

For Immediate Release

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Merial Commends AAEP for Revised Vaccination Guidelines Guidelines include rabies as part of core vaccines

Duluth, Ga., May 28, 2008 —The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recently revised its vaccination guidelines, moving rabies vaccination into the core vaccines recommended for all horses.¹

“This revision reinforces a recommendation that veterinarians across the country have been making for years — to vaccinate against a deadly disease that can affect horses, their owners and their veterinarians,” says Frank Hurtig, DVM, MBA, Director, Veterinary Services, Merial. “We at Merial applaud the efforts of AAEP to improve compliance for vaccination against this deadly disease.”²

Previously, the AAEP vaccination guidelines recommended rabies vaccination only in endemic areas.¹ In 2006, all mainland states identified cases of rabies, and equine rabies cases increased 12.77% from the previous year.²

Rabies can be transmitted from infected animals to humans through saliva. Wild animals are the primary transmitters of the disease, and horses are likely to encounter wild animals while in the barn or pasture. If infected, rabies is 100% fatal for horses and is almost always fatal for humans.² When infected, horses can exhibit clinical signs that are easily confused with choke or with other neurologic disorders, such as West Nile virus or equine herpesvirus.³

IMRAB[®] Large Animal rabies vaccine is labeled for use in horses, cattle and sheep. IMRAB Large Animal is available in 25-dose bottles. Equine POTOMAVAC[™] + IMRAB also helps prevent Potomac horse fever along with rabies. IMRAB Brand Vaccines are safe, effective and have been trusted in more than 400 million doses through more than 20 years of use.

Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and

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performance of a wide range of animals. Merial employs more than 5,000 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Its 2007 sales were nearly \$2.5 billion. Merial Limited is a joint venture between Merck & Co., Inc. and sanofi-aventis. For more information, please see www.merial.com

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¹Guidelines for Vaccination of Horses. American Association of Equine Practitioners. Available at http://www.aaep.org/vaccination_guidelines.htm. Accessed January 24, 2008.

²Blanton JD, Hanlon CA, Rupprecht CE. Rabies Surveillance in the United States during 2006. *JAVMA* 2007; 4:540-556.

³Marteniuk J. Rabies in Horses. Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Available at: <http://old.cvm.msu.edu/extension/equine/RabiesinHorses.pdf>. Accessed January 23, 2008

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