



December 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Phasing out of 1-year inactivated rabies vaccines for dogs and cats

Dear Provincial or Territorial Chief Veterinary Officer:

This letter is to inform the provincial and territorial Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of a recent change in the importation of rabies vaccines into Canada. All inactivated rabies vaccines licensed for use in Canada are manufactured in the United States, and imported into Canada by a few Canadian importers. Currently, rabies vaccines in Canada carry either a 1-year or a 3-year duration of immunity (DOI) claim and revaccination recommendation for dogs and cats.

Canadian importers of rabies vaccines will be phasing out the importation of the "1-year" labelled inactivated rabies vaccines (i.e., rabies vaccines with a 1-year DOI claim and an annual revaccination label recommendation for dogs and cats). These vaccines will no longer be offered for sale in Canada after March 31, 2019. The Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics (CCVB) is aware of, and supports, this transition plan. Canadian importers will continue to maintain the "3-year" labelled inactivated rabies vaccines (rabies vaccines with a 3-year DOI claim and 3-year revaccination label recommendation for dogs and cats).

The 3-year vaccines are licensed for primary immunization of young animals as well as subsequent booster vaccination, and allow for use consistent with current American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) guidelines. This transition plan will not necessarily impact how veterinarians choose to utilize the rabies vaccines in their practice.

CVOs should ensure that provincial and territorial officials, as well as municipalities, are aware of the phasing out of the 1-year inactivated rabies vaccines and the availability of rabies vaccines licensed with 3-year DOI data and revaccination recommendations for dogs and cats.

The 3-year rabies vaccines in Canada may continue to be marketed with 1-year revaccination recommendations for non-dog-and-cat species, as DOI beyond 1 year for these minor species has not been established.

Do not hesitate to contact the CCVB at CFIA.CCVBManager-GestionnaireCCPBV.ACIA@inspection.gc.ca should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mohit Baxi
Director, Animal Import and Export Division
Animal Health Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

cc: Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Executive Director, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Directorate
Dr. Surinder Saini, National Manager, Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics