

Rabies Titer Agreement

Rabies vaccination for dogs is required by Wisconsin state law 95.21(2)(a) prior to 5 months of age with a booster 1 year after initial vaccination. Continued vaccination is then required before the date that the vaccine expires as stated on the official certificate or, if no date is specified, within 3 years after the previous vaccination.

Approval and acceptance of a waiver from rabies vaccination is decided at the city, village, or town level according to 95.21(9)(d), and is restricted to the veterinarian's discretion that vaccination is inadvisable due to specific medical reasons. A new waiver is required annually where it is accepted. Holistic Veterinary Options is willing to provide clients with a waiver where appropriate, and encourages routine rabies vaccination if not medically detrimental.

Risks and Rules associated with Rabies Vaccination:

1. If a district is quarantined for rabies, all dogs therein must be confined or face impound unless currently vaccinated. 95.21(3)
2. If a dog or cat is suspected of biting a human, they are required to be quarantined for 10 days. All animals must meet veterinary quarantine observation guidelines, and will be humanely euthanize if exhibiting rabies symptoms. 95.21(4), 95.21(5)
 - a. An animal considered unvaccinated per 95.21(2)(a) must quarantine at an approved location.
 - b. Vaccinated animals can be isolated at home.
3. If a dog or cat has been exposed to a potentially rabid animal they must be quarantined. 95.21(5)(c)
 - a. An animal considered unvaccinated per 95.21(2)(a) must be confined for 180 days and receive a rabies vaccination between 155 and 165 days post exposure unless they have a waiver from a veterinarian.
 - b. Vaccinated animals must be confined for 60 days post exposure and receive a vaccine at earliest availability.

I, _____, owner of _____ animal have read the above and feel thoroughly informed regarding the legalities of rabies vaccination. By signing below, I acknowledge that a positive titer is not recognized by the state of WI as vaccination, and understand that Holistic Veterinary Options reserves the right to approve or not approve a rabies waiver based on my animal's medical health status.

Owner _____ Date _____

95.21(3)(a) Dogs confined. If a district is quarantined for rabies, all dogs within the district shall be kept securely confined, tied, leashed or muzzled. Any dog not confined, tied, leashed or muzzled is declared a public nuisance and may be impounded. All officers shall cooperate in the enforcement of the quarantine. The clerk of every town, city or village wholly or partly within the quarantine district shall promptly post in at least 3 public places in the town, city or village, notices of quarantine furnished by the department for posting

95.21(4)(a) Quarantine or sacrifice of dog or cat. Except as provided in par. (d), an officer shall order a dog or cat quarantined if the officer has reason to believe that the animal bit a person, is infected with rabies or has been in contact with a rabid animal. If a quarantine cannot be imposed because the dog or cat cannot be captured, the officer may kill the animal. The officer may kill a dog or cat only as a last resort or if the owner agrees. The officer shall attempt to kill the animal in a humane manner and in a manner which avoids damage to the animal's head.

95.21(5) Quarantine of dog or cat.

(a) Delivery to isolation facility or quarantine on premises of owner. An officer who orders a dog or cat to be quarantined shall deliver the animal or shall order the animal delivered to an isolation facility as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the original order is issued or the officer may order the animal to be quarantined on the premises of the owner if the animal is immunized currently against rabies as evidenced by a valid certificate of rabies vaccination or other evidence. If an officer delivers a dog or orders a dog to be delivered to an isolation facility and the dog is exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated against rabies under sub. (9)(d), the owner of the dog may choose an isolation facility that is a veterinary hospital.

(b) Health risk to humans. If a dog or cat is ordered to be quarantined because there is reason to believe that the animal bit a person, the custodian of an isolation facility or the owner shall keep the animal under strict isolation under the supervision of a veterinarian for at least 10 days after the incident occurred. In this paragraph, "supervision of a veterinarian" includes, at a minimum, examination of the animal on the first day of isolation, on the last day of isolation and on one intervening day. If the observation period is not extended and if the veterinarian certifies that the dog or cat has not exhibited any signs of rabies, the animal may be released from quarantine at the end of the observation period.

(c) Risk to animal health.

1. If a dog or cat is ordered to be quarantined because there is reason to believe that the animal has been exposed to a rabid animal and if the dog or cat is not currently immunized against rabies, the custodian of an isolation facility or the owner shall keep the animal leashed or confined for 180 days. The owner shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies between 155 and 165 days after the exposure to a rabid animal, unless the animal is exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated against rabies under sub. [\(9\) \(d\)](#).

2. If a dog or cat is ordered to be quarantined because there is reason to believe that the animal has been exposed to a rabid animal but if the dog or cat is immunized against rabies, the custodian of an isolation facility or the owner shall keep the animal leashed or confined for 60 days. The owner shall have the animal revaccinated against rabies as soon as possible after exposure to a rabid animal.

95.21(9)(d)A city, village, or town may exempt the owner of a dog from the requirement to have the dog vaccinated against rabies for a year based on a letter from a veterinarian stating that vaccination is inadvisable because of a reaction to a previous vaccination, a physical condition, or a regimen of therapy that the dog is undergoing. The city, village, or town shall require the owner to provide a new letter for each year in which the owner seeks an exemption under this paragraph.