

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Rabies Vaccination Policy

Due to the potential risk of exposure to rabies during veterinary training, as well as throughout one's veterinary career, Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine requires that all freshmen students admitted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine curriculum obtain rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis. Human rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis consists of three 1.0 mL injections of rabies vaccine administered intramuscularly in the deltoid (upper arm), one injection per day on days 0, 7, and 21 or 28. For additional information, please see the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Human Rabies Prevention and CDC Vaccine Information Statement.

RabAvert vaccine can be obtained from Novartis (800-244-7668). The vaccine costs are between \$198 – 240 per dose at a total cost of up to \$740. If a student is applying for financial aid, the Student Financial Aid Office at Kansas State University has ensured that the costs of the vaccine will be included in the budget. We plan to have a vaccine clinic at the College of Veterinary Medicine after the beginning of the Fall semester.

Recommendations of Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Human Rabies Prevention

According to the Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Human Rabies Prevention --- United States, 2008, pre-exposure vaccination is appropriate for persons at high-risk for rabies exposure, such as veterinarians and their staff, animal handlers, and others whose activities bring them into frequent contact with potentially rabid animals. Pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis is administered for several reasons. First, although pre-exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for additional prophylaxis after a rabies exposure, it simplifies management by eliminating the need for rabies immune globulin and decreasing the number of doses of vaccine needed. Second, pre-exposure prophylaxis might provide sufficient interim immunity to persons whose post-exposure prophylaxis may be delayed. Finally, pre-exposure prophylaxis might provide some protection to persons at risk for unrecognized exposures to rabies.

Resources:

- 1) MMWR Recomm Rep. 2008 May 23;57(RR-3):1-28. Human rabies prevention--United States, 2008: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Manning SE, Rupprecht CE, Fishbein D, Hanlon CA, Lumlertdacha B, Guerra M, Meltzer MI, Dhankhar P, Vaidya SA, Jenkins SR, Sun B, Hull HF; Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>)
- 2) Compendium of animal rabies prevention and control, 2008. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Committee. J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2008 May 15;232(10):1478-86.
- 3) Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2007. Blanton JD, Palmer D, Christian KA, Rupprecht CE. J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2008 Sep 15;233(6):884-97. Erratum in: J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2008 Oct 15;233(8):1264.
- 4) Vaccine Information Statement (www.immunize.org/vis)