



PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S DIRECTIVE

Directive No.	06-2001
Issued	September 1, 2001
Supersedes	previous vaccination policy

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM - VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Clients of St. John Ambulance's services need to have the confidence that legitimate regulatory objectives are met and that such services meet their health, safety and other needs.

Recently concerns over unfavorable reactions by dogs to vaccinations have been raised. Protocols concerning vaccinations are intended to maximize protection of the pet and public while minimizing unnecessary boosters.

The requirement for the Rabies vaccination or re-vaccination was recently changed by the Canadian Medical and Veterinarian Association (CVMA) to a three-year period.

Therefore, effective immediately, the following policy change for vaccinations will be instituted in Ontario:

All dogs must have a veterinarian-signed verification as follows:

- Rabies revaccination every three years (the owner has the option to revaccinate on a yearly basis, if they wish).
- Distemper-Hepatitis-Parainfluenza-Parvovirus, revaccination every year.

With regard to the use of titers in place of vaccinations, there remains a lack of standardization and disagreement over what constitutes minimum requirements; therefore the use of titers will not be accepted in the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program.

Failure to provide certification would require the withdrawal of the dog from the program until such time as this requirement can be met.

Authority

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Provincial Commissioner