

## Instructions for Veterinarians and Government Officials on Reviewing Rabies Certificates

Rabies certificates may be filled out incorrectly or be faked. Do your part to control rabies. Use this tool to learn how to identify fraudulent rabies certificates.

### Make sure the certificate is completely filled out by checking whether the following are documented:

#### Owner's information

- Name and address

#### Pet identification

- Rabies tag number
- Microchip or tattoo number
- Animal's name

#### Description of pet

- Species, age, sex, size, breed, color/markings

#### Vaccination information

- Date of vaccination
- Initial or booster dose
- Date next vaccination due

#### Product information

- Product name
- Duration of product licensure (1 year, 3 years, or 4 years)
- Serial or lot number

#### Veterinarian's information

- Name, license number, and address
- Signature

### Clues indicating that the rabies certificate might be invalid:

- Information or signatures are missing
- Pet was vaccinated too young (< 3 months)
- Pet's physical appearance (e.g., development of teeth and size) doesn't correlate with the age listed
- Rabies certificate appears to have been photocopied or manipulated
- Information on rabies certificate doesn't match pet's other documents or what the owner is stating
- Vaccine product is unfamiliar or wrong vaccine product is listed on form (e.g., attached vial label is not for a rabies vaccine)
- Veterinarian's name or street address is not documented

### Steps to take if rabies certificate appears questionable:

- Contact the veterinarian listed on the rabies certificate to verify information
- Consult your local animal control officer or state animal health official
- If you are unable to verify the information on the rabies certificate, explain your concerns to the owner and recommend that the pet be revaccinated against rabies to ensure appropriate immunization

### Additional Information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Animal Importation Website: [www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/bringinganimaltous.html](http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/bringinganimaltous.html)
- Rabies Resources: [www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/publications/index.html?s\\_cid=cs\\_521](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/publications/index.html?s_cid=cs_521)
- National Association of State and Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Rabies Vaccination Certificate: [www.cdc.gov/rabies/pdf/nasphv\\_form51.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/pdf/nasphv_form51.pdf)
- Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6006.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6006.pdf)

