

zoetis

# THE RISK OF RABIES

What you need to know to  
help keep your pet safe



**DEFENSOR<sup>®</sup> VACCINES**

**Infection of any mammal with rabies virus is almost always deadly.**

Immediate euthanasia is recommended for unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets exposed to a known rabid animal. If this is not done, the animal should be placed in strict quarantine for six months and vaccinated one month before being released.<sup>1</sup>



## Rabies Prevalence

In the United States, cats have remained the most frequently reported rabid domestic animal, followed by dogs. Cats have represented the majority of rabid domestic animals since 1992.<sup>1</sup>

### SIGNS OF RABIES

Signs of rabies in domestic pets are variable and may initially be nonspecific, such as lethargy, vomiting, fever and anorexia.

- Inappetence
- Dysphagia
- Cranial nerve deficits
- Abnormal behavior
- Ataxia
- Paralysis
- Altered vocalization
- Seizures

**Progression to death is rapid. There are currently no known antiviral drugs effective against rabies in companion animals.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Rabies: what is the risk for my pet? Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/pets/>. Accessed September 2, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Rabies facts & prevention tips. American Humane Association. <http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/safety/rabies-facts-prevention.html>. Accessed September 2, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Compendium of animal rabies prevention and control, 2016. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control Committee. <http://nasphv.org/Documents/NASPHVRabiesCompendium.pdf>. Accessed September 2, 2016.

# Prevention Is Key

Vaccination of ferrets to help prevent infection with rabies virus is required by state law and supported by both the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Ferret Association. The AVMA states that with vaccination, rabies is entirely preventable,<sup>4</sup> and the American Ferret Association “recommends vaccinating ferrets with USDA licensed vaccine products labeled for use in ferrets.”<sup>5</sup>



## Choose Proven Protection

All pets deserve reliable protection from the deadly rabies virus. With a single annual dose, DEFENSOR® can help provide reliable protection for dogs, cats and now ferrets.

**Speak with your veterinarian today.**



<sup>4</sup>Rabies and your pet. American Veterinary Medical Association. <https://www.avma.org/public/Health/Pages/rabies.aspx>. Accessed March 2, 2017.

<sup>5</sup>AFA ferret (*M. putorius furo*) vaccination policy. American Ferret Association. <http://www.ferret.org/read/vaccinations.html>. Accessed March 2, 2017.



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