

VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Administration of Rabies Vaccinations during Preceptorships and Externships for Veterinary and Veterinary Technician Students

Applicable Law:

§ 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: May a student of veterinary medicine or veterinary technology participating in a preceptorship or externship administer the rabies vaccinations?

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. A student of veterinary medicine or veterinary technology is unlicensed and may not administer a rabies vaccination.

Adopted: June 3, 2013