

**Steven P. Gruenberg**

**From:** Faye.Sorhage@doh.state.nj.us  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2009 4:43 PM  
**To:** Steven P. Gruenberg  
**Subject:** Re: Wolf Dog Rabies Issue

Dear Mr. Gruenberg:

As per your question involving the efficacy of rabies vaccinations in wolf hybrids dogs with USDA approved vaccines licensed for use in dogs, there are no scientific studies that demonstrate such efficacy, as such studies have never been performed. Efficacy studies have essentially only been performed in species of animals for which the vaccine manufacturer wants to get the vaccine licensed for use in. That does not mean that it is inefficacious in other species of animals. For example, certain rabies vaccines are licensed for use in sheep, but not goats, however practicing veterinarians commonly use the sheep-approved vaccines in goats, in an 'off label' use manner. Veterinarians also frequently use the canine -approved rabies vaccines in wolf hybrids, and in fact, a wide variety of zoo animals are also vaccinated with rabies vaccines, because from a professional standpoint, the efficacy and safety of the modern, killed rabies vaccines in many species is widely known on an anecdotal level.

In my capacity as the NJ State Public Health Veterinarian overseeing NJ's rabies control program and as a committee member on the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarian Compendium of Rabies Control and Prevention in Animals, it is my professional evaluation that rabies vaccines licensed for use in dogs are highly likely to be efficacious in wolf dog hybrids, and I am in support of vaccinating them with such vaccines to protect both the animal in question, as well as the public health. However, it should be pointed out that it is up to a practicing veterinarian as to whether or not they choose to vaccinate animals with rabies vaccine as off label use, and that there is no law requiring them to do so, or for owners to have wolf hybrids vaccinated or licensed.

I can be reached at the number below if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

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To  
cc

10/02/2009 02:54  
PM

Subject

Wolf Dog Rabies Issue

At 10-6-2009 antg