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California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

March 8, 2016

TO: CITY AND COUNTY RABIES CONTROL AGENCIES

SUBJECT: "ACTUAL COST" RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS

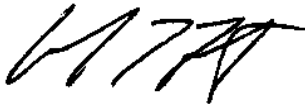
The California Health and Safety Code (HSC §121690(f)) mandates that counties declared as "rabies areas" (currently, all 58 California counties) must fulfill certain activities, including sponsoring "actual cost" rabies vaccination clinics. While the HSC does not specify the particulars regarding "actual cost", historically the CDPH Veterinary Public Health Section has promulgated a single, standard "actual cost" amount for implementation statewide. In the past, CDPH-VPHS relied upon the expert recommendations of the Rabies Vaccine Advisory Committee and others to determine the appropriate dollar value of the "actual cost". However, with the repeal of the Rabies Vaccine Advisory Committee and withdrawal of other outside consultants in the 1990s, the "actual cost" figure has not been subject to the regular analysis and revision to which it was previously subject. As a result, the current "actual cost" figure of \$6.00, which has been in effect since 2004, has not kept pace with inflation and likely significantly underestimates the costs for local rabies control agencies to operate a vaccine clinic in today's economic environment.

With that in mind, CDPH-VPHS is recommending an increase in the amount charged per rabies vaccine dose at "actual cost" clinics for 2016 to **\$10.00**. We believe that this increase is overdue and the revised amount is more commensurate with current material, facility, and operational costs, while also remaining within the financial means of the majority of pet owners. Nevertheless, if you believe that this increase would present an undue burden on the pet owners in your region, you are welcome to charge any amount less than the \$10.00 statewide recommendation, if your resources so permit. Alternatively, if the cost required to operate a vaccination clinic in your region would render the clinic a money-losing venture at \$10.00 per vaccine dose, you may apply to CDPH-VPHS for authorization to charge more than the statewide standard.

Instructions and application forms for the above “actual cost” approval are available by request from CDPH-VPHS.

We hope that this change in the CDPH-VPHS recommended “actual cost” for rabies vaccine better enables you to sponsor cost-effective clinics and maximize the number of dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies in your community. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [vetph@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:vetph@cdph.ca.gov) or 916-552-9740.

Sincerely,



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