April 27, 2000

VETERINARY SERVICES MEMORANDUM NO. 800.70

Subject: Rabies Vaccine Immunogenicity Test Protocols

To: Biologics Licensees, Permittees, and Applicants
Directors, Center for Veterinary Biologics

I. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides guidelines for preparing Rabies Vaccine immunogenicity test protocols to be filed with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) according to 9 CFR 113.209(b) and 113.312(b).

II. CANCELLATION

This memorandum cancels Veterinary Services Memorandum No. 800.70 dated May 29, 1985.

III. BACKGROUND

According to the standard test requirements for Rabies Vaccine, Killed Virus, in 9 CFR 113.209(b) and for Rabies Vaccine, Live Virus, in 113.312(b), the immunogenicity of the vaccine must be established in each species for which the vaccine is recommended and the tests must be conducted in accordance with a protocol filed with APHIS before initiation of the tests. The following guidelines are provided to assist applicants in developing protocols that will be acceptable to APHIS.

IV. GUIDELINES

A. General Information

1. *Outline of Production* - Submit an Outline of Production for the test product as specified in 9 CFR 114.9.

2. *Test Facilities* - Provide the location of animal holding and challenge test facilities. Describe these facilities and provide authorization for access for CVB inspections if not on licensed premises.

3. *Test Dates* - Provide tentative dates for onset, challenge, and termination of each test.

4. *CVB Observation* - Submit protocols to Center for Veterinary Biologics-Licensing and Policy Development at least 60 days before the firm

intends to initiate the study to provide adequate time for CVB to make arrangements for CVB personnel to observe the administration of the product including conduct of vaccine dilutions, if applicable. CVB personnel observing the study may select and authenticate samples of the vaccine, diluent, and diluted vaccine for use in conducting confirmatory tests at Center for Veterinary Biologics-Laboratory. CVB, if not observing the study, may request the submission of vaccine, diluent, and diluted vaccine for use in conducting these tests.

B. Detailed Test Procedures

Provide detailed test procedures that describe the following:

1. *Vaccine Preparation* - Indicate how the vaccine is prepared for use in the trial, including all details regarding dilution, if conducted.

2. *Method(s) of administration* - Include the route and method of vaccination.

3. *Test animals* - The Center for Veterinary Biologics prefers that animals less than 1 year of age and of random breed and sources be used. Indicate how contemporary controls are held throughout the test period.

4. *Collection of Serum Samples* - Indicate the provisions made for collection of serum samples from test animals throughout the study.

5. *Identity of Challenge Virus* - Identify the challenge virus to be used. If from a source other than CVB-L, provide a complete description.

6. *The Challenge Method* - Include the mouse LD_{50} of the challenge material and the intramuscular site to be used for challenge.

7. *Tests Used to Determine Cause of Death* - Describe the tests that will be used to determine the cause of death of any test animal.

C. How to File

Detailed protocols and general information should be sent to:

Center for Veterinary Biologics
Licensing and Policy Development
510 South 17th Street, Suite 104
Ames, IA 50010-8197

/s/

Alfonso Torres
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services