



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA ISSUES CONDITIONAL LICENSE FOR CANINE MELANOMA VACCINE

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2007--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today announced that it has issued a conditional license to Merial, Inc., of Athens, Ga., for a melanoma vaccine to aid in the treatment of oral cancer in dogs.

APHIS issues conditional licenses for veterinary biologics to respond to emergency situations, limited markets, local situations or special circumstances. In this case, the vaccine has been shown to aid in cancer treatment for dogs and has demonstrated a reasonable expectation of efficacy to increase the survival time of dogs with oral melanoma.

Canine malignant melanoma is a spontaneous, aggressive, and metastatic neoplasm. The diagnosis of canine malignant melanoma represents approximately 4 percent of all canine tumors, and is the most common oral tumor in dogs. This vaccine is approved for treatment of dogs with stage II or stage III oral melanoma in cases in which the disease has been contained.

Conditional licenses are generally issued with restrictions and for a limited period of time. This product has been issued a conditional license for one year. At the end of the conditional license period, data obtained in support of the product's performance will be evaluated to determine if the conditional license should be renewed or if a regular product license may be issued. Only veterinarians in those states where use of the product has been approved by the appropriate state regulatory authorities can use this product.

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