

What animals can receive the rabies vaccine?

A rabies vaccine has been licensed for cats, dogs, ferrets, cattle, horses, and sheep.

At what age can an animal receive the rabies vaccine?

Most vaccines are licensed for 3 months of age and older. State law mandates animals be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian by 4 months of age, and at regular intervals thereafter according to the label directions.

If this is my animal's first rabies vaccine, how soon after vaccination is the vaccine considered current?

After **28 days**, your animal is considered to be current and protected.



If my animal has been previously vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, how soon after vaccination is the vaccine considered current?

Immediately after the second vaccination. **However**, you need to keep records for each rabies vaccination.

What is the difference between a 1-year and 3-year vaccine?

What makes the 1-year and 3-year vaccine different is the number of years the vaccine is licensed for by the company. Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) interprets the animal's vaccination status based on whether a 1-year or 3-year vaccine was given, dates of any previous vaccine(s), and whether the doses were given by a licensed veterinarian.

Does the state recognize a 3-year vaccine for an animal bite or exposure to a rabid animal?

If an animal bite to a human does not fall under city ordinance and the county health department is investigating the bite, then a 3-year vaccine will be recognized if the animal has been vaccinated according to the license and the vaccine was given by a licensed veterinarian.

If an animal was exposed to a laboratory confirmed rabid animal, OSDH does recognize a three year vaccine if the animal was vaccinated according to the license and the vaccine was given by a licensed veterinarian.

Does each county/city recognize the 3-year vaccine for animal bites?

No, not every county or city in Oklahoma will recognize a 3-year vaccine for an animal bite to a human. Check with your local animal control or enforcement agency to ask if a 3-year rabies vaccine is recognized for animal bites. Verify the local rules by requesting a written copy of the ordinance.

Once my animal receives a 3-year vaccine, is it current?

For dogs and cats it depends on if this is the first vaccine the animal has ever received or a rabies booster vaccine. If this is the first vaccine the dog/cat has ever received, then your animal will be considered current a year after that first vaccine. Then they will need a 3-year booster vaccine to be considered current for 3 years.

If your dog/cat has previously received a rabies vaccine, then once it receives a 3-year rabies booster it will immediately be considered current and remain current for 3 years from the date of vaccination.

For other animals refer to vaccination licensing.

What if my animal is one day over due on the rabies vaccine, will the state still recognize the vaccine?

No, because the vaccine is only licensed for the specified period of time for either 1 or 3 years. Even if your animal receives a booster rabies vaccine after the incident (e.g. skunk attack), it will not be considered current.

My local ordinance for an animal bite is different from the state. What ordinance do I have to follow?

Check with your local animal control or enforcement agency about their requirements. If the local ordinance is more strict than the state, then the local ordinance must be followed.

Does the state recognize a rabies vaccine if I vaccinate my own animal?

No. The vaccine must be given by a licensed veterinarian. OSDH can only recognize a vaccination provided by a licensed veterinarian.

A licensed veterinarian is appropriately trained in vaccine storage, handling, administration, and in the management of adverse events. This ensures a qualified and responsible person can be held accountable for properly vaccinating the animal.

Should I keep a copy of my animals vaccine records?

Yes. It is recommended you keep a copy of the last two rabies vaccinations. Vaccine history must be verified by an official record or by the veterinarian to be recognized.

Do I need to vaccinate my livestock?

Yes. The Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control recommends vaccinating horses, livestock with frequent contact to humans, and any valuable livestock. It is recommended to vaccinate species that a licensed vaccine is not available for if these animals come in frequent contact with humans. You will need to speak with your veterinarian about the appropriate vaccine to use for these animals.

Livestock may not show the aggressive form of rabies and you may be exposed to the rabies virus through the saliva of the animal. Protect yourself, your family, your employees, and your investment by vaccinating your livestock. Each year we have livestock in Oklahoma that test positive for rabies.

My animal lives indoors, does it need to be vaccinated for rabies?

It is recommended you have your animal vaccinated for rabies by your veterinarian. "Inside" pets have been exposed to rabies when they've run outside, or by rabid animals that have entered a home (for example: bats).

Since my animal came from a shelter was it vaccinated?

Check with the shelter. Not all shelters vaccinate for rabies or keep records regarding rabies vaccination. Please check with the shelter when you pick up your pet. If there is not an official rabies vaccination record, take your new pet to a licensed veterinarian as soon as possible to have it vaccinated for rabies.

My animal received their "shots" at a young age. Did those "shots" contain the rabies vaccine?

Check with your veterinarian. The animal may have been too young to receive the rabies vaccine during their initial vaccinations. Do not assume that the rabies vaccine was given - be sure you have documentation.



Key Points:

- * **Animals must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian for the rabies vaccine to be recognized by OSDH.**
- * **An animal can be vaccinated at 3 months of age (based on vaccine license).**
- * **Within 28 days after initial vaccination an animal is considered currently immunized.**
- * **OSDH will only recognize the number of years the vaccine is licensed.**
- * **For a 3-year vaccine the animal needs a rabies booster dose 1 year later if this is the first vaccine in their life.**
- * **Check your local city/county for their ordinances about the rabies vaccine.**
- * **Keep your animals up to date on their rabies vaccine.**
- * **Keep rabies vaccination records for the last 2 vaccines provided by your veterinarian.**
- * **If you have expensive animals (such as livestock) protect your investment by vaccinating your animals.**
- * **Save your pets' lives by having them vaccinated and keeping their rabies vaccine up to date!**

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