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Letter to the Editor

A comment on "Factors influencing the outcome of primary immunization against rabies in young dogs"



Dear Co Editors-in-Chief,

I am writing to pay your attention to technical issues in the article titled "Factors influencing the outcome of primary immunization against rabies in young dogs" (Tstasioudi, KE. et al. *Veterinary Microbiology*, 213, 1-4. 2018).

Firstly, the key and base of the work is the rabies neutralizing antibody titers, which were determined using a FAVN (fluorescent antibody virus neutralization) test. The Section 2.1 (Serum samples) paragraph, "Archived data from 3861 canine serum samples submitted as part of the pet travel scheme, between December 2008 and January 2015 for serologic testing for rabies neutralizing antibodies were retrospectively reviewed." indicated that the work continued seven years. The FAVN testing time should be clear. The entire serum samples were detected at the same time or at different stage? Although the samples were stored at -20°C , the results of FAVN may deviate during seven years.

Secondly, the time between collecting and testing should be clear, and the time should be added in statistical analysis.

Thirdly, serum samples should be evaluated and formulated inclusion and exclusion criteria after receiving the samples. Notably, the Section 2.2 (Sample handling and serologic testing) paragraph, "Serum samples from dogs, accompanied by a submission form, were sent by routine surface mail by private veterinary practitioners to the Greek National Reference Laboratory for Rabies (GNRLR), which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food." indicated the samples were sent by routine surface mail.

Thank you for your attention in considering this comment and I am looking forward to your response.

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