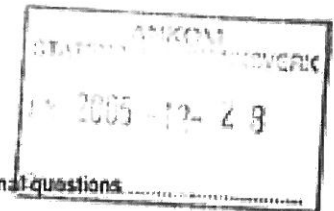




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate E - Food Safety: plant health, animal health and welfare, international questions
E2 - Animal health and welfare, zootechnics



Brussels,
E2/JF/rd(2005) D/522457

SANCO

15. 12. 2005

Object: rabies vaccine validity for pet movements inside EU

Dear Colleagues,

The Commission has been informed that owners of cats and of dogs have been confronted with difficulties when travelling inside the European Union due to the interpretation made by certain inspectors of Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health conditions applicable to the non commercial movements of pet animals and amending Directive 92/65/EEC.

Certain animals were considered as not complying with the Regulation because the validity of their anti-rabies vaccination was exceeded in consideration of the national provisions applying in the Member State where the controls had been carried out.

Article 5 of the Regulation is very clear on this point. It is the recommendations of the manufacturing laboratory indicated in the marketing authorisation in the Member State where the vaccine was performed which prevails and under no circumstances those which are in force in the Member State where the control is carried out.

In practice it is the date indicated in the IV of the passport ("valid until ") and certified by the authorised veterinarian which has to be taken into account.

Please give the necessary instructions so that this general principle is respected by your inspectors in order that, in future, owners in possession of a regular passport will no longer be confronted with a similar situation.

Bernard Van Goethem
Head of Unit

CVOs MS