

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ON

VETERINARY

adopted by the RA National
Assembly on October 26,
1999

PART 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Basic Concepts Used in the Law

The following basic concepts are used in the present Law:

Animals - agricultural, domestic, wild, animals kept in zoos, circus, laboratory, fur-bearing animals, domestic and wild poultry, fish, crustacean, bees, fertilized spawn, embryos, hatching eggs, silkworm larvae, etc.

Veterinary medicine - field of scientific and practical activities directed to the prevention and cure of the animal diseases, decrease of the damages, sterility and loss caused by the diseases, improvement of the quality of the foodstuff and raw material of animal origin, implementation of complex measures for prevention of and combat against the diseases common for human and animals.

Veterinary activity - activity of the legal and natural persons directed to the prophylaxis of animal diseases, protection of the population from the diseases common for human and animals, prevention of epidemic situations and production of a high quality (from the stand point of the veterinary sanitation) food of animal origin.

Veterinary service - state, non-state institutions, enterprises and sole entrepreneurs performing veterinary activity.

Veterinary specialists - veterinarians and veterinarian technicians performing activities on the diagnosis, precautions of animal diseases, recovering and curing of

the livestock head in the unsafe locations, farms, as well as on the veterinary sanitation testing of the stockbreeding production and other veterinary services.

Veterinary rules - veterinary requirements regulating activities of the legal and natural persons in the sphere of veterinary in compliance with this Law.

State Veterinary inspection - complex of organizational and legal measures directed to the adherence of the veterinary legislation by the legal and natural persons.

Foodstuff of animal origin - meat and meat products, milk and milk products, eggs and egg products, fish and fish products, bee-keeping products, etc.

Raw material of animal origin - leather, wool, hair, fur, feather, dawn, endocrine glands, offal, intestine, antler, hoofs, bones, lungs, pads, animal fats and other sub-products, bile, blood, wax, etc.

Border inspection veterinary point - subsidiary body of the veterinary service functioning at the entry points of the state border of the Republic of Armenia which fulfills the veterinary sanitation surveillance over the import and export of the animals, the foodstuff, the raw material and the feedstuff of animal origin through the state border of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the protection of the territory of the Republic of Armenia from the invasion of the agricultural (including poultry), wild and other animals' diseases coming from abroad.

Veterinary certificate – sanitary document that certifies the safety of the imported (exported) livestock (alive or slaughtered), poultry (alive or slaughtered) and their reprocessed productions, and confirms that their origin is from territories free from contagious diseases.

State Veterinary testing - special investigations carried out to assess the quality of the foodstuff, raw material, feedstuff and its additions of animal origin and to diagnose animal diseases.

Veterinary pharmacy - a complex of scientific and practical knowledge covering problems on research, production, investigation, storage, realization, use and issue of drugs and prophylactic means.

Animal protection means - biological, immunobiological, plant, chemical and pharmaceutical, veterinary substances, preparations for the prophylaxis, diagnosis, curing of the animal diseases.

Veterinary means - substances, facilities, equipment and instruments for the veterinary activity, special veterinary vehicles, technique, etc.

Feedstuff additions - proteins, amino acids, vitamins, macro- and microelements, enzymatic preparations, feed yeast, fats, etc.

Animal quarantine - regime activities of the state regional and local self-governing bodies and business entities directed to the isolation and eradication of the outbreaks of the animal dangerous contagious diseases, as well as to the establishment of the temporary restrictions of the rights envisaged for the legal and natural persons by this law and of recognized additional responsibilities for them.

Prophylactic quarantine - measures directed to prevent the invasion of contagious diseases and which are intended to keep the acquired animals isolated for 30 days and to carry out investigations aiming at diagnoses of diseases and preventive vaccination.

Animal quarantine diseases - the most dangerous contagious diseases of animals that can greatly damage animals' health and deteriorate the quality of foodstuff and raw material of animal origin.

Epidemic – situation of a rapid spread and occupation of rather large territories in relatively short terms of contagious animal diseases having non-stop character.

Especially dangerous contagious animal diseases - diseases having properties to spread rapidly, occupy large territories and cause great economic damages (determined by the International Office for Epizootics as "A" group diseases).

Article 2. Scope of the Law Effect

The present law shall regulate legal relations in the field of veterinary medicine between the authorized state governing body (hereinafter - authorized body), and the institutions, enterprises, organizations, sole entrepreneurs (hereinafter - entities) operating in the Republic of Armenia, as well as the citizens.

Article 3. The RA Legislation on the Veterinary Medicine

1. The relations in the sphere of the veterinary medicine in the Republic of Armenia shall be regulated by the present law, the law of the Republic of Armenia on the “State Agrarian Inspections” and other legal acts.
2. Should the international treaties signed on behalf of the Republic of Armenia stipulate otherwise than the provisions of the present Law, the norms of the international treaties shall prevail.

Article 4. State Administration and Competence of the Authorized Body in the Field of the Veterinary Medicine

The authorized body performs the state administration in the field of the veterinary medicine in the Republic of Armenia. According to the established procedure the authorized body shall submit for the RA Government’s approval the following:

- a) the charter on the veterinary medicine and other legislative instruments provided by this Law;
- b) objective programs on the preventive measures and eradication of the animal quarantine and especially dangerous contagious diseases;
- c) establishment and removal of the quarantine and other restrictions directed to the prevention and eradication of the spreading of the seats of the animals’ especially dangerous contagious diseases, as well as large-scaled non-contagious diseases within the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

The State veterinary service shall be managed by the authorized body, which performs its activities through republican, district, regional veterinary services, as well as dependent enterprises and organizations.

The authorized body shall:

- a) organize the veterinary service, govern the activities of the veterinary service within the frame of its competence, strengthen its material and technical base;
- b) organize and realize the measures directed to the prophylaxis, diagnosis, cure and eradication of the animal and poultry contagious, parasitic and non-contagious diseases;
- c) prognosticate and assess the epidemic situation in the republic, ensures the observance by the legal and natural persons dealing with the stockbreeding of the provisions stipulating the mandatory implementation of the prevention and eradication of the animals contagious diseases, as well as disinfection, disinsectisation, rodent control and other mandatory measures;
- d) together with the public health bodies implement the measures of protection from the diseases common for human and animals;
- e) give instructions on the veterinary medicine issues mandatory for the implementation by the institutional veterinary services, business entities and citizens, adopt institutional normative acts;
- f) establish orders and normative acts on the veterinary medicine issues;
- g) participate in the international, regional and inter-state veterinary activities;
- h) realize other competence established by the RA legislation.

PART 2

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE VETERINARY SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Article 5. The main objectives of the veterinary service

The main objectives of the veterinary service activities are the followings:

- a) diagnose, prevention and eradication of animal contagious, parasitic and non-contagious diseases;
- b) cure of sick animals;
- c) protection of the population from the diseases common for human and animals;
- d) protection of the territory of the republic from the invasion of the contagious animal diseases from foreign countries;
- e) ensure of the control over the safe production of the stockbreeding raw material from the stand point of the veterinary sanitation requirements;
- f) control over the transportation, import, export of animals, foodstuff and raw material of animal origin, protection means of the animals, veterinary preparations, feedstuff and its additions;
- g) execution of the veterinary sanitation testing in the cases of import or export and reprocessing of the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin, animal feedstuff, mixed feedstuff, their further reprocessing, animal protection means, as well as at the places of realization of the stockbreeding foodstuff;
- h) prognostication and assessment of the epidemic situation in the republic as regards to the animal diseases;
- i) control over the observance of the veterinary sanitation requirements on the protection of the environment by the legal and natural persons;
- j) putting into practice of the scientific achievements and the advanced experience in the field of veterinary medicine;
- k) implementation of other objectives of the state veterinary service established by the RA legislation.

Article 6. The Right to Carry out Veterinary Activities

The legal and natural persons with relevant professional education have the right to carry out veterinary activities if the appropriate license given by an authorized body is available. The veterinary services established by the legal and natural persons shall perform their activities under the professional control and methodological supervision of the authorized body. The procedure of granting the license shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 7. Obligations, Responsibilities and Rights of the Legal and Natural Persons of the Business Entities

The obligations of the legal and natural persons of the business entities are:

- a) to fulfill the requirement of the state veterinary service specialists on the examination of the animals, preventive and prophylactic processing, diagnostic investigations, vaccination, as well as on veterinary sanitation testing of the products of animal origin, raw material and other means; to enlighten the issues on the unexpected losses of the animals, suspicious cases;
- b) to isolate the animals suspected to be ill;
- c) to execute the instructions given by the specialists of the veterinary services on the implementation of the established quarantine restriction and other veterinary measures;
- d) to observe the veterinary sanitation rules on the transportation and the slaughter of the animals, the reprocessing and realizing of the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin;
- e) to fulfil the zoohygienic norms and the veterinary sanitation requirements concerning the construction and exploitation of the buildings intended for the maintenance of the animals, the preservation, reprocessing and realization of the stockbreeding products and the raw material.

The business entities, the legal and natural persons shall bear responsibilities according to the established procedures of the RA legislation in cases of hindering the fulfillment of the measures directed to the health and maintenance of the animals, suspension of the production of goods of animal origin deleterious from the stand point of the veterinary sanitation requirements, the quarantine, veterinary

sanitation measures against animal diseases, as well as in cases of infringing the veterinary rules.

The legal and natural persons, the activities of which are connected with breeding, transportation, sale of the animals, as well as production, reprocessing, maintenance and realization of the foodstuff and raw material of animal origin, production and realization of animal protection means are entitled to:

- a) get information from the regional governing and local self-governing bodies (including the relevant state veterinary governing bodies and institutions) on the livestock epidemic_situation of the territories under their supervision;
- b) make proposals in the field of stock-breeding on designing projects on the veterinary sanitation and the livestock epidemic safety;
- c) require for the reimburse for the damages caused to them by other legal and natural persons in case of infringement of the veterinary sanitation requirements and rules;
- d) make an appeal from the decisions and actions of the officials of the state veterinary governing bodies and institutions to the RA state chief veterinary inspector or to the Court.

Article 8. The Competence of the Regional Governing and Local Self-Governing Bodies in the Sphere of Veterinary Medicine

The regional governing and local self-governing bodies shall:

- a) create the necessary conditions for performing the veterinary sanitation services and ensure the implementation of the legislative requirements;
- b) on behalf of the regional state governing bodies establish and remove in the relevant territories (places of residence, yards) the quarantine and the quarantine restrictions, including also the special manufacturing conditions and regimes of economic activities, directed to the eradication of the spread of animal diseases and their seats according to the presentation of the state regional administrative veterinary sanitation service bodies in case of the outbreak of the seats of the contagious and non-contagious animal diseases;

- c) assist to the activities of the veterinary services in the territory of the community concerning the observance of the rules on the implementation of the anti-epidemic measures, prevention of the animal diseases;
- d) establish control over the implementation of the veterinary sanitation measures provided for the maintenance of the environment of the stock-breeding objects, i.e. of business entities which realize, reprocess and produce the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin.

PART 4

STATE VETERINARY CONTROL

Article 9. State Veterinary Control

The authorized body shall realize the state veterinary control within the frame of its competence.

The state veterinary control is a complex of organizational and legal measures aiming at the fulfillment of anti-epidemic activities by the business entities and citizens, prevention and eradication of contagious and non-contagious animal diseases, as well as protection of the RA territory from the invasion of contagious diseases.

The authorized body shall also perform the state veterinary control over the stockbreeding foodstuff production, storage and realization, goods subject to import and export, as well as over the commodities for transit transportation subject to the veterinary service control.

The veterinarian of the veterinary sanitation testing laboratory is entitled to suspend the foodstuff (production) recognized as unfit for realization. The holders of the entities selling such foodstuff shall send it for reprocessing or conversion, having as a base the conclusion of the republican laboratory and being accompanied by a veterinarian.

The realization of the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin in places not envisaged for sale shall be prohibited.

The documents confirming the state of health of the animals and the quality of the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin are considered to be the documents of strict accounting.

The business entities shall bear responsibilities for realization of the production, which has not passed the state veterinary sanitation testing, according to the procedures established by the RA legislation

In case of causing damages to the environment and the state interests for the reason of not fulfilling the veterinary measures the business entities and the citizens shall carry the responsibility according to the procedures established by the RA legislation.

The chief state veterinary inspector and the state veterinary inspectors shall perform the activities of the state veterinary control.

Article 10. Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of the Persons Performing the State Veterinary Control

The persons realizing the state veterinary control have the following rights:

- a) to enter, according to the established procedures, the entities in the relevant territories subject to the control;
- b) to require from the business entities the necessary documents and information in order to have a clear view of the epidemic situation and assess the quality of the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin;
- c) to give the orders for the compulsory implementation of the anti-epidemic and veterinary sanitation measures;
- d) in case of contagious animal diseases or the suspicion on the arising of a special contagious disease, to give relevant orders on the animals' slaughter, disinfection of the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin, their re-processing or conversion;
- e) to prohibit the realization of the foodstuff of animal origin and reprocessing of the raw material of animal origin unfit to the veterinary sanitation requirements, as well as the animal protection means, feedstuff additions that do not conform to the established quality requirements;
- f) in case of the infringements of the license requirements to stop temporarily the veterinary entrepreneurship activities, production and realization of the veterinary

preparations, as well as to restrict such activities of the business entities violating the veterinary norms and rules that cause damages to the human life and health.

The persons performing the state veterinary control shall:

- a) present to the business entities their service certificate and the assignments on the execution of the check inspection;
- b) in case of discovering of the contagious animals diseases or large-scaled intoxication seats submit in one day period to the relevant state governing regional body the proposals on execution of the special regime and rules aiming at the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases, including diseases common for human and animal;
- c) if necessary establish commissions consisting of the specialists of the state veterinary service aimed at discovering and eradication of the reasons of the broken out diseases and animal losses.

According to the established procedures of the RA laws and other legal acts the entities performing the state veterinary control shall bear responsibilities for not taking up their duties, misapplying their competence, publicizing the information considered to be a State secret.

The damages caused by the illegal actions of the persons performing the state veterinary control shall be compensated according to the established procedures of the RA laws and other legal acts.

Article 11. State Control over the Animal Protection Means and the Quality of the Feedstuff Additions

The state veterinary inspectors shall carry out the control over:

- a) the application of the animal protection means and the feedstuff additions, as well as the observance over the implementation of the rules on the disinfection of the preparations recognized unfit for the transportation, storage and use;
- b) the quality of the domestic and imported preparations for the animal protection and the feedstuff additions.

The application of the animal protection means and special feedstuff additions that are not registered in the Republic of Armenia or do not satisfy the quality requirements shall be prohibited.

The animal protection means and the feedstuff additions that have no state register may be imported to the Republic of Armenia in the following cases:

- a) for the purpose to be registered in the Republic of Armenia;
- b) for the purpose to be presented at the exhibitions, conferences without the right to sale, as well as with the scientific purposes.

The procedure of the import of the animal protection means and the feedstuff additions in the above cases shall be established by the authorized body.

In the events of natural disasters, epidemics and other identical cases the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall permit the import of the animal protection means and the feedstuff additions, if the document confirming their registration and application in the producing country is available.

Article 12. Veterinary Sanitation Inspection pending the Entry through the State Border and the Transportation

The import and export through the state border of the Republic of Armenia of the animals, foodstuff of animal origin, finished food, the raw material of animal origin, feedstuff and its additions, strains of microorganisms, animal protection means, veterinary means, as well as the substances and articles considered to bear the pathogenic organisms causing the animal contagious diseases and goods subject to the state veterinary inspection, shall be permitted only after the passing of the compulsory state veterinary inspection.

The custom formalities on commodities shall be considered to be completed only after passing the inspection procedures carried out by the officials of the regional service of the state veterinary inspection and the custom department. Moreover, the working place of the state veterinary inspectors shall be situated at the same custom control zone.

The import, export or transit transportation of the animals, the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin and other goods subject to the compulsory state

veterinary inspection shall be fulfilled in compliance with the requirements of the present Law and the international veterinary legislation.

The realization of the imported foodstuff and raw material of animal origin and animal feedstuff shall be permitted only after their passing the state veterinary sanitation examination.

Article 13. Appeal from the Decisions of the State Veterinary Inspectors

In case of a disagreement with the decision of the state inspectors performing the state veterinary inspection the owner of the commodities (the importer) has the right to make an appeal against it by applying to the RA Ministry of Agriculture, and the decision of the latter can be appealed to the Court according to the RA legislation.

PART 4.

THE BASIC MEASURES OF THE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF THE CONTAGIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES

Article 14. The Animals Quarantine

The establishment and the removal of the quarantine in the regions of the outbreak of the animal quarantine diseases shall be realized by the state regional governing bodies according to the presentation of the relevant branch of the authorized body, and in case of the outbreak in one or several regions - in compliance with the decision of the RA Government according to the presentation of the authorized body.

The establishment of the quarantine shall be realized in accordance with the acting orders.

Article 15. Measures Implemented during the Animals Quarantine

In case of the establishment of the animals quarantine a total or partial prohibitions may be imposed.

The loading and unloading of the animals, the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin, feedstuff and other production (that can be the bearers and transferors of the pathogenic organisms), as well as their transporting in a form of parcels or by hand at the railway stations, airports, as well as in the territories under the quarantine or the threatening infectious zones shall be stopped.

For the purpose of application of the quarantine measures and eradication of the epidemic seats, in the emergency situations, the subdivisions of the armed forces may be involved in the relevant activities jointly with the bodies of the internal affairs and the national security, in accordance with the RA legislation.

Article 16. The Protection of the Territory of the Republic of Armenia from the Invasion of the Contagious Animal Diseases

To prevent the invasion of contagious animal diseases from the foreign countries to the territory of the republic the following activities shall be prohibited:

a) import and transit transportation of the sick animals and the animals suspected to be ill, the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin and other means subject to the veterinary inspection;

b) transportation of the animals, the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin and the feedstuff without the existence of the relevant certificate.

Article 17. Confiscation of Animals, Foodstuff and Raw Material of Animal Origin

To prevent the spread of the especially dangerous contagious animal diseases and to eradicate the seats of the infection, the infected or infection bearing animals can be subject to the compulsory slaughter, extermination or conversion; the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin - to the reprocessing, extermination or also conversion, and the means being in contact with them - to the disinfection or extermination after the relevant laboratory conclusion, according to the decision of the authorized body, in compliance with the procedures established by the RA legislation.

The cost for the animals, the foodstuff, the raw material and other means exterminated with the aim to prevent the further spread of the especially dangerous contagious diseases and protect the health of the population shall be reimbursed according to the procedure established by the RA legislation.

If the animals, the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin and other means have been exterminated or subjected to conversion for the reason of non-implementation of the veterinary measures by the business entities and citizens, which has resulted at the same time in causing damages to the environment and state interests, the costs of the animals, the raw material and other means shall not be reimbursed.

Article 18. Production of the Veterinary Preparations and other Means of Animal Protection

The production, import, use and maintenance of the veterinary preparations and other means of animal protection shall be permitted in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

The authorized body shall realize the state control over the testing of the veterinary preparations, other means of animals protection from diseases, feedstuff additions, as well as the imported and other substances.

PART 5

FINANCING AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF THE STATE VETERINARY SERVICE

Article 19. Financing of the State Veterinary Service

The financing of the state veterinary service and its logistical support shall be realized on the account of the state budget resources.

The measures directed to the cure of animals sick with the contagious and other diseases, to the prevention and eradication of the diseases that are not covered by the list established by the authorized body, the business entities and the citizens shall implement on the account of their own finances.

PART 6

COUNCIL ON THE VETERINARY MEDICINE ISSUES, VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY COMMISSION AND STATE ANTI-EPIDEMIC EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Article 20. Council on the Veterinary Medicine Issues and the Veterinary Pharmacy Commission

To prevent the emergency situations in the field of the veterinary medicine and to test the efficiency and the safety of pharmaceutical drugs and preparations the authorized body may establish a Council on the Veterinary Medicine Issues and the Veterinary Pharmacology Commission functioning on a social basis.

The Charters of the Council on the Veterinary Medicine Issues and the Veterinary Pharmacology Commission shall be approved by the authorized body.

Article 21. State Anti-Epidemic Emergency Commissions

For the purpose of efficient inspection, administration and coordination of the activities of the business entities and citizens during the prevention, prophylaxis and eradication of the large scaled animals diseases or intoxication the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall establish the state anti-epidemic emergency commission.

Anti-epidemic emergency commissions shall be established in the regions as well.

The transportation of the animals and the foodstuff and the raw material of animal origin out of the quarantine zone shall be permitted only according to the decision of the state anti-epidemic emergency commission or the relevant committees of the regional governing bodies.

PART 7

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Article 22. International Cooperation in the Field of the Veterinary Medicine

The international cooperation in the field of the veterinary medicine shall be performed on the basis of:

- a) the participation in the activities of the International organizations, caution against the invasion of the dangerous contagious animal diseases from the territories of foreign countries, harmonization of the regulations on the import and export of the animals, the stockbreeding foodstuff and the raw material;
- b) the harmonization of the legislation in the sphere of the veterinary medicine on the unification of the application of the preventive and anti-epidemic measures, methods of the diagnosis of the animal diseases, use of the immunobiological, biological, plant, chemical, pharmaceutical and other veterinary preparations;
- c) the scientific and professional links and contacts;
- d) the exchange of the information on the stockbreeding epidemic situation.

The President of the Republic of Armenia

R. Kocharyan

Yerevan, November 30, 1999

HO-16