

Diana Bump
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I want to thank you for this opportunity to address HB 5659.

I support HB 5659 because I agree that veterinarians, experts in the medical treatment of animals, should be given the discretion to vary rabies vaccine dosages based on the size of the animal. A five pound chihuahua and a one hundred pound Newfoundland do not require the same amount of the rabies vaccine, and in fact if a small animal is given too much of a vaccine it will likely die, just like with an overdose of any other pharmaceutical product.

In my experience, I had a cat that had a severe reaction to the vaccines he was given at the veterinarian's office. He began vomiting, wheezing, and shaking after the administration of the vaccines. He was given epinephrine and oxygen to remedy the reaction. My cat was lethargic and sickly for almost a week following this incident. This experience alone provides me with the understanding that vaccines do in fact have adverse effects that can be potentially deadly depending on the circumstances.

If a rabies antibody titer can prove an animal's immunity to rabies is sufficient, then there should be no need for a rabies vaccine. The vaccine is intended to provide immunity, and if the animal is already immune, then vaccinating would be pointless. This would help protect animals from unnecessary exposure to adjuvants and toxins within the vaccine that can be harmful to an animal's body.

I urge the committee to SUPPORT HB 5659.

Thank you,

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