

**New Jersey Department of Health  
CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM RABIES VACCINATION**

Name of Owner (Print)		Telephone Number	
Street Address		City, State, Zip	
Animal Name		Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Neutered <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Species		Age	Weight
Breed		Color(s)	
<p>The animal described above has been examined by me on: _____ and I have determined that it would be medically contraindicated to vaccinate this animal due to an infirmity, other physical condition, or regimen of therapy.</p> <p>Describe nature and duration of infirmity, other physical condition, or regimen of therapy:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: A reluctance to administer a rabies vaccine prior to the expiration of the previous vaccination will not be accepted as a valid reason for an exemption. Early boosting has not been associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions and is not medically contraindicated.</p>			
Name of Veterinarian (Print)		License Number	
Address			
Signature of Veterinarian		Date	
<p><b>This certificate is valid until _____ (not to exceed one year from date of last examination).</b></p>			
<p>By signing below, I acknowledge that I am the owner of the animal described above. I have been informed that this animal is exempt from rabies vaccination for a period of up to one year. I have also been informed of the following important information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This animal must be re-examined by the expiration date listed above. At that time the animal must either be vaccinated against rabies or, if exemption status still applies, a new certificate must be issued.</li> <li>• Once the duration of immunity from the last rabies vaccination has lapsed, this animal is not protected against rabies and, as a result, is at increased risk of becoming infected if exposed to a rabid animal.</li> <li>• It is recommended that the animal be closely observed when outside, walked on a leash and not allowed to run at large. Prevent the animal from coming into contact with suspect rabid animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, groundhogs, bats and free-roaming cats.</li> <li>• Exemption from rabies vaccination does not exempt the animal from other laws related to rabies. If this animal is potentially exposed to rabies (e.g., due to a bite or exposure from a rabid or suspect rabid animal), the local health agency will require it to be euthanized or quarantined for six months. If this animal potentially exposes a person to rabies (by bite or other means), it must be confined for 10 days as approved by the local health agency where the animal resides.</li> </ul>			
Signature of Owner		Date Signed	

A copy of this certificate must be provided to the owner of the animal listed above and kept as proof of exemption.  
**For dogs, this certificate must be presented with an application for a dog license.**

### **Rabies Vaccination Requirement for Licensure**

The NJDOH recommends revaccination of dogs and cats prior to expiration of the previous vaccination. Some animals may need to be revaccinated before the duration of immunity expires in order to qualify for licensure. Administering a rabies vaccine before the duration of immunity of a previous vaccination has expired is not associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions in dogs. A guidance document addressing this topic is posted on the NJDOH website:

[http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/izdp/documents/duration\\_rabies\\_vaccine.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/izdp/documents/duration_rabies_vaccine.pdf).

### **Exemption of Vaccination by Veterinarians**

Municipal dog licensing officials shall grant an exemption to the rabies inoculation requirement for any dog that a licensed veterinarian certifies in writing to be incapable of being inoculated because of an infirmity, other physical condition, or regimen of therapy (N.J.A.C. 8:23A-4.3). The NJDOH recommends revaccination of dogs and cats prior to expiration of the previous vaccination to ensure an overlap of immunity. Revaccinating animals prior to the expiration of the duration of immunity has not been associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions and is not a valid reason to exempt a dog from vaccination.

Veterinarians can exempt a dog from rabies vaccination because of an infirmity, other physical condition, or regimen of therapy. The VPH-28 form shall be used to exempt the animal and it is available on the NJDOH website: <http://nj.gov/health/forms/vph-28.pdf>.