

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-006183/14
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(31 July 2014)**

Subject: Transport of puppies and kittens within the EU

For the purposes of Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council, can the first anti-rabies vaccination shot, administered before the age of 12 weeks, be considered sufficient protection from possible infection until such time as the animal can be given its second and final dose?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(11 September 2014)**

Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 ⁽¹⁾ provides that, for the purpose of a non-commercial movement between Member States, a dog or a cat must be vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the validity requirements set out in Annex Ib thereto.

This vaccination shall be considered valid provided *inter alia* that the anti-rabies vaccine has been granted a marketing authorisation by the competent authority of the Member State where the vaccine is administered or by the Union, in accordance with relevant Union legislation on pharmaceuticals ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾, and that the vaccine has been administered in accordance with the approved technical specifications.

The marketing authorisation is granted to an anti-rabies vaccine on the basis of all the administrative information and scientific documentation necessary for demonstrating the quality, safety and efficacy of the vaccine in question. The approved technical specifications of the authorised vaccine include primary and booster vaccination schedules.

Primary vaccination is usually a single dose inoculation at the age of 12 weeks providing a duration of immunity of up to 2-3 years. However, where the vaccine is administered at an earlier age, the authorised vaccination schedule for the primary vaccination usually requires a second injection of vaccine at the age of 12 weeks or later. In that case Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 establishes that at least 21 days should have elapsed following the second injection before the animal can be moved to another Member State.

Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 ⁽⁴⁾ repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 as of 29 December 2014 requires for cross-border movements of dogs and cats a minimum age of 12 weeks for the administration of the primary vaccination.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals and amending Council Directive 92/65/EEC (OJ L 146, 13.6.2003, p. 1).
⁽²⁾ Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products (OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, p. 1).
⁽³⁾ Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products (OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, p. 1).
⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 (OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 1).