



Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Safeguarding Animal Health

www.mn.gov/bah

July 12, 2013

League of Minnesota Cities
145 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Officers, Directors and City Officials:

In the recent past, there has been a lot of confusion surrounding rabies vaccination requirements for dogs and cats. There is no state law requiring rabies vaccination of any domestic animal and therefore local municipalities have often assumed this responsibility through required companion animal licensing ordinances.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine have been made aware of a situation where some city ordinances require companion animals to be vaccinated for rabies every two years in order to maintain the required city license for the pet. We instead encourage you to follow the recommendations of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians in the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control*, available here:

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

In reference to page 12 of the *Compendium*, there is no USDA approved rabies vaccine that expires after 2 years. Please consider changing any applicable ordinances to allow for owners to show proof of a current rabies vaccination when applying for a companion animal license, as opposed to dictating the frequency at which a rabies vaccine should be administered.

Guidelines for rabies vaccination are posted on the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine's website if you are interested in more detailed information.

<http://www.vetmed.state.mn.us/portals/22/RabiesVaccinationGuidanceDocument.pdf>

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacey Schwabenlander, Program Director
Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Dr. Julia Wilson, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine

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