



Bulletin No. 1

January 7, 1983

New Rabies Vaccine Now Available

The Rabies Control Program is delighted to announce a significant new development in vaccination against rabies. The 1983 Compendium of the United States Association of Public Health Veterinarians lists a new rabies vaccine developed by Norden, Rabguard-TC. This new vaccine (Norden Rabguard-TC) is an inactivated vaccine of porcine cell line origin and is indicated for use in both dogs and cats. The vaccine is given to dogs and cats on the following schedule; primary vaccination at 3 months, revaccination 1 year later, and a booster dose every 3 years.

Rabguard-TC has been licensed for use with a new modified vaccination schedule, which eliminates the second dose of vaccine for primary vaccination one year after the initial dose at three months. However, elimination of the second dose, one year after initial vaccination, has not been approved as yet by the Association of Public Health Veterinarians. The State of Alaska, therefore, requires the second dose one year after the first for dogs and cats vaccinated between three and twelve months of age.

A major change that has been approved is that cats now can be given booster doses of rabies vaccine every three years instead of annually.

We have arranged to replace Norden Endurall-R vaccine. In the future we will purchase and provide RABGUARD-TC.

Rabguard-TC vaccine comes in ten (10) dose vials. No mixing or reconstitution of vaccine is necessary. Norden is developing single dose vials which we hope will be available in the near future. Although the package insert recommends using the entire contents of each vial when first opened, after checking with Norden, we recommend the following guidelines: 1) Examine the color of the vaccine before using. The vaccine should be red. If the color is orange, discard the vaccine. 2) Each vial can be used for vaccination for 1 week after opening the vial, provided the color remains red. After 1 week, any remaining vaccine should be discarded.

Rabguard-TC CAN NOT BE FROZEN. The vaccine will be shipped to you in insulated containers which should prevent freezing. If the vaccine freezes, return it and order more vaccine. Be sure to inform Don Ritter 474-7017, or Dr. John Middaugh 561-4406 if you receive frozen vaccine.

Record use of Rabguard-TC on the Rabies Certificate. Using the box labeled "Killed", write in "TC" between "Murine" and "Caprine".

The Rabies Control Program appreciates your support. The program has been a major success in decreasing the number of persons who have had to be treated for post exposure prophylaxis for rabies. Please direct any inquiries related to the new vaccine to Don Ritter, Virology-Rabies Laboratory, 474-7017 or to John Middaugh, M.D., State Epidemiologist, 272-0053.