

LAW
ON VETERINARY ACTIVITIES

Chapter 1

General Provisions

Article 1. Objective of this Law

This law shall regulate veterinary activities pursuant to international requirements, shall determine the legal status of veterinary structures, and shall establish requirements of veterinary sanitation and the principles of veterinary control.

Article 2. The Main Tasks of the Veterinary Service

The main tasks of veterinary medicine shall be as follows:

- 1) to protect domestic animals and other animals (birds, fur animals, fish, bees, wild animals, animals kept in zoos and vivaria, etc.) against diseases by preventive anti-epizootic, sanitation and other veterinary measures;
- 2) to treat animal diseases;
- 3) to control that animal products and raw materials used in food processing are of adequate veterinary sanitation quality;
- 4) to help to protect the environment from pollution; and
- 5) to introduce the novelties of veterinary science.

Article 3. The Structure of the Veterinary Service

1. The veterinary service of the Republic of Lithuania shall be both state and private.

2. The structure and competence of the State Veterinary Service shall be established by the Government.

Article 4. The Administration of Veterinary Service

1. The tasks of veterinary service of the Republic of Lithuania shall be discharged by the State Veterinary Department.

2. The State Veterinary Department shall organise veterinary services, and shall issue instructions and give directions, the fulfilment of which shall be obligatory in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The State Veterinary Department shall be a legal entity having a seal with the state emblem.

Article 5. The Right to Engage in Veterinary Practice

1. Persons who have the qualification of a veterinary surgeon may engage in veterinary practice. Veterinary assistants (technicians) shall work only under the auspices of a veterinary surgeon.

Veterinary specialists who have come from abroad shall be certified by the commission appointed according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. The State Veterinary Service, veterinary surgeons engaged in private practice, and veterinary assistants, while performing their duties, shall be guided by this Law, and other laws and executive acts of the Republic of Lithuania regulating veterinary activities.

Chapter 2

The State Veterinary Service

Article 6. The Functions of the State Veterinary Service

The State Veterinary Service shall:

1) implement veterinary preventive measures against infectious, invasive and other contagious diseases of domestic and other animals;

2) together with health care agencies, exchange information and eradicate centers of contagious diseases which are dangerous to people and animals;

3) assess the epizootic situation and give obligatory directions to animal breeders concerning the implementation of preventive and eradication measures of contagious diseases of domestic and other animals, disinfection, deratisation and other measures;

4) analyse the causes of non-contagious diseases and extinction of domestic and other animals, prepare recommendations for their prevention, and treat ill animals;

5) conduct clinical, laboratory (virological, bacteriological, biochemical, chemical-toxicological, radiological, histological, parasitological) and other tests for diagnosing animal diseases, and evaluate the quality of fodder and water;

6) from the stand point of veterinary sanitation, evaluate produced, processed and stored animal products and raw materials;

7) test animal foodstuffs at market places;

8) control veterinary sanitation conditions of cattle breeding facilities, slaughter-houses, plants processing meat, dairy and other animal products, market places, storage facilities, and perform veterinary examinations of the construction or reconstruction of such establishments and of excavations;

9) control the use of veterinary medicinal products, biological, chemical and other preparations in cattle breeding and veterinary practice, and assess their impact on the health of animals and the quality of animal products;

10) control that the condition of exported domestic and other animals, animal products and raw materials meet the veterinary requirements of the country to which they are being exported;

11) control that contagious animal diseases are not introduced from abroad, and inspect the veterinary condition of imported domestic and other animals, raw materials, animal products and fodder;

12) control and coordinate the activities of veterinary specialists employed at state and private enterprises or organizations.

Article 7. The Rights of the State Veterinary Service

The State Veterinary Service shall be authorised:

1) to give obligatory directions to natural and legal persons rearing domestic animals, as well as to enterprises and organisations or persons processing, storing and dealing in animal products and raw materials, to fulfill anti-epizootic and veterinary sanitation measures;

2) to inspect enterprises and organisations subject to veterinary monitoring, obtain information necessary for the determination of epizootic condition, investigate the causes of animal diseases, and assess the quality of veterinary sanitation of animal products and raw materials;

3) upon diagnosing contagious animal disease or when especially dangerous animal disease is suspected, to impose conditions of slaughter, detoxication, processing or utilisation of animals, animal products and raw materials obligatory for all plants, organisations, farmers, or persons pursuant to Articles 15 and 16 of this Law.

Article 8. State Veterinary Inspectors

1. The Head of the State Veterinary Department shall simultaneously be the chief state veterinary inspector of the Republic of Lithuania. His/her assistants shall be the assistants of the chief state veterinary inspector. Other specialists of the Department shall be state veterinary inspectors.

2. Heads of national, interregional, town, district state veterinary organisations or institutions and their assistants shall be state veterinary inspectors and their assistants of the Republic, region, town or district respectively.

Article 9. The rights of State Veterinary Inspectors

State veterinary inspectors shall have the right:

1) to prohibit to build, reconstruct or use those cattle breeding establishments, meat processing plants, shops, storehouses and other facilities, which do not meet veterinary sanitation requirements;

2) to prohibit to process raw materials or to use for food those animal products which do not meet veterinary sanitation requirements;

3) to control establishments of military units and other militarized subunits, railways, sea and river ports and airports which are subject to veterinary monitoring;

4) according to the procedure established by law, to impose administrative penalties upon officers and persons for the violations of this Law, the rules of animal quarantine and other veterinary sanitation requirements as well as for violating decisions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania or local governments relative to epizootic issues.

Article 10. Duties of State Veterinary Inspectors

State veterinary inspectors shall control how owners of domestic and other animals, organisations or persons processing, storing or dealing in animal products, as well as veterinary specialists conform to this Law, executive acts, and other veterinary requirements.

Article 11. Financing of the State Veterinary Service

The State Veterinary Service shall be financed out of the state budget.

Private Veterinary Practice

Article 12. Private Veterinary Practice

1. Veterinary surgeons may engage in private practice.
2. Veterinary assistants and technicians shall engage in private practice under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon.
3. Veterinary specialists engaged in private practice must have a licence issued according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 13. The Rights of Veterinary Specialists Engaged in Private Practice

Veterinary specialists engaged in private practice shall have the right:

- 1) to diagnose diseases and treat domestic and other animals, with the exception of those who have diseases which require quarantine or other special restrictions;
- 2) to vaccinate domestic and other animals, to render advices to animal owners;
- 3) to issue certificates testifying to the health condition of an animal;
- 4) when danger of contagious animal disease arises, to prohibit the bringing in or taking out of the establishment domestic and other animals, animal products, raw materials or fodder.

Article 14. Duties of Veterinary Specialists Engaged in Private Practice

Veterinary specialists engaged in private practice must:

- 1) upon suspecting contagious animal disease, immediately report this to the nearest state veterinary station and take measures to stop the spread of the disease;
- 2) fulfill, in the event of an epizooty of a contagious animal disease, directions given by the State Veterinary Service;
- 3) report, according to the procedure established by the State Veterinary Department, to the state veterinary service of the town or district about work which has been done which related to the prevention of contagious animal diseases and their treatment.

Chapter 4

Veterinary Sanitation Requirements for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases

Article 15. Duties of Breeders and their Servicing Organisations

1. Natural and legal persons breeding domestic and other animals, as well as enterprises and organisations processing, storing, transporting and dealing in animal products and raw materials, shall guarantee that veterinary sanitation measures be taken in time, that contagious animal diseases do not spread, and that their centers be eradicated.

2. Natural and legal persons may acquire domestic and other animals from abroad only upon receiving a licence of the State Veterinary Department. Imported domestic and other animals shall be subject to the established period of quarantine.

3. The import of animal products, raw materials, fodder, medicinal products, or biological preparations from abroad shall only be permitted according to the procedure established by the State Veterinary Department.

4. Natural and legal persons breeding domestic and other animals must immediately report to the state veterinary service about sudden and numerous diseases of domestic and other animals or their loss.

5. Owners of domestic and other animals must allow veterinary specialists to examine the animals, to make blood or other tests, to vaccinate them, and to carry out anti-epizootic and other preventive veterinary measures, and must aid them in carrying out these measures.

6. Only natural and legal persons possessing veterinary certificates of the established form may deal in domestic and other animals, animal products and raw materials.

7. Under the direction of a veterinary surgeon or assistant, dead animals, the remains of slaughtered animals, aborted fetuses, defective skins and furs, and other animal waste must be taken by the owner to special establishments or must be buried in an animal cemetery.

8. Animals which have died from contagious diseases which are especially dangerous to people and animals shall, under the direction of a state veterinary surgeon, be cremated with their skin and intestines.

9. It shall only be permitted to slaughter healthy or ill animals in order to use their meat for food, to feed animals, or to sell their meat or other parts of their carcass with the

permission of a veterinary surgeon.

10. The transportation of domestic and other animals and their products shall be permitted only by special transportation means that meet veterinary sanitation requirements. A veterinary document is necessary for transportation by freight.

11. Domestic and other animals shall be cured, and preventive and veterinary sanitation measures shall be performed, at the expense of the owners, except in cases specified in Article 16 of this Law.

Article 16. Quarantine and other Restrictions in Cases of Contagious Disease

1. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania, on the recommendation of the State Veterinary Department, shall approve the list of contagious animal diseases subject to quarantine or restrictions as well as the list of diseases whose prevention and eradication measures shall be financed by the state.

2. Upon receiving a report about sudden animal diseases or the suspicion of a contagious disease, a veterinary surgeon or assistant servicing the natural or legal persons or the locality shall immediately come to the place, examine the ill animal and other animals kept with it, take measures to diagnose the disease, isolate the ill animals, and report to the state veterinary inspector of the town or district.

3. Upon diagnosing a contagious animal disease on a farm or in a settlement, a quarantine or other restrictions necessary for the eradication of the spreading of the disease shall be declared by a decision of the town (or district) board.

4. In order to maintain the isolation regime of the contagious zone, police or veterinary control posts may be established, the number and location of which shall be determined by local governments.

5. During quarantine, the operation of market places, animal reception centers, and enterprises shall be suspended, and fairs, auctions, exhibitions and other events related to animal transportation shall be prohibited.

6. In the event of a dangerous contagious disease, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania may pass a decision to declare special quarantine restrictions in the contaminated district or throughout the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

Chapter 5

Veterinary Control

Article 17. Control of Veterinary Preparations Used in Cattle-breeding

1. Only those medicinal products, feedstuff additions, microelements, vaccines, other biological preparations and reagents which are registered in the pharmacopoeia or in a pharmacological service shall be permitted to be used in cattle-breeding. Veterinary and diagnostic preparations made according to the technical normative documentation and directions for use approved by the State Veterinary Department may be used in cattle-breeding.

2. The State Veterinary Service shall control how natural and legal persons use, for domestic and other animals, veterinary preparations provided for in this Law, and shall check how these preparations are being kept and destroyed after their expiration date.

3. It shall be prohibited to use biological stimulators or hormones having thyreostatic, estrogenic, androgenic, or gestagenic effects, to induce animal breeding or to increase productivity (lactation).

Article 18. Veterinary Control in Market places

1. State veterinary control is obligatory in city, regional, and settlement market-places where domestic and other animals, animal products and raw materials are sold. The market administrations must create conditions for this work.

2. In market places the State Veterinary Service shall have meat stamps and labels to mark the quality of products, which are kept safely and a strict record of which is kept.

3. A doctor of the laboratory of sanitation examination of the market veterinary control shall detain products (production) which are unfit for human consumption and shall send them to be destroyed or processed.

Article 19. Veterinary Control in Hunting

Each hunting club must arrange killed animal processing grounds which conform with the requirements of veterinary sanitation, and must assure the veterinary sanitation examination of game used for food.

Article 20. The Decision of Arguments which Arise concerning Veterinary Legal

Relations

Arguments between veterinary organizations and natural or legal persons shall be decided in court or arbitration according to the procedure established by the laws of the Republic of

Lithuania.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS

President
Supreme Council
Republic of Lithuania

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