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Letter to the Editor

A reply to “A comment on “Factors influencing the outcome of primary immunization against rabies in young dogs””



We have read with keen interest the Letter to the Editor, commenting on our recent publication “Factors influencing the outcome of primary immunization against rabies in young dogs” and we would like to thank Dr Jinghui Zhao for his interest in our paper and for taking the time to express his comments.

Regarding his first two comments, we would like to clarify that the expression “retrospectively reviewed”, as indicated in 2.1 section, refers to the analysis of the archived result data and not to the actual time that the serum sampled were tested by FAVN. All serum samples were submitted and tested by FAVN in the NRL, in the context of the pet travel scheme. They were stored in -20°C prior to testing and were analyzed, for practical reasons, no later than 30 days from the receipt day. Since the latter information is not specified in the study, we hope that our reply addresses the first and second concerns raised by Dr Jinghui Zhao.

With regard to the third comment, we clarify also that all samples

were shipped to the NRL with courier services offering next day delivery. There was not, therefore, any appreciable delay that could have adversely affected the quality of the serum samples.

Due to the word limitations in a short communication paper, authors were unable to provide more details on shipment, handling and storage of the samples.

Respectfully,
K.E. Tasioudi
On behalf of the co-authors

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