

We would like to thank all of you for your suggestions of names for our newsletter. We had a number of excellent submissions, making it a difficult choice. The staff votes are in, and the winning name is:

The Bark & Mew

Updates & Information from Falconbridge Animal Hospital & Village Veterinary Hospital

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Congratulations to Kathy M, who suggested this name, and receives a free exam for one pet!



**WORLD RABIES DAY
SEPTEMBER 28**

Most of us know that we are required by law to vaccinate our dogs, cats and other animals against rabies. But do you know why? Rabies can be transmitted between almost all species of mammals, including humans. Rabies is a virus that is transmitted primarily through saliva. An animal or person scratched or bitten by a rabid animal can become infected. Once symptoms are seen in an infected person or animal, death is almost certain.

Vaccinating your pet against rabies will help to protect your entire family. Rabies affects the brain, causing changes in behavior. One of the most common behavior changes is an increase in aggression. So, if a dog or cat that has always been very tolerant contracts rabies, they may become aggressive and bite family members as well as strangers.

Most cases of rabies in humans in the U.S. are from bats. Bat bites can be so tiny that the person may be unaware they have been bitten. Since the bites are needle-fine, it is almost impossible to find bat bite marks on a furry pet. If your pet is bitten by a rabid bat or other animal and his rabies vaccination is not up to date, he is considered not vaccinated by the state. Since bats can get into homes, it is critical to keep your pets' rabies vaccines up to date even if they do not go outside. Don't believe us? Just ask two of our clients who found bats in their homes this summer.

If a bat should get into your home, call Animal Control immediately for assistance. Do not take a chance on you or your pet being bitten. And remember to keep your pet's vaccines up to date. If your pet is bitten by a rabid or possibly rabid animal, their rabies vaccine must be boosted within 72 hours.

One Year Rabies Vaccines for Cats

In the best interest of our feline patients, we have decided to follow the recommendations of the leading authorities on vaccine protocols. According to the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), all rabies vaccines given to cats should be free of adjuvant. Adjuvant is an additive put in many vaccines to extend the length of protection provided by that vaccine. Recent comprehensive studies have documented the presence of adjuvant in cancerous tumors in cats that are now termed Vaccine Associated Sarcomas (VAS). Your cat's risk of a VAS is estimated to be anywhere from 1:1,000 to 1:10,000. The primary risk factors for VAS are the use of vaccines with adjuvant and a possible genetic predisposition.

To minimize the risk to our feline patients, we are using an adjuvant-free rabies vaccine. The effect of this change is that the rabies vaccine must be given yearly as opposed to every three years.

For those of you who own dogs, the rabies vaccine is still given every three years and DOES contain adjuvant. Dogs are not susceptible to VAS like cats and therefore changes to the vaccine protocols have not been recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.



Samuel L. Catson

North Carolina State Rabies Laws

This list is not all-inclusive of state and county rabies laws.

Please visit <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/rabies.html> or your county government's website for more information.



- State law requires that all dogs, cats, and ferrets are vaccinated by 4 months of age (even if they are indoor animals).
- An animal receiving its first dose of rabies vaccine is not protected until at least 28 days after the vaccine is given, and is treated as unvaccinated until that time.
- Animals that have been vaccinated before in their lifetime are considered protected immediately upon receiving subsequent vaccinations. This is true even if there is a lapse between vaccinations, unless the animal has already had a potential rabies exposure.
- A current vaccination is not enough if your pet is exposed –vaccinated animals that have contact with a potentially rabid animal MUST be re-vaccinated within 3 days (72 hours) of the exposure. If not, the animal is treated as unvaccinated.
- Identify your pet –Roaming, unidentified animals that bite someone can be euthanized 72 hours after a bite. Wearing required tags(requirements vary by county), as well as personal ID tags and microchips, will help protect your pet.
- Unvaccinated animals that could have contact with a potentially rabid animal MUST be euthanized or quarantined for 6 months (at a designated center at the owners expense) to ensure that the animal is not going to develop rabies as a result of the exposure.
- Animals with expired vaccinations are treated as unvaccinated.
- An animal whose vaccination has expired must be euthanized immediately or quarantined for 6 months if exposed to rabies. Quarantines can easily add up to thousands of dollars.

anytime.

Microchips

A collar and ID tags are always a good idea for your pets, but unfortunately they can be lost or damaged, preventing your pets from getting home to you even if they are found. Microchips are the easiest permanent form of identification available for pets today. Microchips are about the size of a rice grain and can be inserted under a pet's skin between their shoulder blades to identify them with a permanent barcode. Even though we like to implant microchips during anesthetic procedures, they can be implanted



Did you know?

- It takes 28 days for the first Rabies vaccine to protect your pet.
- Rabies vaccines are considered up to date immediately upon revaccination.
- Six months is the maximum period of time that it would take for an unvaccinated cat to show signs of rabies disease after exposure.
- You can have a permanent identification microchip implanted at almost any vet visit.
- The most common animals that carry Rabies in our area are feral cats, bats, raccoons, foxes, and skunks.

Pet Alert Stickers

Our favorite pet insurance company, Trupanion, is offering our clients free pet alert stickers. They will alert emergency personnel of pets in your home. You do not need to have pet insurance to get the free stickers. Go to <http://trupanion.com/pet-fire-safety>, fill out the form and they will send you two stickers for your home.