

Win-Win for Veterinarians and APHIS

The National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) has been enhanced to help meet the demands of a global market and threats of emerging diseases. These changes are designed to promote the mutual respect and professional partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), accredited veterinarians, and State animal health officials. The enhanced program will help strengthen accredited veterinarians' understanding of the program and increase their knowledge on current animal health issues. It will also allow for the administration of a more consistent and uniform program.



Why the NVAP Is Important

During the past decade, the United States has seen the incursion of several foreign animal diseases (FADs). In most cases, the FADs have been eliminated successfully with the veterinary practitioner as the first line of defense. Additionally, there has been an increase in live animal exports in recent years, with the number of export document requests growing from roughly 4,000 to 15,000 since 2005. Most of these requests start with the efforts of an accredited veterinarian. Now more than ever, APHIS is dependent on accredited veterinarians for carrying out many of the programs and services designed to safeguard public and animal health.

What You Need To Know

As part of the recent NVAP changes, USDA established two accreditation categories in place of the current single category, adding requirements for supplemental training with renewal of accreditation every 3 years and providing for accreditation specialties. Veterinarians accredited as of February 1, 2010, must elect to continue participating in the NVAP as a Category I or Category II veterinarian. Failure to do so will result in the expiration of that veterinarian's accreditation.

What You Need To Do and When

In order to continue accreditation in the NVAP, veterinarians must select an accreditation category and submit a completed National Veterinary Accreditation Program Application form (VS Form 1-36A). This form is available online at www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap (click on "Instructions for Currently Accredited Veterinarians") or through the State Veterinarian or USDA Area Veterinarian-In-Charge for each State. Election to participate can only be accomplished by completing this application and submitting it by email (NVAP@aphis.usda.gov), fax (301-734-3641), or mail. The mailing address is:

USDA/APHIS, Veterinary Services, NVAP Staff
4700 River Road, Unit 64
Riverdale, MD 20737

What To Expect

When you elect to continue participating in the NVAP, the supplemental training you'll need to take covers a variety of current animal health issues and APHIS disease programs. This information is vital to understanding and performing your responsibilities as an accredited veterinarian. The scope of responsibility of an accredited veterinarian could include the following topics, which are found in the *National Veterinary Accreditation Reference Guide*.

- **Control and Eradication** for serious livestock diseases—brucellosis, tuberculosis, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or chronic wasting disease), and Johne's disease.

Category I animals

All animals except: food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm-raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock

Category II animals

All animals

- **Poultry** diseases such as avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease.
- **Horse** diseases and programs such as equine infectious anemia, equine viral arteritis, and the Slaughter Horse Transport Program.
- **Aquaculture** programs, including the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and National Certification and Inspection Program.
- **Animal Health Emergency Management** information such as the current Emergency Response Structure, guidelines for notifiable diseases and conditions, and the role of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and international standards.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection** for situations involving a contagious disease (i.e., cleaning and disinfecting pens, vehicles, etc.; safety standards; cleaning procedures; and disinfectant regulations, as well as guidance on selection and use).
- **Disease Surveillance** and the current national animal health surveillance infrastructure.
- **Laboratory Submissions**, including diagnostic sample submission procedures and an overview of regulatory requirements.
- **Animal Movement** information, including interstate regulations, the process for issuing export certificates, and common problems that could affect the international movement of animals.
- **Animal Identification** procedures and requirements.

For more information, call 301-851-3400 or visit www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap.



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Why Veterinarians Should Continue Their Accreditation in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program

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