

I am writing in support of HB1488 because my cat, Smokey, experienced a serious cascade of health problems shortly after receiving a required rabies vaccination in November 2025, and current New Hampshire law gave us no alternative option despite his long-standing immunity.

Smokey has a pre-existing condition, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which makes him more vulnerable to gastrointestinal complications. Shortly after receiving the rabies vaccine, he developed a respiratory flare-up that included nasal discharge, repeated sneezing, and episodes where he sneezed blood. I have included a photo of the blood splatter from one of these episodes to illustrate the severity of his reaction.

After consulting the vet, he was prescribed antibiotics and an anti-nausea medication. Because of his IBD, the antibiotics contributed to significant gastrointestinal upset, including vomiting, diarrhea, and a sharp drop in appetite. We believe he vomited the anti-nausea medication. Over the following week his condition worsened, and he ultimately required an emergency vet visit for dehydration and supportive care.

On examination, he was found to have a low body temperature and a slow heart rate. This necessitated an ultrasound, where it was discovered that Smokey had a perforated ulcer. This was an extremely painful and frightening experience for him, and it was emotionally and financially overwhelming for me as his caregiver. The final bill for the ultrasound, emergency surgery, and days of supportive care came to \$17,000.

Unfortunately, no tests for immunity were allowed. If titers were recognized, Smokey could have avoided revaccination and the chain of complications that followed. Due to his fragility, I plan to explore all options before vaccinating Smokey again to avoid repeating another such calamity.

HB1488 would give veterinarians the ability to use scientifically validated titer testing to determine whether an animal is already protected. This bill does not weaken public health protections — it simply allows a data-driven alternative for animals who may be at risk from unnecessary revaccination.

For pets like Smokey, this bill would prevent suffering while still maintaining strong rabies control standards. I respectfully urge the committee to support HB1488.

