Rabies Vaccine Requirements in Veterinary Medicine

Jennifer Serling CVT RVT BVSc AAS VTES
President Association of Veterinary Technician Educators
Interim Director Appalachian State University Veterinary Technology Program
Risk to Veterinary Medical Professionals

• CDC lists veterinary professionals as a Risk 3 category for exposure to the Rabies virus compared to the general population.

• A 2-dose PrEP schedule has replaced the 3-dose PrEP schedule to protect for up to 3 years. (2022). After this period, titers are done to determine if a booster is needed.

• Rabies is 100% fatal.
AVMA Requirements for Veterinary Technician Programs

• AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) requires students to be vaccinated before handling ANY live animal
  
• Programs may develop a mitigation plan but the majority of programs have elected for the mandatory vaccination requirements.
Prophylactic versus Post Exposure

• Prophylactic Cost

• Without Insurance Coverage:
  • Two-series vaccine schedule. $400 average per vaccine. Total $800 (Good RX)
  • Has been as much as $1000 per vaccine

• Post Exposure Treatment

• Post Exposure cost average $3800 for the post exposure injection alone not including hospital cost and treatment of bite wound
  • (https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/location/usa/cost.html)
Who needs the vaccine

- Approximately 110,000 Credentialed Veterinary Technicians in the US
- Approximately 3500 Veterinary Technician students per year and growing

- Other necessary personnel: veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary assistants, animal control officers, laboratory workers, and wildlife rehabbers.