansas: Dog owners have started a petition to get annual rabies laws in the state changed to the national 3 year standard. They are planning to have petitions available for dog owners to sign at the upcoming **Yappy Days** event on March 29th from 9-4 at the Kansas Coliseum, Pavilion II <http://www.kzsn.com/cc-common/mainheadlines2.html?feed=107458&article=3323054> . The petition is posted online at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com:80/1/Stop-Over-Vaccination-in-Wichita> . Activities in Kansas were sparked by a March 18, 2008 article in the **Wichita Eagle** entitled, Are Annual Shots a Risk for Dogs? <http://www.kansas.com/news/story/344780.html> by Diane McCartney.

Arkansas: Dog owners are organizing to change their annual rabies laws. A Yahoo group, **Arkansas Rabies Vaccine Info** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ARVaccineInfo> has been started to coordinate efforts, please join if you are interested.

Wichita to Form Rabies Vaccination Committee

I received the notice below on March 25, 2008. How unfortunate that Wichita is not including a member of their dog-owning public on this committee.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kay Johnson, Director of Environmental Services, 268-8351

City to Form Rabies Vaccination Committee

The City of Wichita is forming an ad hoc committee to review the schedule for rabies vaccinations, Interim Wichita City Manager Ed Flentje announced on Tuesday.

The committee will review the latest information on rabies prevention and control and make recommendations, said Kay Johnson, Director of Environmental Services.

Committee members will be announced at a later date.

"The committee will be primarily comprised of local veterinarians and public health officials," Johnson said. "Rabies is a very serious issue and potentially fatal. We want to make sure that people and pets are protected."

The committee recommendations will be provided to the City Manager as part of a broader and ongoing animal ordinance review. The ordinance review is scheduled to be presented to the Wichita City Council later this year.

For further questions, Johnson can be reached at kjohnson@wichita.gov or 268-8351.

Thank you all for your incredible efforts in Maine and Kansas! You are making a huge difference in the lives of dogs everywhere. Remember what Margaret Mead said, **"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

Regards, Kris

Kris L. Christine
Founder, Co-Trustee
The Rabies Challenge Fund
<http://www.RabiesChallengeFund.org>