

CLASS TITLE: STATE VETERINARIAN (DEM)

Class Code: 02916401

Grade: 38A

EO Code: A

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: In the Department of Environmental Management, to perform responsible, professional and scientific work in veterinary science as applied to the discovery, control and eradication of livestock and zoonotic diseases; to coordinate a statewide program of Veterinary Public Health in conjunction with the Department of Health, emergency planning and response; to achieve Departmental objectives through the development of legislation, regulations, and policies; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of the Chief, Division of Agriculture and Resources Marketing, with considerable latitude for the exercise of independent judgment and initiative in carrying out the objectives and activities of the program; work is reviewed for the application of accepted methods and techniques and for results obtained.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Plans, organizes, supervises and reviews the work of subordinates assigned to assist in the program.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To perform responsible, professional and scientific work in veterinary science as applied to the discovery, control and eradication of livestock and zoonotic diseases.

To coordinate a statewide program of Veterinary Public Health in conjunction with the Department of Health, emergency planning and response.

To achieve Departmental objectives through the development of legislation, regulations, and policies.

To conduct highly professional epidemiological investigations of livestock diseases (animal origin) especially those diseases transmittable to humans.

To be responsible for the training of inspectors engaged in procedures relating to Departmental animal health programs, including but not limited to, livestock health, pet health, and rabies.

To be responsible for the inspection and testing of cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and other livestock by collecting blood samples to determine the prevalence of any animal or zoonotic disease as required by the DEM Director or United States Department of Agriculture.

To make special investigations of any contagious diseases of animals as determined by the Director of DEM or the Director of the Department of Health.

To perform post-mortem examinations and conduct required pathological examinations.

To work with law enforcement agencies for prosecution of animal cruelty cases, including dog fighting cases, and seizing animals that are the subject of cruel or negligent behavior.

To quarantine diseased animals and embargo any animal product suspected of non-compliance with State or Federal regulations.

To develop the Department's legislative and regulatory agenda, draft legislative amendments and/or compose new legislation.

To make specific legislative proposals related to animal health, and testify and defend the Department's position directly or indirectly.

To promulgate Departmental rules and regulations through all phases of the rulemaking process.

To develop and write regulations, perform regulatory flexibility analyses and compose economic impact statements.

To conduct public hearings and file regulations with the Secretary of State.

To develop emergency response plans with Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA), work with the RIEMA at their headquarters, and take the lead role in pet sheltering and agricultural emergencies, or be available remotely to respond and direct any and all responses related to emergency events.

To be a member of the Aquaculture Biosecurity Board; to organize meetings, send notifications for meetings and post minutes on the website as required.

To assist various individual livestock producers or groups within the state and represent the Department's interests, including on regulatory issues, disease/disaster mitigation, and farm sustainability.

To coordinate with counterparts in other states and coordinate with federal partners for disease response and preparedness to natural disasters and disease outbreaks such as: avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease among other pathologies.

To provide training for state and municipal police regarding rabies management and awareness, animal cruelty investigation, and enforcement of animal importation regulations, etc.

To provide 24/7 emergency response capability for local or statewide disease outbreaks or disasters.

To write, edit, and develop Departmental press releases and be available for on camera and on radio interviews.

As assigned, to act as Public Health Veterinarian.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of veterinary medicine and the treatment and care of animals; a thorough knowledge of the methods and practices used in the diagnosis, control and eradication of animal diseases, emphasizing those diseases that are zoonotic or that have significant consequences to animal health and/or trade; a thorough knowledge of accepted agricultural practices, especially those employed on Rhode Island agricultural operations; a thorough knowledge of the practices of livestock production for use in promoting sound practices to livestock producers, and to enhance farm viability within the state. a thorough knowledge of state and federal laws and regulations governing interstate shipment of livestock; A working knowledge of laboratory techniques and practices used in the diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases, especially those diseases transmissible to humans; the ability to apply methods and practices used in the control, diagnosis and eradication of animal diseases; the ability to inspect and investigate allegations of animal neglect or cruelty and assist law enforcement in prosecution of such cases; the ability to prepare written or oral reports containing findings, conclusions and recommendations; the ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with associates, public and private agencies; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through graduation from a veterinary school of recognized standing; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: private practice, or state or federal employment in the fields of livestock disease eradication and control of animal diseases transmissible to man.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: At the time of appointment and continually thereafter, must meet established requirements of the Rhode Island Department of Health to practice veterinary medicine in Rhode Island and must maintain such requirements as a condition of employment.

Class Created: September 3, 2017