

October 21, 1999

From: Ken Podkonjak D. V.M.
Red Rock Animal Hospital
816 So. Boardman
Gallup, N.M. 87301

To: All concerned parties
Docket No. 99-040-1
Regulatory Analysis and Development

To whom it may concern:

The following comments pertain to Docket No. 99-040-1. It is my intention to share the past 19 years of clinical experience I have working with pure wolves and wolf hybrids.

By way of introduction, I am owner of a private veterinary practice in Gallup, N.M. In addition to my busy clinical setting, I have had the opportunity to be a referral veterinarian for two wolf facilities. The Candy Kitchen Wolf Rescue Ranch, and the Navajo Biological Park in Window Rock Arizona. During my practice years, I have worked on hundreds of hybrids and pure wolves. I have conducted specific rabies titer research on wolves and wolf hybrids. Most importantly, I have personally vaccinated wolves and wolf hybrids for rabies and other major diseases for 19 years. A large portion of that medical record activity has been shared with USDA. To date I have never seen a vaccine break, or anything that I felt was an adverse reaction to vaccination.

Because wolf and wolf hybrid dogs are all considered *Canis lupus*, and because my personal involvement with hundreds of vaccination cases has never demonstrated any adverse reactions, it is my contention that approval of conventional "dog" vaccine labeled for use in wolves and wolf hybrids should be implemented.

I would be happy to again share my experiences and data. Ultimately, it has always been my goal to teach that the wolf and wolf hybrid are here to stay. Ownership and reintroduction is not the issue. Public and animal safety through disease prevention is. This will only be accomplished by veterinarians and other professionals vaccinating all canids.

Sincerely,



Ken Podkonjak D. V.M.

