



Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Animals

Upon the recommendation of the New Hampshire State Veterinarian, all mammals except rabbits and cavy shown or exhibited at New Hampshire 4-H events including fairs, shows, clinics, 4-H club meetings, county activities day or any other event sponsored by 4-H, must have a current inoculation for rabies given at least 30 days prior to the event. In the event of an animal who had a prior current rabies vaccination, the 30-day prior to the event requirement is waived; for example a horse receiving a rabies vaccination May 1 of the prior year can receive a booster vaccination on May 1 of the current year and attend an event immediately. A licensed veterinarian administered rabies vaccination is recommended. *Always check with individual fair regulations for their requirements as some may require veterinarian certification.*

Immunization against rabies is recommended for all rabbits and cavy shown in NH 4-H shows and other 4-H events, provided the animal is housed in a cage or hutch that prevents any direct contact with wildlife. Any rabbit or cavy housed in a situation that allows exposure to wildlife is required to be immunized against rabies. **Some fairs and events may require rabies vaccination for all rabbits and cavy; be sure to check the animal health requirements for any event you plan to attend.**

All animals being displayed at fairs, shows and events should be restrained in a manner that would not allow the public to be bitten or exposed to saliva.

Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under 12 weeks of age AND we require the vaccination be given at least 30 days prior to exhibiting an animal. All 4-H project animals requiring vaccination must be at least 16 weeks of age by show day to be shown, exhibited or brought to any 4-H event. For instance, a lamb born on April 30 could not be vaccinated until July 23 and couldn't be exhibited or brought to a 4-H event before August 22 (30 days after July 23 vaccination date). *Always check the fair book or show/event materials for the deadlines for the specific event.*

Other health requirements vary by species and show. Individual shows and fairs may have additional vaccination and health requirements as recommended by the New Hampshire State Veterinarian's office. **Always check the fair book or event materials for additional health requirements.**

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