**Canine Vaccination Guidelines**

**FEMA US&R**

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**ISSUE: Canine Vaccination Requirements**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Follow established AAHA 2017 Vaccination Guidelines

**INFORMATION:**

Recommendation of vaccination requirements for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search & Rescue and Urban Search & Recovery (US&R) canines are based on the 2017 American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Canine Vaccination Guidelines, prepared by the AAHA Vaccine Task Force.

**Vaccination protocols**

<https://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/vaccination-canine-configuration/vaccination-canine/>

* Core Vaccinations
* Non-Core vaccinations

**Supplementary Information Links**

* Rabies Vaccination State-to-State Laws access – <http://rabiesaware.org/>
* Overdue Vaccination Protocols - <https://www.aaha.org/CanineVaccinesOverdue>
* Antibody (Serology) Testing - <https://www.aaha.org/CanineVaccineTiters>

**Quick reference general summary**

<https://www.dvm360.com/view/understanding-the-use-of-antibody-titers-in-veterinary-practice>

**ISSUE: Antibody Titers (Serology Testing for Vaccination Status)**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Any request for antibody testing in lieu of vaccination shall be addressed on an individual basis.

**INFORMATION:**

* A positive titer test indicates protective immunity for these vaccine-preventable diseases only
  + Canine Distemper Virus
  + Canine Parvovirus
  + Canine Adenovirus (hepatitis)
* Laboratory testing may be Quantitative or Qualitative
  + Amplitude of the titer does not equal a level of immunity
  + Patient is either immune (positive test) or not (negative test)
  + Exception is Rabies Titer – Positive result does NOT indicate a protective immunity

When/Why are Antibody Titers performed?

* Request of an owner/handler
* Assessing immunization status in puppies
* Assessing immunization status in adults
* Identification of genetic non-responders
* Assessing need for vaccination in adult dogs with comorbidities

Issue of Concern

* Frequency of antibody titers to assess immune status remains unknown
* Suggestions include
  + Every year
  + When the vaccine would normally be due

**ISSUE: Non-Core Vaccinations**

**RECOMMENDATION:** strong consideration for Leptospira and Borrelia burgdorferi vaccination

**INFORMATION:**

**Leptospira** (killed, 4-serovar) is recommended for deployable search canines

* Prevalence of Leptospirosis in standing water
* Zoonotic potential

**Borrelia burgdorferi** (canine Lyme Disease) is recommended for deployable search canines

* Prevalence of disease-carrying ticks throughout the United States
* Second line of defense in addition to flea and tick preventative protocols

**ISSUE: Rabies Vaccination**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Rabies vaccination is required. Any request for exemption shall be addressed on an individual basis.

**INFORMATION:**

Rabies Vaccination

* The only vaccine required by law, and which laws vary from state to state
* Protocol for administration is not discretionary
* A positive rabies titer can only be interpreted as exposure to the vaccine
* A positive rabies titer cannot be interpreted as indicative of protective immunity

State-specific information on vaccine immunization, vaccine exemption, and law is available at <https://www.aaha.org/CanineVaccineResources>

Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control is available at

<https://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/full/10.2460/javma.248.5.505>