

# 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 Repub

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

- 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 rele

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 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

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.

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**





## **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,