 **05hr_ab0527_AC-Ag_pt01**



Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Agriculture (AC-Ag)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Vote Record Committee on Agriculture

Date: 10/27/05

Moved by: Williams

Seconded by: Loeffelholz

AB 527 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative J.A. Hines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Debra Towns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Amy Sue Vruwink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Robert Ziegelbauer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Christine Sinicki	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joseph Parisi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



Napralla, Erin

From: Joy Brand [jbrand@greatlakesrubber.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2005 9:51 AM
To: Rep.Ott; Rep.Nerison; Rep.Ainsworth; Rep.Petrowski; Rep.Suder; Rep.WilliamsM; Rep.Loeffelholz; Rep.Towns; Rep.Gronemus; Rep.Vruwink; Ziegelbauer, Bob; Rep.Sinicki; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Parisi
Cc: joyttt@verizon.net
Subject: LRB 2976/1 AB-527 Requirement that dogs be vaccinated against rabies

Good Morning

I understand that the Agriculture Committee will be taking up AB-527 as it pertains to the requirement that dogs be vaccinated against rabies.

Rep. Strachota has introduced this legislation on behalf of myself and other dog owners throughout the state of Wisconsin.

This became an issue when my cocker spaniel (Twink'e) on January 29, 2005 had her rabies vaccination. Within 2 days of receiving her vaccination she developed cataracts in both eyes. She did not have a reaction to the rabies, but an allergic reaction to the components of the vaccine itself. Twink'e has a history of allergic reactions and they get worse with each year. It has been recommended by several vets that she not be vaccinated again. However, in the municipality where I live they have adopted state law and state law doesn't have an exemption to spare my cocker another vaccination in 3 years. If she is not vaccinated and licensed she will be fined by our municipality.

In some cities, throughout the state, they have local ordinances that allow exemptions. They however, are for the most part larger cities and have not adopted state statutes where the requirement of rabies is concerned.

We all realize the seriousness of this request. However, studies show that once a dog is vaccinated against rabies (even once) there has not been a confirmed case of rabies in those animals. We are lucky to have Dr. Ronald Schultz, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison here in the state of Wisconsin and I have been in contact with him as well in regard to what has happened to my cocker. He too recommends that she not be vaccinated again based on her history. The vaccine manufacturers also recommend that only HEALTHY animals be given the vaccine, but with a mandatory requirement the state is dictating that unhealthy dogs be vaccinated against the manufacturers recommendations, thus causing these animals to experience adverse reactions.

In order to protect the public health and the health and welfare of the pets in the state of Wisconsin we need to allow our veterinarians to determine whether it is in the best interests of our unhealthy pets whether to vaccinate them for rabies.

There are many owners that because of the mandatory requirement have been hiding their animals, not licensing them and this is not something we should encourage. There are veterinarians indicating that because of the mandatory requirement you advise your community

that your dog is deceased. They aren't doing it to snub the law, they are doing it to protect unhealthy pets from being vaccinated. If you pass this bill you will bring these animals out of hiding, communities should see an increase in the number of animals licensed. This is good for everyone.

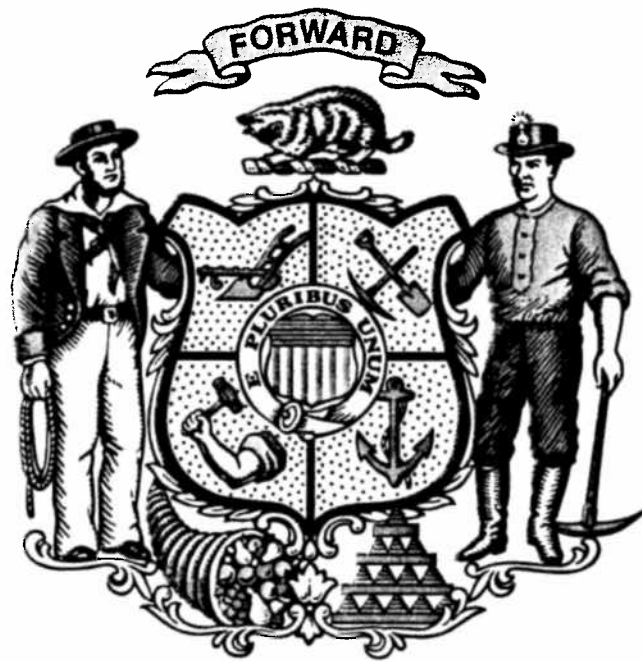
We have worked hard with the wording of this bill to protect our dogs health while protecting the public health.

I ask that you support and recommend passage of this bill as expeditiously as possible to protect pets from the mandatory requirement of rabies for unhealthy pets.

If you would like research or additional information in regard to this request I would be happy to assist.

Joy Brand
498 Glacier Pass
Slinger, WI 53086
(414) 254-9057





Napralla, Erin

From: Lois-Ann Snyder [lasaluki@execpc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2005 11:05 PM
To: Rep.Ott; Rep.Nerison; Rep.Ainsworth; Rep.Petrowski; Rep.Suder; Rep.WilliamsM;
Rep.Loeffelholz; Rep.Towns; Rep.Gronemus; Rep.Vruwink; Ziegelbauer, Bob; Rep.Sinicki;
Rep.Molepske; Rep.Parisi
Subject: bill # is AB-527 regarding the exemption of dogs from Rabies vaccination

Dear sir,

I would urge you to oppose this bill. The public health risk of allowing dogs to be unvaccinated against this fatal disease is too great and the bill make no provision for following up on an unhealthy dog to insure that they are vaccinated at later date. Additionally, there is only anecdotal evidence that vaccinating even an ostensibly unhealthy dog will further endanger that dog's health. The vaccines are safe, inexpensive and reliable. The issue of human health should always take precedence when enacting legislation.

Thank-you,

Lois-Ann Snyder
N1203 Coolidge Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
920-474-4765
lasaluki@execpc.com



animal doctor

S74 W17045 Janesville Rd
Muskego, WI 53150
(414) 422-1300
Fax (414) 422-1977

AB527?

7-30-05

Representative Ott:

Please find attached signatures supporting your Vaccination Exemption Bill. Let us know if it would be helpful for us to continue this. We are a holistic veterinary clinic. Thanks you for your efforts in this regard. Let us know if we can help in any other way.

Cordially,

Dr. Jodie Gruenstern

Dr Jodie Gruenstern DVM

animal doctor 

S74 W17045 Janesville Rd
Muskego, WI 53150
(414) 422-1300
Fax (414) 422-1977

Please sign our petition to support the Rabies
Vaccination Exemption Bill.

This bill will allow a dog to be licensed without
a rabies vaccine, if a veterinarian advises against
vaccinating the pet due to health concerns.

This is a great step forward for proper pet health
care!

Dr. Jodie

	A	B	C	D
1		NAME		ADDRESS
2	1.	Tom Much		924 E Michigan Oak Creek, WI 53157
3	2.	Kate Frise		884 W 245th Pheasant Hill Rd Mukwonago WI 53150
4	3.	Carole Hooser		57420 Charlotte Ct Mukwonago WI 53150
5	4.	Cheryl FRIES		W195 S1229 LAKE DR. Mukwonago WI 53150
6	5.	Lynn A. Froemming		5545 S. 104th St. Hales Corners WI 53130
7	6.	Richard (MUSK))		720 Indian Grass Plummett WI 53073
8	7.	Cathy Fritzen		W1105 N10744 Wagon Trail Germantown WI 536
9	8.	Colleen Hoffman		4685 So. 113th St. Greenfield, WI 53228
10	9.	Michelle Peterson		W192 S7377 Bay Shore Dr Mukwonago WI 53150
11	10.	Judith (Graham)		12011 W. Steven Pl, Franklin WI 53132
12	11.	Michael Adamczyk		W172 S7391 Panner Dr
13	12.	Robert Kain		11658 S6575 Chippawt Dr Wauwatosa WI 53189
14	13.	Melinda M. Bunn		5374 S. Ballan Dr New Berlin WI 53151
15	14.	Carol Vasek		W. 1775. 1391 Lemun Dr. Mukwonago, WI 53150
16	15.	David Beinhardt		W133 S8091 Northview Dr. Mukwonago, WI 53150
17	16.	Diane Johnson		W3147 Hwy G Cedar Grove WI 53013
18	17.	Janet G. Mondy		W151 S7662 Mystic Dr. Mukwonago WI 53150
19	18.	Kim Malick		W170 S7032 Southern Dr Mukwonago, WI 53150
20	19.	Allison M. Reeves		W247 S837 Stonehill Dr Mukwonago WI 53150
21	20.	Lorie Frey		16405 W Melody Dr New Berlin WI 53150
22	21.	Glenn KANN		586 W11898 SOS/ MARIS UNIT 103 Mukwonago WI 53150
23	22.	Charles Peters		W201 N10924 Wilshire Dr. Jackson WI 53037
24	23.	Judith Sista		20005 W. LANNSDALE NEW BERLIN WI 53146
25	24.	Kenny F. HARRIS		5025 W. College #85 Greendale WI 53129
26	25.	Erin Peterson		5025 W. College Ave #85 Greendale WI 53129
27	26.	Carol Hemstead		581 W18051 Rose Dr. Fox Mukwonago WI 53150
28	27.	Jude Sista		W207 S10525 Jennifer Dr Mukwonago
29	28.	Debra Siska		3095 S. Oakham New Berlin WI 53151
30	29.	Debra Hoelzer		574 W16197 Vine St Mukwonago WI 53150
31	30.	Mary Beth Pfaller		5004 W. COLONIAL CT. GREENFIELD, WI 53220
32	31.	Jeff Koverda		572 W12955 Tess Corners Dr. Mukwonago WI 53150
33	32.	Steve Carroll		570 W17476 Forest Dr Mukwonago WI 53150
34	33.	George D. Chmura		W184 S8596 Douglas Dr Mukwonago WI 53150
35	34.	Jim Jesman		3937 Rivers (Kossing) Dr WAUKESHA WI 53189
36	35.	Emily ASKEW		126 S. Grand Ave, WAUKESHA WI 53186
37	36.	Nedie Nuck		N76 W15290 countryside DR
38	37.	Diane Nuck		N76 W15290 countryside DR. Marfa WI 53051
39	38.	Carl Warner		W1100 S7240 Daisy Dr, Mukwonago WI 53150
40	39.	Shirley Heine		8411 S. 70th Street Franklin, WI 53132
41	40.	Deborah Fowler		5116 W. Wells St. Milwaukee WI 53208
42	41.	Ann Kehlhaert		4570 S. Mary Lane New Berlin, WI 53151
43	42.	JUDY AMROZE		566 W25230 SKYLINE WAUKESHA, WI 53189
44	43.	JEFF AMROZE		566 W25230 SKYLINE WAUKESHA, WI 53189
45	44.	Faith Cober		583 W17323 Woods Rd Mukwonago, WI 53150
46	45.	Deborah Wene		W146 S7003 Catalina Pk. Mukwonago, WI 53150
47	46.	ROBERT LEH		W183 S7884 KELLY DR MUSKONAGO, WI 53150

49	48.	DEBORAH LECH	11243 SUDR5 UTA DR. BIG BEND WI 53103
50	49.	KRISTIN LECH	1183 ST884 KELLY DR. MUSKEGO WI 53150
51	50.	Sue Manthay	1139 S6605 Sherwood Cir. Muskego WI 53150
52	51.	Robert Detthuff	5711 W19735 SHIMMICK DR. " "
53	52.	Stephen Bittner	15200 W. BURLINGHAM RD BROOKFIELD WI 53012
54	53.	Vicki H. H.	574 W17761 Canfield Ct Muskego WI 53150
55	54.	Gene Schlomann	5106 W16902 muskego DAN DR Muskego
56	55.	Martha S Ryback	W147 S6690 Woodland Pl Muskego WI 53158
57	56.	Dana Barbisio	5105 W1579 LORRAINE DR muskego WI 53150
58	57.	JIM BAVOCCO	" " "
59	58.	Manilyn Heikkinen	w-170 S-7280 Meadow - 53150
60	59.	Jacqueline F Dooly	13650 W Paddock View New Berlin 53151
61	60.	Kate E Bittner	W243 N2312 Saddle Brook Dr Pewaukee 53072
62	61.	Lauren Jotetz	5320 S. 51 st Str. Greenfield WI 53220
63	62.	R. Stepan	W-161 S-7496 ERIN CT MUSKEGO WI 53150
64	63.	John W	1723 THOMAS DR EAST TOWN, WIS 5312
65	64.	Julia Crawford	2949 So 45 th Milwaukee WI 53219
66	65.	Jelly S	3023 S. 105 th PL MILW WI 53219
67	66.	Muriel Muesening	W193 S9394 Kichdorf Dr Muskego WI 53150
68	67.	Dwight Dorman	574 W14941 Woods Rd, Muskego WI 53158
69	68.	Tracy Roessler	563 W16335 College " 53150
70	69.	Edna Mack	3401 W. LAYTON AVE GREENFIELD, 53221
71	70.	CLIFF HALE	1907 S. 9 th ST WESTALLIS 53227
72	71.	TERI HALE	" "
73	72.	Nancy Brown	865 E Briar Ridge Dr Brookfield 53005
74	73.	Bob Brown	" " " "
75	74.	Patricia Beres	579 W20484 Tyler Dr. Muskego WI 53150
76	75.	Rosemary Heinz	4657 S. 114 th St. Greenfield 53228
77	76.	Marie Ashbaugh	567 W20949 Tans Dr Muskego WI 53158
78	77.	Bob Dole	567 W17422 ROSSMAN DR MUSKEGO WIS 53150
79	78.	Arda Schellen	W125 S9155 Skylack Ln Muskego
80	79.	Mina Nick	3957 W Kimberly Ave Greenfield WI 53221
81	80.	Kim O'Connell	3338 W Kimberly Ave Greenfield WI 53221
82	81.	Jean Vella	7101 W VOJEL AVE GREENFIELD WI 53220
83	82.	Donna Vella	7101 W VOJEL AVE GREENFIELD WI 53220
84	83.	John Vella	3700 N 9 th St Milwaukee 53222
85	84.	Dr. Vodie Gruenstein	2000 S W. Lounsdale Rd New Berlin 53146
86	85.	Ingrid Salgado	W183 S8449 Racine Ave Muskego 53150
87	86.	Janette Salgado	1723 Thomas Drive East Troy 53120
88	87.	Ronald Salgado	W183 S8449 Racine Ave Muskego 53150
89	88.		
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Assembly Agriculture Committee
October 13, 2005
Assembly Bill 527
Rabies Vaccination Exemption for Dogs

Sara Buschman – Rep. Strachota’s Office (In Favor)

- Offered on behalf of a constituent.
- Other states such as Main, Oregon, New Jersey and Florida have similar laws in place.

Hines – Concerned with the potential for litigation against vets if they vaccinate a seemingly healthy dog. May want an amendment to address this issue.

- WI Veterinary Medical Association has reviewed the bill, supports the bill, and doesn’t seem to share this concern.
- Would be willing to consider any language he may want to offer.

Dr. Yvonne Bellay – DATCP (In Favor)

- If a dog that would fall under this exemption bites a person, they would be treated like any other dog in this situation.
- On the issue of litigation, it is important to remember that a vet must justify their decision either way. Other states have not had problems in this regard. This bill could potentially limit liability for vets.

Dr. Ronald Schultz – UW School of Veterinary Medicine (In Favor)

- It takes at least 2 doses of vaccine to build immunity to rabies. Because adverse reactions generally don’t appear until after the 2nd dose of vaccine, most of the animals under this exemption would likely not be a risk for spreading rabies.
- No animal, to date, with at least 2 doses have gotten rabies.





State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

Hearing Testimony
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
October 13, 2005
417 North
State Capital

Chairman Ott and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of AB 527.

I am Dr. Yvonne Bellay, the State Humane Officer and a staff epidemiologist with DATCP. One of my responsibilities is the department's rabies program. As the rabies epidemiologist, I respond to literally hundreds of calls and inquiries regarding rabies and the rabies control program. Each year I conduct a popular full day seminar on rabies for health departments, law enforcement agencies, humane officers and others who may deal with rabies questions and problems in their jobs. I also give numerous presentations on rabies to veterinarians and vet students, veterinary technicians and students, health departments and other interested groups as well as write informational articles for a variety of newsletters. I believe that it would be difficult to find another person in this state who works harder to get animals vaccinated for rabies and to educate people about rabies.

One question that comes up with some regularity from veterinarians, pet owners, and licensing officials is what to do in situations where the veterinarian determines that it would be contraindicated to administer a rabies vaccine to a dog. This question is not addressed in current statutory language. Wisconsin statute s.95.21(2)(a) states that the owner of a dog shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian at no later than 5 months of age and revaccinated within one year after the initial vaccination. The only exemption to this requirement is for dogs used for educational or scientific purposes.

Generally, in these situations the veterinarian is asked to give the dog owner a letter stating the medical reasons why the veterinarian believes the dog should not be vaccinated. The dog owner then presents the letter to the local licensing official. In effect, the letter is requesting that the owner not be cited for failing to vaccinate their dog, and that the dog be licensed. Because rabies vaccination requirements and licensing are locally enforced, it is the local treasurer's decision whether or not to accept the letter. Because this situation is not addressed in statute, local officials are frequently at a loss to know how to handle it.

Under these circumstances, the dog owner is informed that the dog will be treated like any other unvaccinated dog if it should bite a person or itself be exposed to rabies. In these situations the quarantine requirements are much stricter than if the dog is current on its vaccination.

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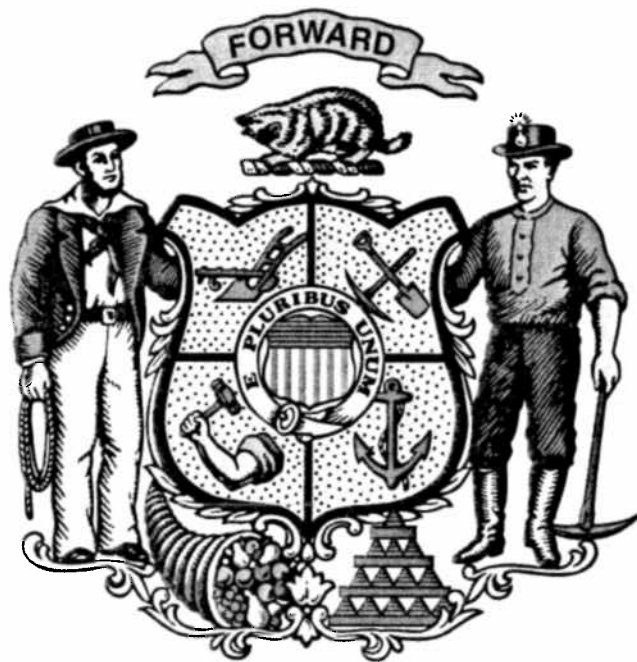
Although rabies vaccine is generally considered a safe and effective vaccine, as with all vaccines there is always a potential for adverse reactions. These reactions range from local reactions of pain, tenderness or lameness to life threatening systemic anaphylaxis. There is also a problem of animals with depressed immune systems, either from disease or cancer treatment that can not mount an adequate response to the vaccine. Although many practitioners have experienced situations where this has happened, there are no reliable statistics to quantify the problem. According the Centers for Disease Control, no controlled epidemiological studies have ever been conducted that would provide such information. I personally have had the frightening experience of vaccinating a dog that I had never seen before and had no history on that within minutes of receiving a rabies vaccination collapsed and nearly died. Had I known that the dog had a history of problems with vaccines in the past, I would never have vaccinated it.

AB 527 does not discourage vaccination. Those individuals who are seeking the exemption are most likely conscientious, responsible pet owners who want to follow the law. Without the exemption, pet owners who are concerned about the health of their animals as well as veterinarians who determine that it may be harmful to vaccinate an animal often just don't vaccinate and don't apply for dog licenses. Often there is little concern about licensing the dog, because in reality, dog licensing requirements are poorly enforced around the state and most individuals don't face consequences.

The language in AB 527 does not endanger public health. The language in the bill is specific and limits the use of the exemption. Specifically, it requires that a veterinarian make the determination that vaccinating a dog is contraindicated for medical reasons. The veterinarian is responsible for justifying this decision. However, no veterinarian is required to write a letter for any owner, especially if the veterinarian does not believe an exemption is justified. In addition, a letter must be provided yearly. Consequently, if the medical problem is resolved, no further exemption is needed. If the problem is deemed to be life-long, then the owner must seek, and the veterinarian must be willing to provide, the letter of justification yearly. The risk of abuse is addressed by the fact that veterinarians must protect their license to practice and their actions are accountable to the Veterinary Examining Board. Also, and importantly, if the unvaccinated dog should bite a person or itself be exposed to rabies, it is treated as an unvaccinated animal as is required for any unvaccinated animal by law currently.

If passed, this exemption would not be unique in the states. Other states including, Florida, New York, Maine, New Jersey and Massachusetts already have such exemptions. I recently spoke to the public health veterinarian with the Maine Department of Public Health about the exemption to get an opinion on how the provision was working. The language in the Maine law is very similar to that in AB 527. I was told that there were no problems or abuses with the law and no objections to its use.

In summary, DATCP supports passage of AB 527 because it will address circumstances that are not currently addressed in statute and help clarify procedures that are now in limbo. It will provide veterinarians, dog owners and local licensing officials with clear procedures to follow on a case-by-case basis.



Assembly Republican Majority

Bill Summary

Contact: Erin Ruby, Office of Rep. Al Ott

AB 527: Medical Exemption for Rabies Vaccination

Relating to: the requirement that dogs be vaccinated against rabies.

By Representatives Strachota, Pridemore, Loeffelholz, Jeskewitz, Albers and Kerkman; cosponsored by Senator Grothman.

Date: November 8, 2005

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the owner of a dog is required to have the dog vaccinated against rabies. The owner of a dog must obtain a dog license annually from the city, village, or town in which the dog is kept and must provide proof of rabies vaccination in order to obtain a dog license. Municipalities can, however, enact local ordinances to allow for exemptions to this requirement.

SUMMARY OF AB 527

Assembly Bill 527 authorizes a city, village, or town – without enacting a separate local ordinance – to exempt the owner of a dog from the requirement to have the dog vaccinated against rabies if the owner provides a letter from a veterinarian stating that vaccination is inadvisable for reasons related to the dog's health. The owner may obtain a dog license for a dog that is exempt from the vaccination requirement, but the owner must provide a new letter for each year that the owner seeks an exemption.

Under the bill, exempted dogs would be treated as an unvaccinated animal and subject to the current statutory quarantine requirements in an isolation facility if they come in contact with rabies or bite a person. Should isolation be necessary, the bill also clarifies that the owner can choose their veterinarian's office – rather than a local shelter – as an isolation facility. The bill does not, however, mandate that veterinarians must accept unvaccinated dogs for quarantine.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal estimate was not required for Assembly Bill 527.

PROS

1. AB 527 will help ensure dogs that are too sick to be vaccinated for rabies will still be licensed as required by law. Dog owners, with the approval of the veterinarian, will be able to legally license their dogs without putting them at risk for an adverse reaction to the vaccination.
2. The bill provides veterinarians, dog owners and local licensing officials with clear procedures to follow if a vaccination is inadvisable given the animal's health. Similar exemptions are in place in Florida, New York, Maine, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.
3. AB 527 will not endanger public health. The use of the vaccination exemption is strictly limited. Veterinarians are highly unlikely to abuse the exemption as their actions – and their license to practice – are accountable to the Veterinary Examining Board. Further, it takes two doses of vaccine to build

immunity to rabies. Because adverse reactions generally do not appear until after the second dose of vaccine, most of the dogs under this exemption would not likely be a risk for spreading rabies.

CONS

None apparent.

SUPPORTERS

Rep. Pat Strachota, author; Sen. Glenn Grothman, lead co-sponsor; Joy Brand; Dr. Yvonne Bellay, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection; Dr. Ronald Schultz, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine; Clyde Surlis; Kelly McDowell, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association; Kelly Wichmon, Dog Federation of Wisconsin.

OPPOSITION

No one testified or registered in opposition to Assembly Bill 527.

HISTORY

Assembly Bill 527 was introduced on June 28, 2005, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. A public hearing was held on October 13, 2005. On October 27, 2005, the Committee voted 14-0-1 [Rep. Sinicki was absent] to recommend passage of AB 527.





Date?

PAT STRACHOTA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Testimony by Representative Pat Strachota in support of Assembly Bill 527
*Rabies Vaccination exemption for dogs***

Thank you Chairman Ott for holding this hearing today on Assembly Bill 527.

This bill was drafted after my constituent, Joy Brand, who I have here testifying with me today, approached me with a concern she had with a reaction her dog had to the rabies vaccine.

Currently, according to state statute in order to be licensed dogs must have proof of a rabies vaccination. In certain circumstances due to age or illness it may not be medically advisable for dogs to receive the vaccination. However, currently this statute does not allow for the any exemptions

Municipalities can enact local ordinances to allow for exemptions but if you are a local municipality that adopts state law such as the municipality Joy lives in, your only option is a change in the statutes.

This bill is a simple bill that is based on language from several other states and local municipalities. We worked with both DATCP and the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association to ensure that any concerns they may have were addressed so in actuality the language of AB 527 is stronger than most of the other states and local ordinances.

AB 527 would give dog owners the ability to submit a letter from their veterinarian to their local municipality indicating they do not advise the dog to receive a rabies vaccination and allow the municipality the option of licensing the dog without the vaccination. The owner is also required to annually resubmit a letter from their veterinarian to continue to receive the exemption.

Under the bill, exempted dogs would be treated as an unvaccinated dog and subject to the current statutory quarantine requirements in an isolation facility if they came in contact with rabies or bit someone.

The bill also makes clear that the owner can choose their veterinarian's office (at their expense) as the isolation facility rather than a local shelter as the current statute does not clearly state that an isolation facility can be a vet's office. Because an exempted dog may have special medical and dietary needs it is important to clearly allow the owner this choice. Please note, this bill does not mandate that veterinarians must accept unvaccinated dogs for quarantine, it merely allows the owner to choose that option if their vet is willing.

In addition to being supported by the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, this bill is supported by the ASPCA, WI Dog Federation and the United States Humane Society.

Thank you again, Chairman Ott for the opportunity to come before the committee today.



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Wisconsin: Support AB 527 to Help Safeguard Dogs' Health

Bill Number [AB 527](#)

Primary Sponsor Rep. Pat Strachota

ASPCA Position Support

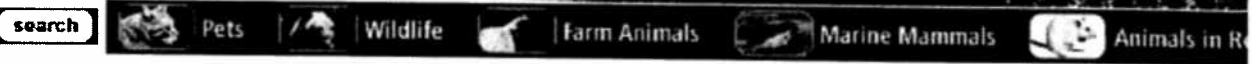
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AB 527, introduced by Representative Pat Strachota, would authorize cities, villages and towns to waive the state law requirement of a rabies inoculation for those dogs whose veterinarians determine that vaccination is inadvisable due to medical reasons. To obtain a dog license, owners of such dogs would be required to submit the veterinarian statement in lieu of proof of rabies vaccination.

Licensed veterinarians are the medical experts qualified to determine when there are medical reasons for canine patients to forego rabies inoculations. AB 527 merely permits veterinarians to perform this important function. It will also help ensure that dogs that are too sick or old to be vaccinated, are still licensed as required by law.

[Click here to send a letter to your state representative asking them to support this humane bill.](#)

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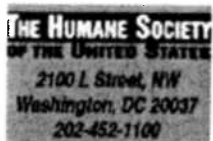
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WI A.B. 527 Rabies Vaccinations

Bill Number: A.B. 527
Bill Sponsor(s): Rep. Pat Strachota (R, 58)
HSUS Position: Support

Last Action: 6/28/05: Referred to Assembly Committee on Agriculture.

Authorizes a city, village, or town to exempt the owner of a dog from the requirement to have the dog vaccinated against rabies if the owner provides a letter from a veterinarian stating that vaccination is inadvisable for reasons related to the dog's health. The owner may obtain a dog license for a dog who is exempt from the vaccination requirement, but the owner must provide a new letter for each year that the owner seeks an exemption.

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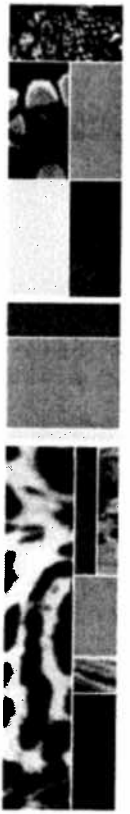
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Public Hearing Testimony (AB-527) October 13, 2005
Medical Exemptions for Rabies Vaccine



Testimony of:
Joy Brand
498 Glacier Pass
Slinger, WI 53086

I am here today to ask your committee to recommend passage of AB527 (The Medical Exemption Bill for Rabies).

This bill has taken me from being a passive pet owner in my community to a spokesperson for the dogs in my care and dogs in similar situations.

On January 15, 2005, Twink'e received her AKC Rally Novice Title.

Our journey started on January 29, 2005 (14 days later). A simple trip to the vet to get a state mandated rabies vaccination for my cocker spaniel named Twink'e turned into an 9-month ordeal to save her sight. Twink'e has been allergic most of her life. She is currently (5) and started allergy symptoms at the age of one. She has many food allergies and it is difficult to find food that won't make her react. Dietary items that most dogs would be able to eat Twink'e cannot. ... This includes Chicken, Milk, Eggs, Duck, Pork, Brown Rice, rabbit, sweet potatoes. Many of the processed foods/treats that are commercially available are off limits to allergic dogs including Twink'e. Many of the foods designed specifically for allergic dogs have been found to have something in it that Twink'e is allergic too. Currently her diet is a fresh cooked diet. However, her allergies aren't limited to just food.

On the 29th Twink'es vet had checked her eyes and did a wellness check and marked in her chart that her eyes were clear. She then was given her rabies vaccination. Our vet is familiar with cockers and their potential for reactions and the only vaccination she received that day was for the rabies vaccine. Within 2 days (48 hours) Twink'es eyes had developed a cloudiness. She also developed a large lump where the vaccine was injected. At that time, we thought it was a reaction that would just go away.

On Monday the 31st we went to our usual weekly training class and for the first time Twink'e refused to go over the jumps. Twink'e is in an open training class. (These classes practice retrieving dumbbell's over jumps and on the flat as well as other exercises to get them ready to show in obedience competition). That Monday Twink'e couldn't find her dumbbell when thrown even 10 feet away. On the 9th of February we took her back to the vet as the cloudiness was not decreasing it was getting worse. Our vet told us that Twink'e had developed cataracts in both eyes.

Twink'e was scheduled for 4 obedience shows at the time of her Rabies Vaccination. All of which had to be cancelled due to the cataracts and their quick progression.

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Having had another dog previously that had developed cataracts I knew what the medical schedule would likely be for most of Twink's remaining life. However, Twink's cataracts did not progress at a normal rate. They progressed at a highly accelerated rate. Her first cataract (on the left side) was ready for surgical removal in less than 5 weeks. Her first surgery was April 9th. Even though the cataract was ready earlier, we had to wait for the swelling on the inside of the eye to subside. After this surgery, on May 12th she developed Horner's Syndrome (very similar to Bells Palsy in humans). Her right facial side fell, she couldn't blink her right eye and she couldn't control her lip. Because of her facial paralysis she wasn't a good candidate for her second operation, according to the ophthalmologist.

On June 22nd Twink'e had an appointment to check the status of the cataract in the right eye. My mom and dad (because they are retired), thankfully, were able to take Twink'e to her appointments, of which there were many. On this particular day my mom asked the ophthalmologist if they expected any problems within the next 30 days till the next recheck and they were assured NO everything is fine. Well 4 days later the cataract had finished it's progression and Twink'e was at the vets for an emergency visit. The cataract had progressed so quickly it had triggered a glaucoma episode. We couldn't wait for the facial paralysis to resolve. It was determined that if they didn't take it out she would likely lose the opportunity to see in that eye. Her 2nd cataract was removed on July 13, 2005. To assist in her recovery from surgery they had to suture her eye partially closed. Because the paralysis didn't allow her eye to blink she was more susceptible to the eye drying out and causing corneal ulcerations. On September 11th she suffered facial paralysis on the left side of her face.

After 9 months from the start of this journey, she is finally starting to be weaned off the medications that helped to save her sight. Unfortunately, we don't know what the future holds for her.

After Twink'e was first diagnosed with the cataracts we began our research into why this occurred. What a wonderful thing the internet is.....

We found (2) researchers, Dr. Jean Dodds of California. She is a leader both (nationally and internationally) in canine immunology research. And, Dr. Ronald Schultz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the School of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After consulting with them in regard to the situation with Twink'e and her history both agreed that future vaccinations were inadvisable.

Since Twink'e is only (5), state law would require her to endure another rabies vaccination in 3 years. We wanted to find out if exemptions were permitted in our village. On placing a call to our village we found out that our village adopted state statutes and that there were NO exceptions to the mandatory rabies law. They would not allow me to license her and they could fine me if she is not licensed. I asked our village if the vet could write a letter stating that vaccinating her would be inadvisable, if we could get a license and they said NO.

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We began talking to other individuals from our training classes, dog shows etc. about what they did to protect their dogs. Most said that they didn't vaccinate and they hid their pets. Most said they just didn't license. This disturbed me..... Here I was trying to do the right thing, but the right thing would cause me to hurt my dog further.

The other thing that disturbed me was the number of dogs having reactions to this vaccine. It is NOT the virus itself, which causes the reactions - it is the components that make-up the vaccine. I asked Dr. Dodds if it was possible to get the ingredients for the vaccines so we could determine what manufacturers' vaccination would be safe and we were told that it was proprietary information. This isn't just a cocker issue, this is an all breed issue. Dogs are developing tumors, having life threatening reactions and dying.

When I asked who should be notified about the reaction I was told that you could notify the USDA, however, good luck as their budget was cut and there aren't enough people to investigate all the reactions. Hmmm that makes you think doesn't it.

After doing my research to help understand why this was happening, I started learning about vaccines. Most HEALTHY dogs shouldn't have reactions to the vaccines. In fact, on the packaging of the rabies vaccine it indicates by the manufacturer (FOR HEALTHY DOGS ONLY). Dogs that are sick, undergoing medical treatment, have chronic illnesses and/or are elderly are more susceptible to having adverse reactions.

Most pet owners are not trying to avoid getting their dogs vaccinated. We want to protect the health and safety of our pets. Medical research is showing that immunity to rabies is lasting longer than three years. There was a French "challenge" study done in 1992 showing immunity to rabies on vaccinated dogs is over 5 years. Dr. Dodds is in the process of raising money to fund a Rabies "Challenge" Study here in the United States for a 7-year challenge.

Currently I own and care for a 13 year old cocker by the name of Tink'r She developed Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia and Thrombocytopenia at the age of 3. She almost died that year. After 9 months of drug therapy, hospitalization and many, many blood testsshe struggled to survive....However, she hasn't been a truly healthy dog since then. She suffers from high liver enzymes (liver damage) from the medications that saved her life. She has the start of congestive heart failure. She had developed cataracts at the age of (1) and glaucoma claimed her sight by the age of (8). She had one eye enucleated and one eye injected. She is totally blind. She has terrible skin and coat condition. This little girl doesn't leave the house except to go to the vet or to go outside. However, in order to license her and make her a good citizen she would need another rabies vaccination. Since the time of her illness at age 3, research has shown that Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia is a known adverse reaction of vaccination.

I believe that the bill we have before us will not only protect the health of the general public, but the health of the pets we own. We will be making legitimate canine citizens

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out of the dogs, currently hidden. Cities, villages and towns will have accurate licensing information about the pets in their communities. The local pet owners won't be subject to fines for doing the right thing and protecting their pets health.

Here is the opportunity for government to do the right thing and protect pets from a bill that when first introduced many years ago had a purpose. Now is the time to make use of the medical research available today and reflect that by recommending the passage of this bill.

Last week, I received emails from Dr. Dodds and Dr. Schultz. They wanted to be here to testify for this bill. Due to Yom Kippur and other scheduled activities, I was told they could not attend today. These highly respected immunologists know that this is the right thing to do and we hope that the State of Wisconsin will be proactive when it comes to protecting the health of the companion animals within its borders by recommending passage of AB-527.

I thank you for your time today.