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October 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: All South Carolina Veterinarians

FROM: Sue C. Ferguson, REHS/RS
Division of General Sanitation
Bureau of Environmental Health

SUBJECT: 2008 Rabies Tags
Reporting Pet Vaccinations to SC DHEC
Rabies Certificate

1) The Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, prepared by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), no longer references the yearly rotation of tag shapes and colors. However, as cited in the SC Rabies Control Act, Section 47-5-60, rabies tags are required in South Carolina:

“With the issuance of the certificate, the licensed veterinarian shall furnish a serially numbered metal license tag bearing the same number and year as the certificate with the name and telephone number of the veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or practice.”

By mutual agreement between the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) and the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians (SCAV), the Department will annually specify the shape and color of the tag to be used for the upcoming year. Pet rabies vaccination tags to be used in the identification of vaccinated animals for calendar year 2008 shall be **heart** shaped and **red** in color.

2) According to the Rabies Control Act, Section 47-5-60: **“Annually, before February 1st, the veterinarian shall report to the department the number of animals inoculated against rabies during the preceding year.”** The number of animals vaccinated should be reported to the local County Environmental Health Office. A listing of these offices is included for your reference. If you have the capability to separate the number of dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated, we would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

3) All agencies and veterinarians should use NASPHV Form 51 (revised 2007), Rabies Vaccination Certificate, or an equivalent, which can be obtained from vaccine manufacturers, NASPHV (<http://www.nasphv.org>), or CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/professional/professi.htm>). Revisions to the certificate include the addition of a line for the microchip number, a box for the animal control license duration, expansion of the species list, more details on the exact age, addition of “markings” to the predominant colors box, modification to the vaccination expiration date box, addition of a check box for a 4-year duration vaccine, and addition of a line for the vaccine producer name.

The form must be completed in full and signed by the licensed veterinarian. Computer-generated forms containing the same information are acceptable. A copy of the revised NASPHV form 51 is included for your reference.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters and for your continuing efforts to protect our state’s animals, and consequently our citizens, from this deadly disease.

SCF/clm

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Regional Medical Directors/Physicians
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County Environmental Health Offices

Enclosure(s)