

TESTIMONY July 05 public hearings
State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture
Subject: Pet quarantine
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Please act on the current proposals to bring Hawaii's policies closer to compliance with national authorities and current science.

I commend you for your efforts to improve the quarantine issues for the state of Hawai'i, however there are continuing issues that must be addressed and corrected. My contention has always been, unless Hawai'i plans to secede from the union, it should be a major concern to bring the rabies issues into compliance with the World Compendium. It is my understanding that Hawai'i is a state. Am I correct? Therefore the compendium applies to Hawai'i too.

The Hawai'i Dept of Agriculture is interested in the welfare of all animals that enter Hawai'i therefore the board, the government officials and the state veterinarians are surely concerned with the adverse effects too many rabies vaccinations can cause.

Please see this excerpt from the COBTA:

“There is evidence that some vaccines provide immunity beyond one year. Revaccination of patients with sufficient immunity does not add measurably to their disease resistance, and may increase their risk of adverse post-vaccination events. Vaccination is a potent medical procedure with both benefits and associated hazards.

It is not currently possible to determine the immune status of a patient relative to all the infectious diseases of concern without conducting a challenge test. Serology does not predict a patient's immune status for most diseases. For those diseases where serology has predictive value of a patient's immune status, the variation within and between laboratories renders the procedure generally unreliable.

Adverse events may be associated with the antigen, adjuvant, carrier, preservative, or a combination thereof. Possible adverse events include failure to immunize, anaphylaxis, immunosuppression, autoimmune disorders, transient infections, and/or long-term infected carrier states. In addition, a causal association in cats between injection sites and the subsequent development of a malignant tumor is the subject of ongoing research. The role of genetic predisposition to adverse events needs further exploration and definition.

Vaccine program goals include providing optimal immunity against clinically relevant diseases the patient is at-risk to contract, while minimizing the potential for adverse events.”

And I add this from

<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/sep03/030915a.asp>

"There are so many more professional issues involved here," said Dr. Greene, during a brief interview. "You've got to look at the animal, the environment, and the product you are using."

During his presentation, Dr. Greene highlighted published and unpublished scientific studies that have examined the risks associated with some vaccines, the duration of immunity the vaccines provide, and other issues related to vaccines.

He pointed out that, because of the intense selection pressure placed on purebred dogs, some breeds may be more susceptible to particular viruses, and dogs of certain breeds may be more likely to develop adverse reactions to particular vaccines. Rottweilers are especially susceptible to parvovirus, for example, and Weimaraners appear more likely to develop vaccine-induced distemper.

He also noted that vaccines vary in efficacy, safety, duration of immunity they provide, and types of adverse reactions they cause. Also, various methods of vaccination—injection or intranasal application—may result in differing degrees of immunity and may provide protection more quickly.

The environment an animal lives in is also a factor that Dr. Greene urged veterinarians to consider when deciding on vaccination intervals and

vaccination protocols. Animals living in kennels or catteries, for example, require different vaccinations and vaccination intervals than animals living as only pets.”

The COBTA report was released in November 2002, and the executive summary appeared in the Nov. 15 issue of the *JAVMA*. Individuals can obtain a copy of the complete report by calling (800) 248-2862, Ext. 6770.

According to the 2003 and 2004 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control,

- "There are no laboratory or epidemiologic data to support the annual or biennial administration of 3-year vaccines following the initial series. Because a rapid anamnestic response is expected, an animal is considered currently vaccinated immediately after a booster vaccination," and
- "If a previously vaccinated animal is overdue for a booster, it should be revaccinated with a single dose of vaccine. Immediately following the booster, the animal is considered currently vaccinated and should be placed on an annual or triennial schedule depending on the type of vaccine used," and
- "**RABIES SEROLOGY:** Some "rabies-free" jurisdictions may require evidence of vaccination and rabies antibodies for importation purposes. Rabies antibody titers are indicative of an animal's response to vaccine or infection; titers are not indicators of protection. Other immunologic factors also play a role in preventing rabies and our abilities to measure and interpret those other factors are not well developed. Therefore, evidence of circulating rabies virus antibodies should **not** be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposures or determining the need for booster vaccinations" (2004 Compendium specifically; emphases in original), and
- "There are no laboratory or epidemiologic data to support the annual or biennial administration of 3-year vaccines following the initial series."

The current administrative rules also should be amended to do the following:

1. **Remove all fees** for pet import for properly documented animals. There are no fees for any others than pets and this is both arbitrary and prejudicially punitive.

2. **Allow pet import to all airports** receiving direct flights outside Hawaii. All these have, or should have inspection facilities.

3. **Remove the usage of the OIE-FAVN test and pre-arrival wait** periods for entry to Hawaii, as both these are not measures that improve Hawaii's protection and they are unwarranted punitive measures against pet owners.

The steps taken so far have been successfully implemented with positive response. Let's move to complete the task and extend the spirit of Aloha to Hawaii's families which include pet cats and dogs.

Had I known what my Princess would have to endure and how she would have suffered, I would have never moved to Hawai'i to begin with. Princess lost two teeth while in quarantine and they kept it a secret. She had the other one extracted later. The sore on her back never completely healed because she still has a scar. The skin is darker in that circular area. She was fortunate that her water was on the side where I put the blue tarp. But she too went over a week without pooping. Her little tummy was hard yet a worker said, "Oh surely she pooped." Get real..... you place house-trained dogs in a closed in kennel on concrete which that is enough to hurt their feet and legs, and expect them to go against their training. Had I known she didn't have to have professional training to be declared a service dog, I would have fought that too. She's been a service dog since I got her in 1994. All done while in quarantine only 30 days. We moved to Hawai'i in 2001 and left in 2003.

Dogs bladders are small too. Infection can set in easily because of that when urine has been held a long time. The bladder is the only organ that is much like a balloon and can actually burst. That is a danger too in quarantine that is never mentioned.

In the state of Texas, some counties require the one-year vaccine because of the wild life in the area. Other areas of Texas have gone to the every three-year vaccine. Interesting that in the state of Texas we have raccoons, skunks, foxes, wolves, known carriers of rabies yet not one case of rabies has been reported as a result of an animal bite from an animal that has been vaccinated. Not one case of rabies has been reported since the vaccine was invented and use of it began. Proof that vaccines work.

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