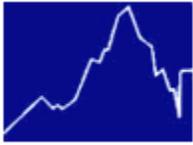


**From:** Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine <vetbd@dhp.virginia.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 09, 2015 7:03 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** October 8, 2015 — Important Info for Licensees of Board of Veterinary Medicine



## Virginia Department of Health Professions



[Board of Veterinary Medicine](#)

### Board of Veterinary Medicine

#### NEW 2015 RABIES REGULATIONS IN PLACE FOR VIRGINIA VETERINARIANS

##### Changes

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) *State Public Health Veterinarian, Julia Murphy, DVM* provides licensees of the Board of Veterinary Medicine with important links to new 2015 rabies regulation now in effect. As of this year, there is an exemption to vaccinations for dogs and cats under select conditions.

- Veterinarians may want to consider applying for an exemption “if a vaccination would likely endanger the animal's life due to a previously diagnosed disease or other previously documented medical considerations as provided by a licensed veterinarian.” Read more about Virginia’s rabies regulations online at-- <http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter105>.
- Certain terms such as, “Rabies Vaccination Certificate” and “Suspected Rabid Animal” are defined in these regulations. Veterinarians should review this terminology and contact their local health departments to report exposures or for answers to questions about the new regulations.

##### Resources

VDH has prepared a guidance document to assist veterinarians with the process of making rabies vaccine exemptions.

- The document and related exemption application form are available at any VDH Health District Office where staff is available to answer questions. The site also addresses rabies clinics, rabies exposure response and rabies titer monitoring for animal healthcare providers. Here is a directory of local health district offices <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/index.htm>.
- Or, download general information regarding rabies, the new regulations, a reference guide and an exemption application from <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/rahp.htm>.
- A complete copy of the Virginia Guidelines for Rabies Prevention and Control as well as attachments to that document including the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, an index to Virginia’s rabies laws and a rabies certificate example can be found at

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/vgrpc.htm>.

Questions may be directed to [julia.murphy@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:julia.murphy@vdh.virginia.gov)