



Position Statement on the Vaccination and Titre Testing for Working Animals

Version: 1.0

Commencement Date: 23 July 2025

Review Date: 23 June 2026

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Citation:

Working Animals Federation of Australia (WAFA), "Position Statement on the Vaccination and Titre Testing for Working Animals", Version 1.0 June 23, 2025,
www.workinganimals.com.au/guidance

Introduction

The Working Animal Foundation Australia (WAFA) is committed to promoting the health, safety, and welfare of working animals. Vaccination is a proven and essential measure for protecting animals from preventable diseases and safeguarding public health. However, WAFA also recognises the growing body of peer-reviewed research highlighting the potential risks of over-vaccination and the benefits of titre testing as a scientific alternative to unnecessary repeat vaccinations.

WAFA supports mandatory core vaccinations for all working animals to establish and maintain protection against life-threatening diseases. However, we strongly encourage the use of titre testing as an evidence-based approach to determine the necessity of booster vaccinations, thereby reducing the risk of over-vaccination.

The Benefits of Titre Testing:

1. **Tailored Immunity Assessment:** Titre testing measures an animal's antibody levels, providing a clear picture of immunity to specific diseases. This ensures that vaccinations are only administered when immunity has waned, avoiding unnecessary boosters.
2. **Minimised Health Risks:** Over-vaccination has been associated with adverse health effects, including immune system stress, vaccine reactions, hypersensitivity, and potential long-term impacts such as autoimmune conditions. Titre testing can help prevent these risks by identifying animals that do not need additional vaccines.
3. **Cost-Effectiveness:** While titre testing may have an upfront cost, it can reduce long-term veterinary expenses by avoiding unnecessary treatments.
4. **Sustainable Animal Care:** Responsible vaccination practices, informed by titre testing, align with sustainable and ethical care standards for working animals.

Encouraging Responsible Practices:

1. **Core Vaccination:** All working animals should receive core vaccinations as recommended by veterinarians and relevant guidelines to ensure protection against critical diseases.
2. **Regular Titre Testing:** WAFA recommends titre testing as an alternative to routine booster vaccinations, particularly for animals with a history of vaccine reactions, chronic health issues, or older animals whose immunity may remain stable.
3. **Veterinary Oversight:** Decisions regarding vaccination or titre testing should always be made in consultation with a qualified veterinarian who understands the animal's medical history and specific working role.

Peer-reviewed research has shown that immunity from certain vaccinations can last for many years, sometimes even for the lifetime of an animal. Over-vaccination not only exposes animals to unnecessary health risks but also places undue stress on their immune systems. By prioritising titre testing, WAFA seeks to reduce the occurrence of over-vaccination while ensuring that all working animals remain protected and healthy.

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WAFA is dedicated to advancing best practices for the care and management of working animals across Australia. By supporting vaccination and promoting titre testing as a recommended practice, WAFA strives to balance disease prevention with the minimization of unnecessary medical interventions. This evidence-based approach reflects our commitment to the health and well-being of working animals and the communities they serve.

WAFA remains committed to reviewing and updating this position in accordance with emerging veterinary research and scientific advancements.

Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Change Description	Approved By
V1.0	23/07/2025	V. Solomon	Initial	C.Williams

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