

VERMONT TECH

Manual of Policy and Procedures

<i>Title:</i> Human Rabies Prophylaxis for Veterinary Technology Students	<i>Number:</i> T 111	<i>Page(s):</i> 2
	<i>Date:</i> July 22, 2009	

PURPOSE

Veterinary Technology students are considered to be in the "frequent" risk category for exposure to rabies according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC recommends that people in the "frequent" category have a primary pre-exposure rabies immunization course.

The primary pre-exposure immunization course consists currently of three 1 ml. injections of Rabies Vaccine **RabAvert**, pre exposure, to be administered intramuscularly in the deltoid area on day 0, day7, and either day 21 or day 28. There are no specific contraindications to the vaccine other than situations of developing febrile illness, etc. Pregnant women should only receive the vaccine if it is clearly needed.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Vermont Technical College wants to assure that all of its Veterinary Technology students are aware that they are considered to be in the "frequent" risk category for exposure to rabies and that there is a primary pre-exposure immunization program. The College recognizes that the decision to be vaccinated is the individual student's choice. Individual students in the program will be given appropriate information about the vaccination and will notify the College of their decision to receive or not to receive the vaccination.

If a Veterinary Technology student chooses not to receive the vaccine, the student will be required to sign a release stating that the student is aware of the possibility of being exposed to rabies, but that the student does not wish to receive pre-exposure immunization. The College will assist students who elect to be vaccinated by arranging with physicians at the local hospital for the administration of the vaccine. **Students will make arrangements with the business office to be billed if administered on campus.**

PROCEDURES

1. The College will notify all Veterinary Technology students of:

- A. the risk of contracting rabies
- B. the College policy on rabies prophylaxis
- C. the advantages and risks of vaccination

2. A form to be completed by each Veterinary Technology student will be sent to accepted students as part of the notification process. Forms are to be completed and returned prior to initial registration at the College. The form will contain:

- A. an election to receive or not receive the vaccination,
- B. a statement for those electing to receive immunization agreeing to attend a special information session on the vaccine,
- C. a statement for those electing not to be immunized indicating that the student is aware of the possibility of being exposed to rabies and indicating that the student does not wish to receive pre-exposure immunization.

3. Students who choose to be vaccinated will attend a special information session on the vaccine.

4. Students will pay the medical community directly for services or the business office if administered on campus.

POLICY MODIFICATION HISTORY

I. The following dates reflect chronological changes made to this policy which are henceforth considered depreciated.

- a) August 1989
- b) 6/16/2005
- c) 7/22/2009

Signed By:  Patricia Moulton President
