

TESTIMONY July 05 public hearings
State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture
Subject: Pet quarantine
Submitted by: Chris Quackenbush
Founder, Community Quarantine Reform Coalition
239-481-4846

Please act on the current proposals to bring Hawaii's policies closer to compliance with national authorities and current science.

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.

Sincerely,
Chris Quackenbush
5690 Harborage Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908