



## EXEMPTION FROM CANINE RABIES VACCINATION

Submit to: 3281 E Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or [licensing@petsinneed.org](mailto:licensing@petsinneed.org)

This completed form, signed and approved by the local licensing officer in the county or city in which the dog resides, may be submitted in lieu of proof of rabies vaccination for the purposes of securing a license for the indicated dog, as required by California law (H&S Code 121690, and CCR Title 17 Section 2606.4) Completed forms are sent annually to the California Department of Public Health, Veterinary Public Health Section.

### OWNER/PET INFORMATION

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pet Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Microchip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Female  Male  Altered Age: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I am the owner of the pet indicated above. If this exemption request is approved by the local licensing officer, I understand that the pet:

- Will not receive the anti-rabies vaccine and will be at risk for contracting rabies;
- Will be considered unvaccinated and subject to disposition as outlined in the California Code of Regulations Title 17, §2606, including isolation and/or euthanasia, if it bites a person or has contact with a known or suspected rabid animal;
- May be licensed for a period up to one year, at which time the pet must be vaccinated against rabies or a request for vaccination exemption must be re-submitted to and approved by the local health officer;
- Must be confined to the premises indicated above and, when off premises, on a leash not exceeding six feet in length and under the direct physical control of a responsible adult;
- Shall have no contact with any dog or cat that is not currently vaccinated against rabies. I understand the consequences and accept all liability associated with owning a pet that has not received the anti-rabies vaccine. I hereby request an exemption from rabies vaccination for the pet indicated above. If an exemption is granted, I understand I will continue to pay the pet's licensing fee.

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### VETERINARIAN INFORMATION

Rabies vaccination exemptions will only be approved for serious medical conditions. Examples include serious immune mediated disease (IMHA), immune-suppressive therapy (cancer treatment), or previously documented serious adverse reactions to a rabies vaccination. Old age, minor reactions to the rabies vaccination, reactions to non-rabies vaccinations and positive rabies titers are not conditions that warrant an exemption.

#### Send the following documents to Pets In Need Palo Alto:

1. This 2-page form, completed.
2. Medical records relevant to exemption request (diagnosed health condition). no more than 5 pages MAXIMUM.

Complete the above information and mail to: **3281 E Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto, CA 9430**. If using a credit card, you can email this application to: [licensing@petsinneed.org](mailto:licensing@petsinneed.org). Please note: overpayments will be neither returned nor credited.

Requests not accompanied by all required documentation (see above) will not be processed. If approved, exemptions are valid for one year only. If the animal is unable to be immunized the following year, a new exemption request must be submitted.

Vet Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clinic Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Date last examined by vet (within past year): \_\_\_\_\_

Documented health condition and date diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veterinarian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ CA License No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### STAFF USE ONLY

Approved Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ License #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Denied Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

## FAQ

### **For how long are approved exemptions valid? How much does it cost?**

Exemptions are valid for a maximum of one (1) year. If the animal's condition persistently precludes rabies immunization, a new request must be submitted annually. The license fee is \$40 for unaltered animals and \$20 for altered animals.

### **Why do I need to fill out this form and submit a copy of the pet's medical records?**

This form is required to apply for exemption from the rabies vaccination. It will be returned to the California Department of Public Health, Veterinary Public Health Section for statewide tracking of exempted animals. The form establishes an official request specifically to Pets In Need Palo Alto, and allows for internal tracking. Our goal is to make every effort to protect public health.

### **Which medical conditions are accepted for approval of exemption?**

A list of diseases/conditions has not been defined for this process. However, veterinarians advocating for clients and protecting the public should use professional judgment when assessing the risk of rabies vaccination to that of a pet's health status. Examples of serious medical conditions that may warrant exemption include, but are not limited to, immune-mediated diseases (e.g., IMHA), immunosuppressive therapy (cancer treatment), and severe adverse reactions to rabies vaccination. Minor reactions to rabies vaccination, reactions to non-rabies vaccinations and positive rabies titers are not conditions that warrant an exemption.

### **What is the process for applying for an exemption?**

Exemption requests must be completed by the pet's veterinarian. All requests must be submitted to: Pets In Need Palo Alto, 3281 E. Bayshore Rd. Palo Alto CA 94303 or [rmeisels@petsinneed.org](mailto:rmeisels@petsinneed.org). Pets In Need Palo Alto tracks the exemption requests and notifies the owner of granted exemptions, denied exemptions or incomplete requests. Licensing fees must still be paid on time regardless of exemption status.

### **What happens if the exempted pet is exposed to a rabid (or untested, potentially rabid) wild animal such as a bat, skunk, fox, raccoon, coyote, or opossum?**

A rabies vaccination exemption may be used only for the purposes of obtaining a license for the indicated pet. The unvaccinated pet will be subjected to the same dispositions as other unvaccinated pets as outlined in the California Code of Regulations. For example, vaccinated pets exposed to rabid or potentially rabid animals (i.e., most wildlife, rabies reservoirs) are quarantined for 30 days, while unvaccinated pets would be subject to six (6) months quarantine and/or euthanasia.

### **What restrictions are imposed on the pet for not being rabies-vaccinated?**

The pet must be confined to the premises indicated on the forms, or else on a six-foot (6') leash and under the direct physical control of a responsible adult. Additionally, the pet cannot have contact with any animal that is not current with rabies vaccination