Rabies clinics are governed by Section 3.2-6521 of the *Code of Virginia* and must be approved by the locality. Specifically, this section of the Code requires that all rabies clinics be approved by the appropriate local health department and governing body. It is important to remember that the Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) may find veterinarians who participate in clinics not approved in this way to be out of compliance with the Veterinary Practice Act.

Section 3.2-6521 also instructs veterinarians who participate in these clinics to provide the owner a rabies vaccination certificate for each vaccinated animal and ensure that a licensed veterinary facility retains a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The BVM also requires that copies of rabies certificates generated as a result of rabies clinics be maintained by a veterinary establishment since, at rabies clinics, the certificate constitutes the patient record. As the basis for this requirement, the BVM cites 18 VAC150-20-195 of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, a copy of the rabies certificates or the relevant information reflecting dogs vaccinated at such a clinic should be submitted to the treasurer of the locality in which the vaccination occurs. This requirement is detailed in the *Code of Virginia*, Section 3.2-6529 entitled “Veterinarians to provide treasurer with rabies certificate information; civil penalty.” While fulfilling this requirement may be facilitated by the organization sponsoring the clinic, it is important to remember that, as articulated in the aforementioned section of the Code, the ultimate responsibility for certificate submission lies with the attending veterinarian.

Sponsoring organizations are instructed by Section 3.2-6521 to maintain and provide upon request, the name and contact information of any veterinarian associated with a clinic sponsored by that organization. Specifically, in this regard, Section 3.2-6521 reads “The sponsoring organization of a rabies clinic shall, upon the request of the owner or custodian, an animal control officer, a humane investigator, a law-enforcement officer, a State Veterinarian's representative, a licensed veterinarian, or an official of the Department of Health, provide the name and contact information of the licensed veterinary facility where a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate is retained.” Sponsoring organizations are also encouraged to retain copies of rabies certificates generated at the clinics they sponsor.