

**THE LAW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION "ON VETERINARY MEDICINE"  
No 4979-1 DATED 14 MAY 1993**

Law of the Russian Federation "On Veterinary Medicine" No 4979-1 dated 14 May 1993.

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Section I.  
General Provisions

Article 1. Veterinary Medicine in the Russian Federation.

Veterinary medicine is defined as the sphere of science and practice aimed at preventing and treating animal diseases, manufacturing valuable and veterinary/sanitary safe animal products and protecting the population from those diseases that are common for humans and animals.

The main goals of the veterinary medicine in the Russian Federation are:

realization of the federal target programs for the prevention and liquidation of the quarantined and particularly dangerous (in accordance with the list established by the Veterinary Medicine Department of the Russian Federation Ministry for Agriculture) animal diseases, including the diseases of agricultural, domestic, zoo, fur-bearing and other animals, birds, fishes and bees, as well as realization of the regional plans for providing veterinary service in animal husbandry;

formation of the federal programs for the training of specialists in the veterinary medicine, production of veterinary medication and technical equipment as well as organizing scientific research in the field of veterinary medicine;

control over the observance of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation by the bodies of executive authority and officials, by enterprises, institutions, organizations, other economic subjects irrespective of their subordination and type of property, by public associations, international organizations, foreign legal entities, by the citizens of the Russian

Federation, foreign citizens and stateless persons who are owners of animals and animal products (hereinafter - enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens);

protection of the Russian Federation territory against animal infections from foreign countries;

provision of the state veterinary and departmental veterinary and sanitary inspection.

In the Russian Federation the goals in the field of veterinary medicine are met by the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation in coordination with departmental veterinary and sanitary and industrial veterinary services as well as with specialists-entrepreneurs in the field of veterinary medicine.

## Article 2. The Veterinary Legislation of the Russian Federation.

The veterinary legislation of the Russian Federation is comprised of the present Law, the legislative acts of the republics in the Russian Federation and legal acts of the autonomous region, autonomous areas, of territories, regions and the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg passed in accordance with this Law.

The veterinary legislation of the Russian Federation regulates the relationships in the sphere of veterinary medicine with the aim of protecting animals from diseases, manufacturing veterinary/sanitary safe animal products and protecting the people from diseases common for humans and animals.

## Article 3. The Authority of the Russian Federation, the Republics in the Russian Federation, Other Subjects of the Federation in the Sphere of Veterinary Medicine.

The Russian Federation has under its jurisdiction:

federal veterinary legislation;

development and adoption of the federal target programs for the prevention and liquidation of the quarantined and particularly dangerous (in accordance with the list established by the Veterinary Department of the Russian Federation Ministry for Agriculture) animal diseases, including the diseases of agricultural, domestic, zoo, fur-bearing and other animals, birds, fishes and bees, as well as realization of the regional plans for providing veterinary service in animal husbandry;

formation and realization of federal veterinary programs on the territory of the Russian Federation;

organization and provision for the activities of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation;

introduction and lifting of quarantines and other limitations on the territory of the Russian Federation aimed at preventing the spreading and liquidating the hotbeds of infectious and mass non-infectious animal diseases;

issuing state certificates and registering domestic and imported veterinary medication and technical equipment, supervising the system of their standardization and attestation, granting permission for their manufacturing and selling;

development and adoption of veterinary and sanitary norms and requirements on the safety of feed and feed additives;

protection of the Russian Federation territory against animal infections from foreign countries;

cooperation with international organizations and foreign states in the field of veterinary medicine.

The republics in the Russian Federation, the autonomous region, autonomous areas, territories, regions and the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg have the authority to take independent decisions in the sphere of veterinary medicine provided the issues do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

#### Article 4. The Right to Practice Veterinary Medicine.

The right to practice veterinary medicine belongs to specialists in the field with higher or secondary specialized veterinary education.

The specialists-entrepreneurs in veterinary medicine are to register at the corresponding management bodies of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service.

In their professional activities specialists in the field of veterinary medicine are regulated by the veterinary legislation of the Russian Federation and report to the corresponding management bodies of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service.

In the event of violation of the established norms and rules of veterinary practice specialists are held responsible in accordance with the regulations provided by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

#### Section II.

The State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation,  
Departmental Veterinary and Sanitary and Industrial  
Veterinary Services.

#### Article 5. Organization of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation.

1. The State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation has as its aims: preventing the spreading and liquidation of the hotbeds of infectious and mass non-infectious animal diseases;

provision of veterinary and sanitary safety of animal products;  
protection of people from diseases common for humans and animals;  
protection of the Russian Federation territory against animal infections from foreign countries.

2. The system of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation includes:  
the Veterinary Medicine Department of the Russian Federation Ministry for Agriculture (hereinafter - Veterinary Medicine Department), the veterinary medicine departments (sections) in the governments of the republics in the Russian Federation, veterinary medicine departments (sections) in the administration of the autonomous region, autonomous areas, territories, regions, the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, districts and towns;

veterinary scientific-research and scientific and production institutions;  
veterinary laboratories, anti-epizootic teams and expeditions, zonal departments of the state veterinary inspection at the State Border of the Russian Federation and on transport, other veterinary institutions directly reporting to the Veterinary Medicine Department, veterinary laboratories and stations to fight animal diseases in the republics of the Russian

Federation, in the autonomous region, autonomous areas, territories, regions, the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, districts and towns;

subdivisions of state veterinary inspection at the animals products processing and storage enterprises, veterinary and sanitary stations at food markets and other veterinary and veterinary and sanitary subdivisions and institutions.

3. Head of the Veterinary Medicine Department, heads of the veterinary medicine departments (sections) in the governments of the republics in the Russian Federation, veterinary medicine departments (sections) in the administration of the autonomous region, autonomous areas, territories, regions, the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, districts and towns by the nature of their office simultaneously hold the positions of Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation and chief veterinary inspectors of the above listed nation-state and administrative and territorial formations respectively.

Head of the Veterinary Medicine Department is nominated by the Minister for Agriculture of the Russian Federation and appointed to and dismissed from his position by the Government of the Russian Federation - the Council of Ministers.

Heads of other management bodies of the Russian Federation Veterinary Service are appointed to and dismissed from their positions by the corresponding executive bodies in coordination with the heads of the supervising management bodies of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service.

By virtue of his office the Head of the Veterinary Medicine Department represents the Russian Federation at the International Epizootic Bureau, at the World Veterinary Association and other international organizations.

4. The activities and logistics of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service are financed out of the Russian Federation republican budget, the budgets of the nation-state and administrative and territorial formations as well as out of other sources established by the Council of Ministers - the Russian Federation Government.

Anti-epizootic measures aimed at preventing and liquidating quarantined and particularly dangerous animal diseases are financed out of the Russian Federation republican budget.

Article 6. Social protection for the Specialists of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service.

Specialists of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service are protected by the State.

Specialists of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service working and residing in the rural area, urban type settlements (workers settlements), towns of district subordination have the right to free public utilities and other benefits in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

The right to free public utilities is preserved for the retired specialists of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service provided they are residents of a rural area and their working record in such areas is not less than 10 years.

Article 7. Departmental Veterinary and Sanitary and Industrial Veterinary Services

The Russian Federation Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry and Ministry for Security establish departmental veterinary and sanitary services. The organizational structure and financing of the services is determined by the above said Ministries.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations may, at their own expense, establish industrial veterinary services.

Departmental veterinary and sanitary and industrial veterinary services carry out their activities under the supervision of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

### Section III.

#### The State Veterinary and Departmental Veterinary and Sanitary Inspectors

##### Article 8. State Veterinary Inspection.

State veterinary inspection is the term for the activity of management bodies, institutions and organizations of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service aimed at preventing animal diseases and ensuring veterinary/sanitary safety of animal products by preventing, detecting and suppressing violation of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation.

State veterinary inspection includes:

exposing and establishing the causes and conditions under which infectious and mass non-infectious animal diseases appeared and spread;

organizing anti-epizootic measures including measures to prevent and liquidate the hotbeds of diseases common for humans and animals, measures to protect the territory of the Russian Federation against the penetration of animal infections from foreign countries and control over their implementation;

developing veterinary rules and other normative acts obligatory in animal husbandry, keeping animals, in manufacturing, storage, transportation and selling of animal products;

controlling the implementation of organizational, manufacturing and veterinary prevention measures by enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens, controlling observance of the veterinary rules currently in force;

establishing the system of producing and applying biological, chemical and other substances in veterinary medicine, implementing specialized measures to protect animals against the harmful affect of emergency factors, natural and other disasters;

implementing measures to suppress violations of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation and executing sanctions provided for by the present Law.

State veterinary inspection is carried out by officials as listed in Article 5 paragraph 3 of the present Law as well as by other officials of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service in accordance with the procedure on state veterinary inspection in the Russian Federation approved by the Russian Federation Government - the Council of Ministers.

Article 9. The Rights of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation, Chief State Veterinary Inspectors of the Nation-State Administrative and Territorial Formations and Their Deputies.

The Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation, chief state veterinary inspectors of the republics in the Russian Federation, of the autonomous region, autonomous

areas, territories, regions, the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, of districts and towns and their deputies have the right to:

freely visit and examine enterprises, institutions and organizations to confirm compliance with the veterinary legislation of the Russian Federation, implementation of anti-epizootic and other veterinary measures and observance of the veterinary rules currently in force;

demand that enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens carry out anti-epizootic and other veterinary measures, remedy violations of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation and exercise control over the implementation of requirements;

establish the causes and conditions for the appearance and spreading of animal infections and veterinary and sanitary unsafe animal products;

submit proposals to the bodies of state power and local administration:

a) on instituting, in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, of emergency anti-epizootic committees;

b) on introducing quarantines and/or other limitations aimed at preventing the development and liquidating the hotbeds of infectious and mass non-infectious animal diseases in specific individual territories of the Russian Federation;

c) on suspending the economic activity of enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens in the event of violation of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation, failure to comply with the decisions of the corresponding state veterinary inspection bodies on the suspension of such activity;

d) on alienating animals or confiscating animal products in the course of liquidation of the hotbeds of the most dangerous animal diseases;

take decisions on conducting diagnostic testing and vaccination of animals in accordance with epizootic symptoms;

suspend or ban, until completion of necessary measures and elimination of the existing violations of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation, manufacturing, storage, transportation and selling of animal products;

bring, in accordance with the present Law, to responsibility officials of enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens for the violation of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation.

The Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation has the right to take part in the development and signing of the international treaties pertaining to the veterinary issues if the Russian Federation enters into such treaties.

#### Article 10. Guarantees to the Officials, Institutions and Organizations of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service Dischargeing Duties as State Veterinary Inspectors

Chief state veterinary inspectors, other officials of the Russian Federation State Veterinary Service that execute state veterinary inspection are representatives of the bodies of federal executive authority and are protected by the state.

They are independent in their activities which are carried out in accordance with the Russian Federation veterinary legislation.

Bodies of executive authority and local administration, enterprises, institutions and organizations active in manufacturing, storage, transporting and selling of animals, animal products and feed are obliged to grant to the institutions and organizations of the State Veterinary Service (including the zonal state veterinary inspection departments at the Russian

Federation State Border and on transport, frontier and transport veterinary control stations, veterinary and sanitary examination laboratories at markets) free use of official premises, necessary equipment and means of communication and provide compensation of operational expenses.

#### Article 11. Departmental Veterinary and Sanitary Inspection

Departmental veterinary and sanitary inspection at the facilities belonging to the Russian Federation Defence Ministry, Interior Ministry, Ministry for Security as well as at the facilities of the CIS Joint Armed Forces located on the territory of the Russian Federation is discharged by departmental veterinary and sanitary services acting in compliance with the Regulations on the veterinary and sanitary inspection under development in accordance with the present Law and approved by the above mentioned Ministers in coordination with the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

#### Section IV

##### General Requirements for the Prevention and Liquidation of Animal Diseases and for Ensuring Veterinary/Sanitary Safety of Animal Products

#### Article 12. Planning and Construction of Enterprises to Manufacture and Store Animal Products

In the planning and construction of cattle farms, poultry farms, meat processing and packing factories, other enterprises to manufacture and store animal products, farms and citizens' private production facilities the most favorable conditions for keeping animals and manufacturing animal products, for preventing pollution of the environment by production waste and pathogens of infectious animal diseases should be provided for.

A statement from the bodies of the state veterinary inspection certifying that the project documentation complies with the veterinary rules and norms in force is a prerequisite for granting of a plot for construction, approving project documentation for construction, reconstruction, modernization and commissioning of animal products manufacturing and storing enterprises.

#### Article 13. Keeping, Feeding and Watering Animals, their Transporting or Driving

By their size and equipment the premises used for keeping animals on a temporary or permanent basis should ensure conditions favorable for their health.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens owning animals are to provide them with the feed and water that are safe, including environmentally safe, and meet the corresponding veterinary and sanitary requirements.

The veterinary and sanitary requirements and norms for the safety of feed and additives are approved in an established order and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the international organizations that the Russian Federation is a member of.

Feed and feed additives, including unconventional ones, are produced and used only if certified by a specially appointed body. The requirements cannot be lower than the existing international standards.

If the feed and feed additives, including unconventional ones, fall short of the established veterinary and sanitary requirements and rules the chief state veterinary inspector or his deputy take a decision to discontinue their production or to withdraw them from selling.

Transporting or driving animals are to be carried out along the routes coordinated with the bodies of state veterinary inspection with all necessary precautions to prevent the appearance and spreading of animal diseases.

#### Article 14. Protection of the Russian Federation Territory Against Penetration of Animal Infections from Abroad

Only healthy animals and animal products of healthy animals from veterinary safe foreign countries can be imported onto the territory of the Russian Federation provided the requirements of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation and of the international treaties the Russian Federation is party to have been observed.

The central bodies of the federal executive power, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens may buy and import into the Russian Federation animals, animal products and feed only with the permission of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

To implement measures aimed at preventing penetration of infectious animal diseases from foreign countries Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation set up frontier veterinary control stations at the State Border of the Russian Federation (at railway and automobile terminals, stations, at sea and river ports, airports, international airfields and other specially equipped points where immigration control or, if necessary, other types of control and admission of people, transport, animal products and animals across the State Border of the Russian Federation is carried out). The Defence Ministry set up such stations at naval bases, military airfields and other admission points of military transport.

Transportation of animals, animal products and feed, admission of military transport across the State Border of the Russian Federation is allowed only in points where frontier veterinary control stations are set up.

#### Article 15. Procurement, Processing, Storage, Transportation and Selling of Animal Products

The results of the veterinary and sanitary examination should show that animal products satisfy the safety requirements in respect of the health of the population and originate from veterinary safe territories.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens engaged in procurement, processing, storage, transportation and selling of animal products are to ensure the above said requirements are implemented.

#### Article 16. Production , Introduction and Use of Vaccines and Other Means of Protecting Animals from Infection

Vaccines and other means of protecting animals from infection may be produced, introduced and used only provided the All-Russian State Scientific-Research Institute of the



Veterinary Substances Control, Standardization and Certification finds that the technical and normative documents for the substances satisfy the existing veterinary rules.

Production of vaccines and other means of protecting animals from infection is organized with due consideration for the above said requirements and in the order provided for in the legislation of the Russian Federation.

#### Article 17. Responsibilities of the Bodies of Executive Power and Corresponding Management Bodies of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation in the Event of Emergence of Infectious and Mass Non-Infectious Animal Diseases Hotbeds

In the event of emergence of infectious and mass non-infectious animal diseases hotbeds the Government of the Russian Federation - the Council of Ministers, bodies of executive power of the republics in the Russian Federation, the autonomous region, autonomous areas, territories, regions, the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, the local administration of districts and towns on the presentation of the corresponding bodies of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation introduce quarantine or other limitations aimed at preventing the spreading and liquidating the hotbeds of the said animal diseases.

#### Article 18. Responsibilities of Enterprises, Institutions, Organizations and Citizens - Owners of Animals and Manufacturers of Animal Products

Responsibility for the health, keeping and use of animals rests with their owners and the obligation to manufacture veterinary and sanitary safe animal products lies with the producers.

The animal owners and animal products manufacturers are obliged to:

implement economic and veterinary measures to ensure prevention of animal diseases and veterinary and sanitary safety of animal products, ensure proper upkeep of premises, including the farms, feed storage and animal produce processing facilities, prevent pollution of the environment by production waste;

observe the zoo-hygienic and veterinary and sanitary requirements in placing, construction and commissioning facilities for keeping animals and processing, storage and selling of animal products;

permit veterinaries to examine animals if they so demand, immediately inform the above said specialists of all instances of sudden animal loss or simultaneous mass sickness as well as unaccountable behavior;

pending the specialists' arrival isolate animals with suspected illness;

observe the established veterinary and sanitary rules of animal transportation, slaughter, animal products processing, storage and selling;

implement the instructions of specialists in veterinary medicine on the measures to prevent and fight animal diseases.

#### Article 19. Alienating Animals and Confiscating Animal Products In the Course of Liquidating Hotbeds of the Most Dangerous Animal Diseases

In liquidating hotbeds of the most dangerous animal diseases the chief state veterinary inspector can take a decision on alienating animals and confiscating animal products.

The list of ailments which allow of alienation of animals and confiscation of animal products is determined by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with the Russian Federation legislation enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens have the right to compensation for the loss due to the alienation of animals and confiscation of the animal products.

#### Section V.

Protection of the People from Diseases Common for Humans and Animals and from Food Poisoning

Article 20. Competence of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation in the Sphere of Protecting People from Diseases Common for Humans and Animals and from Food Poisoning

The State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation carries out veterinary and sanitary examination of animal products and takes other specialized measures aimed at protecting people from diseases common for humans and animals as well as from food poisoning due to the consumption of veterinary or sanitary unsafe animal products.

Article 21. Veterinary and Sanitary Examination of Animal Products

Meats, meat products and other produce of animal slaughter, milk, dairy products, eggs and other animal products are subject to veterinary and sanitary examination to determine whether they are suitable for consumption.

Organization and implementation of the veterinary and sanitary examination, use of the animal products, depending on the examination results, are defined by the veterinary rules published in accordance with the veterinary legislation of the Russian Federation. Veterinary and sanitary norms set by the above said rules should be satisfied by enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens who manufacture and sell animal products as well as by food markets.

Meats, meat products and other produce of animal slaughter, milk, dairy products, eggs and other animal products cannot be sold or consumed unless they have undergone the due veterinary and sanitary examination.

The processing and use of leather, fur or other animal materials is regulated by the veterinary and sanitary rules in force/

Article 22. Interaction of the Management Bodies, Institutions and Organizations of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federation Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection

Management bodies, institutions and organizations of the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federation Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection constantly interact within the framework of their competence on issues of protecting people from diseases common for humans and animals and from food poisoning.

## Section IV

### Article 23. Responsibility for the Violation of the Veterinary Legislation of the Russian Federation

Officials and citizens guilty of violation of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation are held disciplinary, administratively, criminally and otherwise responsible for the offense in compliance with the present Law and other legislative acts of the Russian Federation.

Fining and other forms of penalty does not deliver the offender from the obligation to make up for the damage in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

### Article 24. Grounds for Application and Application of Measures of Administrative Responsibility for Violations of the Russian Federation Veterinary Legislation by Bodies of State Veterinary Inspection

1. The following violations of the Russian Federation veterinary legislation by officials and citizens:

refusal to implement obligatory prevention measures (examination, immunization of animals) and violation of their terms;

violation of quarantine rules;

failure to observe the current veterinary rules aimed at ensuring veterinary safety of animal products;

untimely or incomplete implementation of measures to liquidate hotbeds of infectious animal diseases;

manufacturing and use of veterinary unsafe feed that resulted in emergence and spreading of infectious and mass non-infectious animal diseases;

failure to observe the norms and rules for the protection of the Russian Federation territory against penetration of animal infections from foreign countries;

violation of the veterinary rules in the course of international (export, import, transit) and internal transportation of animals, animal products and other cargoes subject to supervision by the state veterinary inspection by any means of transport;

selling and use of animal products unexamined by specialists in veterinary medicine;

failure to observe zoo-hygienic and veterinary and sanitary requirements in placing, construction and commissioning of facilities for keeping animals and processing, storing and selling of animal products;

failure to observe the veterinary and sanitary requirements on gathering and utilizing of the separations at the admission points across the State Border of the Russian Federation as detailed in Article 14 Part Three of the present Law;

failure to meet the veterinary and sanitary rules on the processing and use of leather, fur and other animal materials when enterprises manufacture products that do not comply with the veterinary and sanitary requirements -

entails a fine: for citizens - of up to five times the legally established minimum pay, for officials - of up to a ten times the legally established minimum pay.

2. Cases dealing with the offenses provided for paragraph 1 of the present Article are examined by corresponding bodies of state veterinary inspection.

The right to examine cases of offenses and to impose the following penalties on behalf of corresponding bodies of state veterinary inspection belongs to:

Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation - a fine for citizens of up to five times the legally established minimum pay, for officials - up to ten times the legally established minimum pay;

chief state veterinary inspectors of the republics in the Russian Federation, the autonomous region, autonomous areas, territories, regions, the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg - a fine for citizens of up to four times the legally established minimum pay, for officials - up to nine times the legally established minimum pay;

chief state veterinary inspectors of districts and towns - a fine for citizens of up to three times the legally established minimum pay, for officials - up to six times the legally established minimum pay.

Officials of the corresponding bodies of state veterinary inspection have the right to impose slap-on-the-wrist fines:

at markets - for violations of the veterinary and sanitary norms of selling animals, animal products or other foods;

on railway, sea, river and air transport, motor-ways and other roads, the routes for driving animals - for violations of the veterinary rules of transporting (driving) animals and animal products;

at the State Border of the Russian Federation - for violations of the current veterinary rules on the protection of the Russian Federation territory against penetration of animal infections from foreign countries.

## Section VII International treaties

### Article 25. International Treaties

If an international treaty on the issues of animal breeding, veterinary medicine, export and import of animals and animal products which the Russian Federation is party to establishes rules that differ from the ones provided for in the present Law the rules detailed in the international treaty take precedence over the latter ones.

President of the Russian Federation

B.Yeltsin

Moscow, the House of Soviets of Russia

14 May 1993

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