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September 7, 2012

Speaker Rebecca Lockhart, Chair
President Michael G. Waddoups, Vice-Chair
Legislative Management Committee
Utah State Capitol Complex
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Subject: Administration of Rabies Vaccines to Animals in Animal Shelters

Dear Speaker Lockhart and President Waddoups:

In its August 17, 2012 meeting, the Administrative Rules Review Committee discussed the administering of rabies vaccines to animals in animal shelters. The discussion focused on whether employees of a shelter, other than a licensed veterinarian, should be allowed to administer rabies vaccines.

It was pointed out that financial restrictions prevent many animal shelters from employing a licensed veterinarian onsite during all operating hours. However, the position of the National Veterinary Medical Association is that "rabies vaccinations may also be administered under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to animals held in animal control shelters before release."

The level of supervision in the administering of these vaccines by staff other than a veterinarian, and the statutory changes that may be needed to address that supervision, appear to be the key issues. Several state agencies are involved, in some manner, including the Department of Health's Bureau of Epidemiology, the Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian, and the licensing function of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

The Administrative Rules Review Committee requests that the Legislative Management Committee assign this matter to the interim committee it feels can best address the issues involved, and which may be Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment, or Business and Labor.

Sincerely,


Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Administrative Rules Review Committee


Curtis Oda, House Chair
Administrative Rules Review Committee