

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF HEALTH

February 1, 2019

The Cranbury Township Board of Health oversees the pet licensing program in Cranbury. The mission of the Board of Health is to “promote good public health and prevent disease through recommendations and programs that maintain the health, safety and well-being of Cranbury Township residents.” (1) The reason we oversee pet licensing is because the licensing of dogs and cats is the only way to legally insure that these pets are vaccinated against rabies, an almost universally fatal disease that kills 59,000 people worldwide each year. (2) Rabies vaccination has successfully made this disease rare in dogs and cats in the U.S., and continued vigilance is the best way to maintain our excellent control of rabies.

As per the Department of Health Communicable Disease Service, “Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:23A-4.1, to issue a dog license, the pet owner must first supply to the dog licensing clerk a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian indicating that the animal’s duration of immunity extends throughout at least the first ten months of the twelve-month licensing period. Animals that have a duration of immunity which expires prior to the ten-month cut-off must receive a booster rabies vaccination prior to licensure. Boostering the animal’s immunity before expiration of the previous vaccination has not been associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions.” (3)

In the event that your veterinarian deems it medically inappropriate to vaccinate your pet, he or she can sign a Certificate of Exemption from Rabies Vaccination. (4) Please note that on the certificate, it states, “A reluctance to administer a rabies vaccine prior to the expiration of the previous vaccination will not be accepted as a valid reason for an exemption. Early boosting has not been associated with an increased occurrence of adverse reactions and is not medically contraindicated.”

The members of the Board of Health strongly believe that these regulations by State of New Jersey are appropriate to protect the health of the residents of our Town. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Chairman of the Board of Health, Laura Collins Zurfluh, DVM at ljurfluh@cranbury-nj.com. Alternatively, you can contact the New Jersey Department of Health at 609-292-7838, or Colin Campbell, the New Jersey State Public Health Veterinarian at 609-826-4872.

1. http://www.cranburytownship.org/boh_main.html
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0928-rabies.html>
3. https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/rabies/duration_rabies_vaccine.pdf
4. <https://www.nj.gov/health/forms/vph-28.pdf>