

APHIS Approved Supplemental Training for Accredited Veterinarians

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Module Names and Descriptions

Overview of Foreign Animal, USDA Program, and Reportable Diseases

This module provides a review of a variety of foreign animal diseases, reportable diseases, and USDA program diseases. A list of several diseases applicable to Category I and Category II accredited veterinarians is included. The importance of early reporting of suspicion of these diseases and steps in a disease investigation are emphasized. The module also provides details about additional training opportunities and resources to stay informed about these types of diseases.

Preventing Disease Introduction and Spread

This module describes key practices to prevent and minimize disease exposure to animals and humans. Information includes review of types of personal protective equipment (PPE) and levels of use, cleaning and disinfection protocols, and types of disinfectants. Selection and implementation of best biosecurity practices in various animal settings is presented.

Vesicular Diseases

This module reviews vesicular diseases of importance to the agricultural industries in the United States. Diseases reviewed include foot-and-mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, swine vesicular disease, vesicular exanthema of swine, and Senecavirus A. Clinical signs associated with vesicular diseases and specific biosecurity measures are discussed. An interactive scenario emphasizes reporting suspicion of disease and following the chain of events that occur in a foreign animal disease investigation.

International Movement of Horses

This module describes the economic importance of the U.S. equine industry and the impact of international travel of horses on global spread of equine diseases. The process for proper completion of health certificates for movement, both temporary and permanent, is illustrated through an interactive scenario following the export of a horse to an international destination. Emphasis is placed on the role and responsibilities of the accredited veterinarian, isolation procedures, required laboratory tests, and accurate completion of an international health certificate.

Interstate and International Health Certificates for Category I Animals

This module emphasizes the importance of health certificates to document pet travel. The significance of proper and accurate completion of these documents is underscored, given the potential for spread of disease associated with pet travel. The process and regulatory resources for properly completing a companion animal health certificate are presented through interactive animations and a case scenario. Mistakes commonly made when completing health certificates are highlighted and steps to minimize these errors are provided.

Personal Protective Equipment for Veterinarians

This module reviews the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), from basic items such as gloves and coveralls, to items providing increased levels of protection such as respirators and chemical resistant outerwear. Differences between varying levels of PPE are explained. The process for performing a risk assessment and the selection of appropriate PPE is practiced using scenarios that might be encountered during daily veterinary practice activities. PPE used during an animal health emergency response is reviewed.

Sheep and Goats: Disease Awareness and Health Certificates

This module provides an overview of the sheep and goat industries. Eight diseases of impact to these industries and that are significant for animals moving in interstate or international commerce are reviewed. The National Scrapie Eradication Program and the Scrapie Flock Certification Program are reviewed, highlighting the genetic components and identification requirements. Examples of properly completed health certificates for sheep and goats are provided to help veterinarians avoid common errors leading to delays or refusal of entry for their client's animals.

Animal Disease Traceability

This module reviews the components of the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program, including the Animal Disease Traceability regulation (9CFR part 86), official identification devices and methods used for different livestock species, and required documentation for interstate movement of livestock. The responsibilities of accredited veterinarians with respect to animal disease traceability are reviewed. A scenario involving cattle movement is presented to illustrate and emphasize the importance of accurate documentation of individual animal identification and interstate movement of livestock necessary for effective traceability of livestock.

Aquatic Animal Health Regulations and Health Certification

This module provides information about the various agencies involved in regulating aquatic animal health and trade, with an emphasis on USDA and the role of accredited veterinarians. Resources for obtaining current health regulations for the interstate movement and international export of aquatic animals is provided. Proper completion of health certificates for farmed aquatic animals is reviewed.

Evaluation of Aquatic Animals for Detection of Reportable Diseases and Pathogens

This module focuses on identification, detection, and reporting of aquatic animal diseases. Procedures for conducting veterinary inspections of aquatic animals and recognition of common signs of illness and disease in aquatic animal species are described. Collection of appropriate samples for diagnostic testing, including proper sample packaging and shipping procedures, are reviewed. The terms surveillance, monitoring, zoning, and compartmentalization are defined as they relate to aquatic animal regulatory programs.

Disease Prevention and Biosecurity in Aquaculture

This module reviews the important role of accredited veterinarians in safeguarding aquatic animal health. Topics reviewed focus on biosecurity practices specific to aquaculture facilities, disease prevention strategies specific to aquatic animal health, and disease control and eradication contingencies germane to the aquaculture industry. Valuable information is provided to assist accredited veterinarians and producers with risk evaluation and biosecurity assessments to develop and implement site-specific biosecurity plans.

Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle Disease (ND)

This module provides an understanding of the economic and public health impacts of an exotic avian disease outbreak. Clinical signs associated with avian influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (ND) and modes of transmission are reviewed. Details on collecting and submitting samples for surveillance, as well as procedures for reporting positive results for AI or ND, are addressed. Disease investigation and eradication activities, including implementation of appropriate on-farm biosecurity measures specific for each disease are reviewed.

Animals' Fitness to Travel

This module reviews the role of the accredited veterinarian when evaluating the fitness of livestock for movement and includes descriptions of specific elements of the inspection or examination when determining if the animal is fit to travel. Steps to make transportation comfortable and safe for livestock are explained, including appropriate actions to take with animals unfit for transport. Suggestions to support the well-being of animals during transport are discussed.

Antibiotic Use in Animals

This module reviews the terms and concepts necessary for veterinarians to make informed decisions regarding proper selection and judicious use of antibiotics in animals. The various benefits and limitations of antibiotic susceptibility testing and how to correctly interpret a drug label are presented. A review of the many agencies involved in regulating the use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance and drug residue monitoring is provided. Key components of the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) and extra-label use of drugs are reviewed. Various resources to assist in making informed decisions regarding antibiotic use in animals are included.

Collecting and Shipping Swine Diagnostic Samples

This module provides a detailed review of swine diagnostic sample collection techniques and the steps for properly labeling, packaging, and shipping diagnostic samples. It also emphasizes occasions when collecting samples is not appropriate, as in the case of suspected foreign animal diseases. Lastly, this module addresses regulations related to shipping samples to veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Bovine Trichomoniasis

This module provides an overview of bovine trichomoniasis and its impact on the cattle industry. State testing and entry requirements are presented. Proper sample collection procedures, and sample handling, packaging, and shipping of samples to a diagnostic laboratory are reviewed. Resources to develop a herd management plan to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of disease on cattle operations are provided.

Significant and Emerging Viral Diseases of Carp, Koi, and Goldfish

Cyprinids (e.g., carp, koi, goldfish) are an important aquaculture species within the United States. These species are susceptible to a variety of reportable, monitored, and emerging diseases. This module describes and differentiates the OIE-listed diseases (koi herpesvirus disease and spring viremia of carp) of susceptible cyprinid, as well as other monitored and emerging diseases of concern for these aquaculture species (e.g., cyprinid herpesvirus 1 and 2, and carp edema virus disease). The module also discusses the role of the accredited veterinarian in monitoring, detecting, and reporting these diseases.

The Role of Veterinarians in Honeybee Health

This module provides accredited veterinarians with basic knowledge of beekeeping, honeybee biology, and relevant honeybee diseases and conditions. The module focuses on the role of veterinarians related to antimicrobial use in honeybees and the issuance of prescriptions and Veterinary Feed Directives. Valuable services veterinarians can provide to beekeepers, such as assisting hobbyist beekeepers with plans for parasite management or assisting commercial beekeepers with the development of protocols to be followed by beekeeping staff for disease detection and control are reviewed.

High-Impact Equine Diseases in the U.S.

This module provides accredited veterinarians with information on high-impact equine diseases that have occurred in the United States. Outbreaks of regulatory diseases that can lead to significant

economic and trade impacts for the U.S. equine industry are reviewed. Principles of biosecurity to prevent and mitigate equine diseases are considered.

Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS)

This module provides the accredited veterinarian with information about the functionality of the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). It demonstrates the extent to which it can be used and describes how to access and use the VEHCS.

Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle

This module provides the accredited veterinarian with background information on bovine tuberculosis, describes the process for diagnosing bovine tuberculosis, and details the process for performing the caudal fold test in cattle. Information to aid in the interpretation of caudal fold test responses in cattle is provided. The steps an accredited veterinarian must follow once the caudal fold test is completed are detailed.

An Introduction to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and Domestic and International Movement of Poultry

This module provides the accredited veterinarian with an understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and opportunities with respect to poultry. The definition of “poultry” and the basics of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and the role it plays in poultry movement are discussed in detail. Included is an understanding of the process for preparing and issuing International Health Certificates (IHCs) for hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and other poultry exports. Potential accreditation violations and the ramifications of such violations are also discussed.

Role of Category I Animals in Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Introduction and Transmission

This module explores the complex relationship between the accredited veterinarian, Category I animals, and foreign animal diseases. Several foreign animal diseases associated with Category I animals are discussed. Also discussed are the impacts of foreign animal diseases and the importance of mitigating those impacts. Resources to help accredited veterinarians keep current on foreign animal disease situations worldwide are provided.

Swine Health for the Accredited Veterinarians

This module provides an overview of the swine industry in the United States and the important swine health services provided by accredited veterinarians. Techniques for safely restraining, examining, and collecting a blood sample are reviewed. The types of official identification for use on swine, including official identification requirements when moving in interstate commerce, are considered. Clinical signs of swine diseases of concern are reviewed, as is the process for reporting suspicion of these diseases

The Veterinarian’s Role in Preharvest Microbial Food Safety

The food system has many steps, including production on farms, processing, distribution, and food preparation and consumption at retail locations, in restaurants, and in homes. This “farm-to-fork” continuum offers opportunities to foster food safety at every step. Federal and State regulations are mainly focused on food safety at harvest and postharvest. Accredited veterinarians, working with their clients on the farm, can play a role in helping to reduce microbial load at preharvest, before the animals ever leave the farm. This module, developed through a partnership with several federal and state government agencies, and industry groups, describes how foodborne illness outbreaks are investigated, what the most common microbial pathogens of food are, and what on-farm model practices for each commodity can help reduce the microbial load and improve food safety.