



SHORT NOTE REGARDING RABIES SEROLOGY IN DOGS AND CATS

When travelling to or from a rabies risk country, a sufficient anti-rabies antibody titer must be confirmed, given a “currently vaccinated” animal. The serological control is more strict than the rules for “current vaccination” (3 years for all anti-rabies vaccines licensed in Switzerland). To minimize the frequency of insufficient titers, we recommend the following procedure:

- Primary vaccination should **A L W A Y S** consist of two doses to be applied within 7-10 days. This results in higher titers which will remain above the threshold of 0.5 IU for a somewhat longer time period.
- Determination of the titer in accordance with given rules (1 month after the last vaccination) should **A L W A Y S** be undertaken as soon as possible. After a period of 4 months, the failure rate in dogs was already up to 25%. This proportion is rising linearly with the time elapsed since primo-vaccination! ¹
- To ensure a sufficient titer over a longer period of time consistent with the prescribed re-vaccination intervals of 3 years, a booster after one year as part of the primo-vaccination regimen (as for rabies preexposure protection in humans), is highly recommended.

¹ More details to be found in the following article: Zanoni R.G., Bugnon P., Deranleau E., Nguyen T.M.V., Bruegger D.: Walking the dog and moving the cat: Rabies serology in the context of international pet travel schemes. Schweiz.Arch.Tierheilkd. 2010, 152: 561-568

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