

Win-Win for You and APHIS

APHIS enhanced the NVAP over the past several years to help meet the demands of a global market and threats of emerging diseases. These changes promote the mutual respect and professional partnership between USDA, APHIS, State animal health officials, and accredited veterinarians.



Be Part of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program

The mission of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources. As part of this mission, APHIS provides oversight for livestock, poultry, and aquatic animal health. While APHIS directly employs many veterinarians, we need additional veterinarians who can assist the agency with this mission. As part of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP), accredited veterinarians receive additional training and are authorized to complete specific tasks and documentation on USDA's behalf. One important example of this is examining a client's animal(s) and preparing health certificates for interstate or international movement.

Why Is NVAP Important?

Accredited veterinarians assist USDA in carrying out programs designed to safeguard public and animal health. Accredited veterinarians are the eyes and ears in the field, and they alert officials to foreign animal diseases (FADs) in the United States. During the past decade, most FADs have been successfully eradicated thanks to the efforts of accredited veterinarians. At the same time, we've also seen a significant increase in live animal exports, which means a greater number of export document requests. Accredited veterinarians are vital for the timely and accurate completion of these requests.

What Are the Benefits to You?

Becoming an accredited veterinarian provides many benefits, including:

- Enhancing your professional knowledge with up-to-date information on animal health and FADs for all animals, food security, and regulatory issues;
- Receiving no-cost supplemental training;
- Working in an official capacity by completing health certificates for interstate and international markets;
- Choosing your level of participation (Category I or Category II animals), allowing you the flexibility to tailor your activity to fit your practice type;
- Offering accredited veterinarian services to your clients can increase revenue;
- Supporting your community by participating in State-Federal agricultural emergency response efforts, if desired; and
- Serving as a local resource for USDA information on programs and initiatives.

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

Did You Know?

- In most cases, only accredited veterinarians can prepare Certificates of Veterinary Inspection—also known as “health papers” or “health certificates”—needed for animals to move across State or international borders and to participate in fairs and shows;
- Only accredited veterinarians can perform testing for government program diseases, such as brucellosis and tuberculosis, as well as perform other disease control work for USDA;
- In some States, only accredited veterinarians can give rabies vaccines; and
- In the United States, accredited veterinarians provide the front line in defending our country from emerging and foreign animal diseases.

How Do You Get Started?

To apply for veterinary accreditation, you must:

- Be a graduate of a veterinary school;
- Have a license to practice veterinary medicine (or be legally able to practice) in the State where you want to be accredited;
- Complete and provide your certificate of completion for the Initial Accreditation Training course; and
- Complete an in-person orientation presentation within 3 years of the application date—these presentations are given by APHIS Directors and often include the State Veterinarian or other State animal health official.

Note: You must contact the NVAP Coordinator for each State in which you wish to perform accredited duties. You may also be required to attend an additional State-specific orientation seminar. Accredited status in one State does not automatically indicate accredited status in another State.

What To Expect

When you elect to participate in the NVAP, the supplemental training you'll receive 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 Program 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

What To Expect (continued)

- **Poultry** diseases such as avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease (END), also called virulent Newcastle disease (vND)
- **Horse** diseases and programs such as equine infectious anemia, equine viral arteritis, and the Slaughter Horse Transport 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 Organization 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, visit: www.aphis.usda.gov or type "NVAP" in your search engine.

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