

## The Role and Guidelines for State Administrators

The role of State Administrator is to organize and educate the citizens in your State with the goal of amending the rabies law. By introducing the matching legislation as written in Connecticut accomplishes two things.

- One, it allows a protective blood titer to replace mandated re-vaccination.
- Two, it allows the veterinarian to adjust the dose for smaller pets while achieving the protective titer. In other words, the decision-making power is returned to the veterinarian, who, in turn, discusses them with the pet owner, instead of following outdated manufacturer recommendations never based in science to begin with!

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE VACCINATION OF ANIMALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to allow veterinarians to (1) vary from vaccine dosage protocols when in the best interest and health of an animal, and (2) administer a rabies antibody titer to determine the need for a rabies booster vaccine.

## Statement of Purpose:

To allow veterinarians to make decisions that are in the best interest of an animal's health and to prevent animals from being over-vaccinated.

(Connecticut H.B. No.5659)

There is no science that supports the assumption that we are vaccinating an "immune system" so all pets get the same dose regardless of size! In addition, a court decision found that the manufacturer is not liable for vaccine reactions, only the vet. It makes sense then that the vet should choose the dose. Ultimately whatever volume is chosen, immunity must be demonstrated by a protective antibody titer of  $\geq 0.1$  IU/ml. It is better to under dose, check a titer and give a little more if needed, rather than overdose and injure or kill the patient!

Remember, the two bullet points to impress on the minds of the public and legislators are these:

- First we want to Protect the Pets from unnecessary injury or death.
- Second we improve public health. Public health is improved because we improve compliance. Many pet owners are no longer vaccinating for rabies due to overdosing and over vaccination. Also, a titer will identify non-responders. A percentage of dogs and cats will not develop any titer and therefore any protection no matter how many rabies vaccines are given. Right now, these pet owners are issued a vaccine certificate and have a false sense of security that their pet is directly protected and their family secondarily is protected. By requiring the titer we can identify non responders and reduce the trait through breeding practices to improve public health for the future and safety for the pet owner now!

I am relying and delegating tasks in and outside the Protect the Pets state administrators. I need to delegate some decision-making tasks which are always discussed. This will free me up to talk with policymakers. That said, I am open to phone calls and suggestions at any time. Let's pull in the same direction for the benefit of Protect the Pets.

Thank you for your commitment to Protect the Pets (PTP). Please review the Guidelines below. Together, we will create a clear and unified movement we can be proud of.

Dr. John Rob, DVM "Doc"

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## **State Administrator Guidelines**

- Use the Connecticut Bill as a template for your state as it accomplishes the goals of PTP. (see first paragraph above).
- Consider a welcome post that clarifies your goals and sets ground rules. Pin it to the top of the page. The standard courtesy of no name calling and no foul language of course always applies.
- Avoid misleading statements like "one and done". In most cases one rabies vaccine is good for life but not always! Dr. Schultz found that some dogs lose immunity with time and can contract rabies? Thus, he recommended the initial Rabies Immunity certificate be good for 3 years. However, dogs did not lose immunity for at least 5 years.
- Be creative. Exchanging the same posts with like-minded people (what FB tends to do) does not reach the folks we want to reach, those that have not heard the message.
- This is not an anti-vax movement.
- Each State utilizes a page created by Dr. Robb. Avoid posts with information from outside resources. There are informative articles on vaccinosis and other topics, however, we will stick with the science presented on John Robb FB. Dr. Robb will keep abreast and review any current developments and add more scientific studies as they become available.
- Make use of the Protect the Pets Website by sharing links and drive the viewers to the information on that site.
- Keep your page on track. When people post information not directly in line with the goals to Amended the Rabies Law, let them know to post elsewhere. If they persist remove the post. This is best accomplished by setting up the page so you can review all posts prior to authorizing them. Extraneous post should be reserved for your personal page. How you present yourself on FB is important. There are no party politics with amending the rabies laws.
- Make your page an actions oriented page. Contacting and educating veterinarians, legislators (elected officials) and other pet owners. Handing out flyers at events and collecting signatures with State Petitions which can be shared with elected officials. Network with business and clubs.
- To get a Bill passed you must find someone who will sponsor it. How that happens will not always be the same. Profile your policymakers and know where roadblocks may be. Share your successes and Ideas on the Organizer page.

- Build your team base. Brainstorm, delegate & follow up. Who do you know with influence and connections? Networking will uncover more helpful leads.
- The Protect the Pets Movement is stronger if we are aligned.
- If you moderate or support another cause, as some of us have, just keep the PTP separate and clear.
- Remember there will be no fundraising. The success of this movement is people contributing their personal time and resources.
- Be patient! We are organizing and learning quickly however it's a national international movement and information has to be accurate and presented professionally. We will have all the flyers, petitions, brochures, business cards and scientific articles filed and available on the Protect the Pets Organizer Page. Dr. Robb is approving and creating all these documents. We want to keep the message powerful and clear!
- There will be no room for administrators "doing their own thing". However, Doc is always available to entertain new ideas and create more helpful information to be shared by all. Just remember things are done in decency and in order! We must all be appraised of new information, have an opportunity for discussion, come to an agreement and then put it out there!
- These are guidelines but remember, even though amending the current rabies law is the goal, we will save countless lives; many lives are saved along the way thru education and action by both pet owners and veterinarians. Work with as many veterinarians as you can so we don't end up alienating more. A broken system is killing pets.
- As useful Guidelines come about we will add to this list.