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Rabies Vaccination

As noted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prophylactic pre-exposure rabies vaccination should be offered to persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, veterinary students and veterinary clinical staff (www.cdc.gov). Therefore, beginning with the 2017 - 2018 academic year, rabies vaccination for incoming students in the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) at Utah State University (USU) will be required. Rabies vaccination is warranted, because USU SVM students begin working with animals at the USU farm units and participate in postmortem examinations of animals (including wildlife) at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UVDL) in their first year of veterinary school. In addition, if SVM students attend events at other veterinary schools, such as the annual Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) Symposium, they may not be able to participate in training exercises involving animals if they do not have proof of rabies vaccination.

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination involves intramuscular injection of three doses of rabies vaccine; one injection per day on days 0, 7, and 21 (or 28). The total cost of rabies vaccination is approximately $700.00. Rabies vaccination is covered by the USU Student Health Insurance Plan, but it may not be covered by other insurance plans. USU SVM students in the class of 2021 will be required to complete the rabies vaccination series by November 17, 2017. Students who fail to complete the rabies vaccination series will not be able to participate in some mandatory class activities, and as a result, their progress in the SVM curriculum may be in jeopardy.

For additional information, please see:

www.cdc.gov/rabies/specific_groups/veterinarians/staff.html

www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Rabies-pre-exposure-vaccination-titers-veterinarians.aspx