

## **HUNGARIAN VETERINARY CHAMBER**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

In consequence of the provisions of **Decree No. 164/2008 (XII. 20.) FVM of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** on the detailed rules of rabies control, **valid since 1 January 2009**, the rules regarding the keeping of dogs and their compulsory vaccination against rabies have partially changed.

Therefore, the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Hungarian Veterinary Chamber wish to facilitate the animal owners' compliance with the relevant rules of law by issuing the following Announcement:

**(1)** In contrast to the earlier regulations, as from 1 January 2009 the owner or custodian of a dog shall **report to the private veterinarian freely chosen by the dog's owner or custodian** and responsible for supervising the health status of the animal, rather than to the competent local authority, the fact that his/her animal has reached the age of three months, has died or gone astray, or has changed owners.

**(2)** The new owner **shall report the fact of having acquired ownership of the dog** to the private veterinarian freely chosen by him/her and responsible for supervising the health status of the animal.

The report must contain the place and time of the most recent rabies vaccination and the name and Hungarian Veterinary Chamber stamp number of the veterinarian performing the vaccination. This notification can also be made by **presenting the dog's vaccination booklet**.

**(3) Having a dog vaccinated against rabies shall remain the obligation of the dog's owner or custodian.**

The owner or custodian of each dog having reached the age of three months must have the animal vaccinated against rabies within 30 days, at his/her own cost, by a private veterinarian, must have the vaccination repeated within 6 months of receiving the first vaccination, and then have the dog vaccinated against rabies **annually**.

**(4) The vaccination of dogs against rabies may be performed by all private veterinarians.**

The private veterinarian performing the vaccination shall certify the administration of the vaccine by signing and stamping, with his/her Hungarian Veterinary Chamber stamp, the animal's vaccination booklet and/or uniform (model) European Pet Passport on the spot.

**(5)** As from 1 January 2009, the Decree makes it compulsory to use, for certifying the vaccination of dogs against rabies, either a passport conforming to the Annex of Commission Decision 2003/803/EC of 26 November 2003 establishing a model passport for the intra-Community movements of dogs, cats and ferrets (**uniform European pet passport**) or a new vaccination booklet of precisely specified content (**Pet Healthcare Booklet**).

The novel-type vaccination booklets bear individual **serial numbers** issued by the Hungarian Veterinary Chamber.

(6) In the year 2009, for certifying vaccination against rabies, issuing a new Pet Healthcare Booklet conforming to the provisions of the Decree shall be compulsory only for those animals which had not received their first vaccination against rabies by 1 January 2009, whose vaccination booklets have been lost or need replacement, or which have possibly changed owners. In all other cases the vaccination booklets issued earlier shall continue to be validly usable throughout the year 2009.

**In 2010 all vaccination booklets failing to conform to the provisions of the Decree must be replaced** at latest at the time when the animal is vaccinated against rabies. **After 1 January 2010**, the performance of vaccination against rabies may be certified only in the **Pet Healthcare Booklet** conforming to the provisions of the Decree or in the **uniform European pet passport**.

(7) Any dog that has not received a (valid) vaccination against rabies prescribed according to its age **shall be considered to be of concern with regard to rabies**. An animal considered to be of concern with regard to rabies shall be drawn under **official observation** for a period of fourteen (14) days and be marked, **at the owner's cost**, with electronic identification transponders (a **microchip** implanted under the skin), unless they already have such means of identification. Simultaneously with the termination of the above observation, **it shall be ordered** that the dog having no valid rabies vaccination **be vaccinated against rabies**. A **fine** may be imposed on the animal's owner or custodian for failing to meet the obligation to have their animal vaccinated.

(8) The owner or custodian of the animal shall **keep** the vaccination booklet and, on request, present it to the veterinary authority checking the performance of vaccination against rabies. If the ownership of an animal is changed, the vaccination booklet must be **transferred** to the animal's new owner. In addition, the animal's owner or custodian shall ensure that **persons in charge of supervising the dog in public areas shall have the vaccination booklet on themselves** to prove the validity of the dog's vaccination.

Budapest, 5 January 2009

Chief Veterinary Officer

Hungarian Veterinary Chamber