



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Curt Hagman  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4116  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: OPPOSE ASSEMBLY BILL (AB)-2000 (HAGMAN)**

Dear Assembly Member Hagman:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has reviewed your AB 2000 and must respectfully oppose this measure. AB 2000 would create an exemption to the existing canine rabies vaccination requirements. Dogs that a veterinarian has determined to be immune compromised or have an undefined preexisting condition could be exempted for one year.

CDPH believes AB 2000 could increase the risk to public health by allowing dogs to be exempted from current rabies vaccination requirements. There is no scientific evidence that canine rabies vaccines are associated with severe or a high rate of vaccination reactions. Canine rabies vaccination and licensing programs remain an integral part of a successful rabies animal control and prevention program. Modern canine rabies vaccines are safe and effective. A recent study published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that rabies vaccines used for dogs – nearly 120 million doses distributed in the United States – do not result in a high frequency or unexpected pattern of adverse events. There are no contraindications listed on the label for canine rabies vaccines. Standard veterinary immunization protocols already exist to prevent common vaccine adverse reactions.

Based on the reasons stated above, the Department opposes AB 2000. If you have any questions, please call me at 440-7502.

Sincerely,

Monica Wagoner  
Deputy Director  
Legislative and Governmental Affairs