

## **RABIES VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

Previously vaccinated animals in which immunity has lapsed should be given a three or four-year duration of immunity upon booster vaccination.

Veterinarians administering rabies vaccines should certify the full duration of immunity, as stated on the vaccine label, on all rabies certificates. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary euthanasia or quarantine of animals, as well as difficulty with pet licensing regulations. Either a one, three, or four-year duration of immunity should be certified, following the chart above. There are not any vaccines currently marketed with a two year-duration of immunity.

The NJDOH recommends revaccination of dogs and cats prior to expiration of the previous vaccination to ensure a beneficial overlap of immunity. Administering a rabies vaccine before the duration of immunity of a previous vaccination has expired is not associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions in dogs.

## **PET LICENSING**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:23A-4.2, in order to issue a dog license, the pet owner must first supply to the dog licensing clerk a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian indicating that the animal's duration of immunity extends throughout at least the first ten months of the twelve month licensing period. Animals that have a duration of immunity which expires prior to the ten month cut-off must receive a booster rabies vaccination prior to licensure. Boostering an animal before expiration of the previous vaccine has not been associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions and is not medically contraindicated.

Prepared by the NJDOH, Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program, (609) 826-4872.

January 2013