From:

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In response to my inquiry as to what constitutes protective titers in zoo animals.

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I don’t really have any information on vaccines that might be used off-label for wildlife. The only vaccine that we have been involved with is the canary-pox vectored CDV vaccine produced by Merial. This vaccine is used I believe by most all zoos for the exotic cats and I do know that the giant pandas have been vaccinated with this product (ferret vaccine).

The issue of protective titers is a big “black hole” for the following reasons. If I wanted to know whether a dog with a CDV titer of 8 is protected, I would need to vaccine hundreds of dogs to have enough that would end up with a titer of 8 for even a small study. Even if I could produce a sufficient number, there is absolutely no funds available to do this type of experiment. We are sort of left with guesses. In nearly 30 years of doing diagnostic testing, we have never had a case of CDV in a vaccinated dog. We know that at least 5% of the dogs that we test for antibody fall into our suspect zone (<32), but they never get sick. It would appear any Antibody titer generated by active immunization is protective. However, I would not want my dog to have a titer of 4, so I would boost to get the value higher whether it is necessary of not. Higher has a better “comfort” zone. One also has to ask what you want the vaccine to do. For EHV-1 in horses, do you want respiratory disease protection, abortion prevention, or prevention of neurological disease. For the later condition, there are no good data on whether vaccines do any good, but they do seem to reduce abortion rates. Sorry that I don’t have good answers for you but there just isn’t any.