

Specification for Class of

VETERINARIAN, ANIMAL HEALTH

Abolished Effective June 1, 2005

Definition: Within the Animal Health Program of the Food Safety and Animal Health Division, responsible for public health protection in an assigned area of the state through the control and eradication of livestock diseases, diseases of captive exotic wildlife and natural wildlife, identification and control of zoonotic diseases, investigation of violative residues, and the detection and prevention of pathogenic microorganisms in animal food products. Performs individual and herd examinations; establishes quarantines; investigates animal welfare complaints and custom meat violations.

Typical Work

Cooperates with Federal Animal Health Division personnel and private veterinary practitioners in the control and eradication of all livestock, captive exotic wildlife and native wildlife, and poultry diseases in an assigned area; program disease cooperation with USDA - APHIS with such diseases as Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Scrapie, Pseudorabies and Salmonella enteritidis;

Performs individual animal and herd examinations when indicated, in the interest of general health conditions of all animals of the State; establishes and releases quarantines when necessary;

Provides public health protection by the investigation of zoonotic diseases, violative residue findings, and animal food safety concerns;

Investigates violations of laws pertaining to livestock and poultry diseases and assists in prosecution of violators;

Acts as liaison between the State Veterinarian and livestock groups, transportation representatives, livestock salesmarket operators and others, for the purpose of benefiting general livestock health;

Investigates and prepares cases for fines or prosecution of violations of custom meat facilities law; directs and trains the Food Safety Officers in assigned area doing custom meat inspection for proper inspections, dispositions, and violatons;

Investigates FSIS meat drug residue findings as dictated by the FDA; educates the producer so that the violation does not occur again; completes investigational records for the FDA; acts as expert resource for Food Safety Officers who enforce the drug labeling and storage section of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance on dairy farms;

Investigates animal welfare complaints; provides unbiased information to general public, special interest groups, media, etc., on animal husbandry practices as related to animal welfare;

Gathers statistical data for the USDA - APHIS NAHMS program;

Reviews current livestock disease research reports and recommends new practices and procedures;

Performs other work as required.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: techniques and methods of veterinary medicine; Federal and State laws and rules pertaining to control and eradication of infectious livestock diseases within the State; investigational procedures for judicial review and legal prosecution.

Ability to: work with owners in making inspections for compliance with Department laws and regulations; plan and direct area-wide inspection program; establish and maintain effective working relationship with veterinarians, livestock industry, custom meat processors, special interest groups, media, and public; write clear and concise correspondence and reports.

Minimum Qualifications

Doctor of veterinary medicine.

AND

Three years' experience in practice of agricultural animal veterinary medicine.

Note: Must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry in the State of Washington.

New class: 8-1-68

Revised minimum qualifications: 8-1-79

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Revised April 10, 1981

Title change (formerly Animal Health Veterinarian): 4-1-81

Revised definition: 1-13-89

Revised definition and minimum qualifications: 9-13-91