College of Veterinary Medicine Rabies Vaccination Policy

Author: Office of Academic and Student Affairs
Submit/Review/Approval Date: 07/21/2022
Reviewed by: Administrative Council
Replaces version dated: 3/25/2011

The safety of patients, students, faculty and staff is the highest priority of the University Of Minnesota. The College Of Veterinary Medicine, a member of the Health Sciences (HS), requires all of our students to receive the same vaccinations required of all undergraduate students but also a rabies vaccination as a condition of enrollment in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. This requirement is consistent with those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All students admitted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program are required to have a rabies vaccination and to provide documentation by a health care professional of such immunization. Students declining this vaccination will not be allowed to participate in classes at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Students who have documented medical reasons not to be able to receive the vaccine (e.g., a documented medical allergy to the vaccine) must submit their records to the contracted Occupational Health Provider for review and verification. After receiving the opinion of the contracted Occupational Health Provider, the College of Veterinary Medicine will make the final determination as to whether or not a student with a valid medical contraindication to the rabies vaccine will be able to participate in classes at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

A series of two shots is required, and must be administered following CDC guidelines at Day 0, Day 7. A subsequent booster from Day 21 to the end of October of Year 1 is also required. All other students who enter the College after the fall of year one and have completed the two-dose series will be required to have a booster soon after the start of their first semester.

The immunizations may be administered through an on-campus rabies clinic in the fall of each year if the student wishes to take advantage of this opportunity. Alternatively, students can receive vaccination from the provider of their choice and provide documentation from that provider.

All AHC students are required to have a health clearance as a condition of enrollment and it is the student’s responsibility to achieve immunization clearance and to provide documentation of such to the Office of Occupational Health and Safety for compliance tracking. Immunization compliance will be tracked in a database by the Biosafety and Occupational Health Department (BOHD). Medical records will be maintained in accordance with state and federal laws by the contracted Occupational Health Provider for the University of Minnesota. BOHD will provide reports to the College of Veterinary Medicine regarding student compliance with this policy. Failure to provide proof of rabies vaccination and or a rabies antibody titer may result in a hold being placed on their record which would bar further enrollment until they’re in compliance.

For more information about this policy, please contact cvm-asa@umn.edu