

## **ADVICE NOTE 11**

### **VACCINATION OF COMPANION ANIMALS**

Following the Privy Council decision in the Macleod appeal (see RCVSONline *Latest News*, 25 July 2006), we have revised our guidance on the vaccination of companion animals.

- a) First vaccination of a POM-V medicine – the animal must be under care of the prescribing veterinary surgeon (see Guide, part 2H) **and** the veterinary surgeon must carry out a clinical assessment (see Guide, part 2H); (for vaccination clinics see part 2E of the Guide); and then the veterinary surgeon may administer or under his or her direction a listed or student VN may administer (see Guide, Part 2F, on the Veterinary Surgeons Act and Schedule 3 specifically and also the interpretation of “direction”). If the veterinary surgeon is to certify the vaccination, the certification rules apply (see Guide, Part 2G and the annex on certification) and generally he or she must do it him or herself or witness it done.*
- b) Subsequent vaccination some two weeks or so later (close in time to the first vaccination) – this is usually authorised by the veterinary surgeon at the time of the first vaccination (directed by the veterinary surgeon when the animal is under his or her care and when the clinical assessment is carried out) and therefore the administration of this vaccination and all dealings may be through a Listed or student VN at the practice, provided the veterinary surgeon is not intending to certify this vaccination. Nevertheless, it is helpful for a veterinary surgeon to be on the premises at the time the vaccine is administered to the animal, to be able to assist in the event of the animal suffering an adverse reaction.*
- c) Booster (or subsequent vaccination not close in time to the first vaccination) - exactly the same as for the first vaccination.*

The Privy Council judgment on the Macleod appeal is available via RCVSONline at [www.rcvs.org.uk/disciplinary](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/disciplinary).

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