CERVID SOLUTIONS

Understanding Autogenous Biologicals

Autogenous biologics are custom vaccines, consisting of herd specific (homologous) antigens. Under federal regulation, they are manufactured from bacterial or viral strains isolated in conjunction with animal disease. The disease-causing microorganisms are grown in culture, killed and mixed with an adjuvant. An adjuvant is simply an immunological agent that enhances the immune response to a vaccine. Autogenous Biologicals are regulated by the USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics according to the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, 9CFR 113.113. State veterinarians have regulatory oversight.

Why use an Autogenous Biologic?

Autogenous biologics can be an important component in managing herd health. They are extremely helpful when a commercial vaccine is not available for specific bacteria. Autogenous products are also valuable if antigen variation has occurred and is outside the spectrum protection of commercial products.

Definitions regarding Autogenous Biologicals:

Herd of Origin: The group of animals from which the disease-causing organism was isolated. The herd of origin includes animals in the original herd or moved into the original herd. If the entire herd moves to a new location it is still the same herd, as long as there has been no co-mingling.

Adjacent Herd: An adjacent herd is a group of animals that are physically attached with the herd of origin; no other herds exist between the adjacent herd and original herd. If you are shipping autogenous product to an adjacent herd notification is required by State regulatory.

Non-Adjacent Herd: Non-Adjacent herds include all herds other than the herd of origin and adjacent herds. For use of autogenous products in non-adjacent herds approval must be sought from appropriate State Veterinarians prior to shipment.

Isolate: For autogenous vaccines, this would be from the herd of origin and must be properly identified to at least the genus and species level for bacterial isolates.

Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR): Autogenous products are only prepared for use by or under the direction of a veterinarian or approved non-veterinarian specialist under a VCPR. A VCPR relationship exists when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarians' instructions.
2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian or medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the operation where the patient is managed.
3. The veterinarian is readily available for the follow up evaluation or has arranged for the following veterinary emergency coverage, and continuing care and treatment.
4. The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance, and outcome.

If assistance is needed with creating a VCPR, please contact our office at 844-478-2870 or jnewton@cervidsolutions.com

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