

# Good Shepherd Veterinary Hospital

101 Fox Trot Dr. Mars, PA 16046  
Tel: (724) 776.PETS Fax: (724) 776.7388  
www.gsveterinaryhospital.com

## **RABIES VACCINATION INFORMATION FORM**

Rabies infection is becoming more prevalent in wildlife populations, exposing humans and pets to this fatal disease. Rabies is transmitted through saliva by bites from infected wild or domestic animals to humans or other animals.

State law requires that your pet be vaccinated for rabies on a regular basis. This vaccination serves not only to prevent the spread of the rabies virus, but it is the primary factor in determining the type of medical treatment a bite victim receives, **and** how State Health Regulators handle your pet after he/she has bitten a human (see below).

For these reasons, it is **essential** that Good Shepherd Veterinary Hospital be able to document the rabies vaccination status of your pet. Acceptable documentation includes a rabies certificate, a valid rabies tag, or a letter/fax/phone call from your veterinarian with the date of expiration of the vaccination. Please provide that following information, so that we can include it as a vital part of your pet's medical record.

Date of rabies vaccination: \_\_\_\_\_ Date rabies vaccination expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(dog license, rabies certificate, letter/fax/phone call from veterinarian)

If you cannot substantiate the rabies vaccination status of your pet, we must consider him/her to be "**unvaccinated**" and the following State Health Regulations might apply:

1. If your pet is "unvaccinated," bites any person or animal, and **shows clinical signs** consistent with rabies, but does not die and is not euthanized, he/she must be strictly quarantined at a veterinary facility approved by a public health officer for ten (10) days, **at your expense**.
2. If your pet is "unvaccinated," bites any person, and **dies or is euthanized** within ten (10) days of the bite, his/her head must be sent to the State Diagnostic Laboratory for rabies testing.

As evident above, the rabies vaccination status of your pet can have serious consequences should a bite incident occur. If you do not have documentation of current vaccination, please provide this information as soon as possible. Alternatively, if your pet has no history of a recent bite wound and shows no symptoms of rabies, you may request that your pet receive a rabies vaccination today, so that he/she is documented to be vaccinated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner/Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pet's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date