

Law of the Republic of Estonia on Veterinary Service

Chapter 1. General Provisions.

Article 1. Subject of the Law on Veterinary Service.

(1) The Law on Veterinary Service enacts the installation of the veterinary service and its supervision in the Republic of Estonia.

(2) The present Law shall be the basis for the legal acts, concerning the veterinary service of the Republic of Estonia.

Article 2. Main Tasks of Veterinary Service.

(1) The main tasks of the veterinary service shall be as follows:

- 1) the protection of the population against infectious diseases from animals,
- 2) the prevention against diseases of domestic and wild animals, fish, birds, bees (hereinafter: animals) and the medical treatment of sick animals.
- 3) the protection of the territory of the Republic of Estonia against infectious diseases of animals and the propagation of infectious diseases via animals,
- 4) the control of the veterinary-sanitary quality of meat, meat products, milk, milk products, eggs, fish, apicultural products, skins, wool, feathers (hereinafter: animal-breeding products),
- 5) the protection of the natural environment from the pollution, connected with animal diseases.

Article 3. Structure and Management of the Veterinary Service

(1) The Veterinary Service in the Republic of Estonia shall be founded out of the state budget and shall be completely independent from profit orientation and business interests,

(2) The supervision of the State Veterinary Service shall be allowed to cooperate with the privately operating profession and with municipal veterinary services.

(3) The Government of the Republic shall determine the structure and the provision for the management of the State Veterinary Service and the terms for privately practicing professionals.

Article 4. Right to Veterinary Activity.

- (1) The veterinary activity shall include veterinary aid, veterinary supervision, veterinary expertise and veterinary control.
- (2) The veterinary activity shall be permitted for a person, holding a high school or a secondary vocational school degree and possessing a diploma as veterinary surgeon or hospital assistant and being registered by the veterinary center of the county.
- (3) The post of the veterinary surgeon shall be permitted for a veterinary surgeon with high school professional preparation.
- (4) In case a veterinary surgeon of the foreign citizenship wishing to work in the Republic of Estonia, he or she shall be certified in accordance with the order, established by the Government of the Republic.

Article 5. Payment for Veterinary Activity.

The medical treatment, prophylaxis and diagnostics of the diseases of animals, the control of the veterinary-sanitary quality of the animal-breeding products and the issue of the veterinary certificates shall be remunerated, except in the cases, established in section 1. of article 12. of the present Law.

Chapter 2. State Veterinary Service.

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Article 6. Tasks of State Veterinary Service.

- (1) The tasks of the State Veterinary Service shall be as follows:
 - 1) the supervision of the present Law and the legal actions under it,
 - 2) veterinary aid for animals, arrangement of diagnostics, prophylaxis, prevention and medical treatment of their diseases,
 - 3) prevention of diseases, infectious both for human beings and animals in cooperation with the State Health Centre,
 - 4) arrangement of laboratory researches in order to diagnose animal diseases and to evaluate the quality of animal-breeding products, fodder and drinking water,
 - 5) veterinary-sanitary control of animal-breeding products and the evaluation of their quality,
 - 6) control of the veterinary sanitary conditions of the animal-breeding premises, the enterprises and the markets (hereinafter: the objects of the veterinary supervision), processing, transporting and storing of animal-breeding products,
 - 7) coordination and approval of construction and reconstruction projects of animal farms and enterprises, processing and

- storing of animal-breeding products,
- 8) control of the use of medicine, biological, chemical and other veterinary preparations and the assessment of their effects on the health of animals and animal-breeding products,
 - 9) control of the performance of the veterinary sanitary interests of the state, exporting animals and animal-breeding products from the Republic of Estonia,
 - 10) the protection of the territory of the Republic of Estonia against the introduction of infectious diseases from other states, including veterinary sanitary control over imported animals, animal-breeding products and fodder,
 - 11) control and coordination of private veterinary practice.

Article 7. Rights of State Veterinary Service.

(1) The State Veterinary Service shall be competent to do as follows:

- 1) decree obligatory instructions for epidemic control and veterinary sanitary supervision for physical and legal persons, keeping animals or processing, storing and transporting animal-breeding products or trading with animals and animal-breeding products,
- 2) control of the objects of the veterinary supervision, collecting information on the propagation of infectious diseases of animals (epidemiological situation), the causes for diseases and perishing of animals and the veterinary sanitary conditions of animal-breeding conditions,
- 3) undertake tests, free of charge, for the expertise of animal-breeding products in case of supervision,
- 4) issuing veterinary certificates.

Article 8. State Veterinary Inspectors.

The obligations of the state veterinary inspectors shall be effected by the veterinary surgeons of the State Veterinary Service in accordance with the established order by the Government of the Republic.

Article 9. Rights of State Veterinary Inspectors.

(1) The state veterinary inspector shall be competent to do as follows:

- 1) control the objects of veterinary supervision, demand explanations, write prescriptions and produce protocols on elimination of deficiencies,
- 2) prohibit the construction of objects which process animal-breeding products, or the construction of the animal-breeding premises, not in line with the veterinary sanitary requirements,
- 3) prohibit the use of animal-breeding products, not in line with the veterinary sanitary requirements, for food, but also prohibit processing such animal substances,

- 4) close the object, mentioned under point 2. of the present paragraph, in the case of continued violation of the veterinary sanitary rules, the production of the noxious products or the pollution of the nature,
- 5) making responsible the physical and the legal persons, being guilty in the violation of the legal acts of the present Law and the arrangement of the veterinary service of the Republic of Estonia, in accordance with the Legal Acts of the Violation of the Administrative Rights and the Penal Code.

Article 10. Maintenance of State Veterinary Service.

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

Chapter 3. Prophylaxis and Veterinary Control of Animal Diseases. =====

Article 11. Obligations of Animal Owners and of Enterprises or Organisations, Servicing Animal-Breeding.

- (1) The Republic of Estonia shall have the right to import animals in accordance with the order, enacted by the Estonian Republic. The physical and the legal persons shall be obliged to keep imported animals in quarantine in accordance with the established regulations.
- (2) The import of the animal-breeding products, fodder, veterinary medicine and biopreparations into the Estonian Republic shall be allowed only in accordance with the regulation, established by the Government of the Republic.
- (3) Any enterprise or household shall have the right to have agricultural animals only on the basis of the veterinary certificate, issued by the veterinary surgeon.
- (4) The transport of species of animals shall be from one place to another only on the basis of the regulations of the State Veterinary Service.
- (5) Any animal owner shall be obliged to inform immediately about any case of massive animal disease or perishing to the nearest installation of the veterinary service.
- (6) Only those physical and legal persons, who have the corresponding veterinary certificate, shall be allowed to trade with animals and animal-breeding products. The veterinary certificate must be issued by the corresponding residential veterinary surgeon.

Article 12. Quarantine and Restrictions.

- (1) The Government of the Republic shall approve the list of the animal diseases, being a basis for introducing quarantine and the restrictions, but also a list of animal diseases, the

prophylaxis and the prevention and also the conditions, the period and the dates of the quarantine and the restrictions, thus shall be out the state budget.

(2) On the basis of the decision of the Government of the Republic special measures shall be possible for preventing the spread of especially dangerous infectuous animal diseases.

Article 13. Use and Control of Veterinary Preparations.

(1) Only such medicines, fodder mixtures, vaccine, biopreparations and reagents shall be allowed to be used in animal-breeding, which have been registered in the pharmacopoeia or in accordance with the order, established by the pharmaceutical service and the Government of the Republic.

(2) Biostimulators and hormone preparations, which are dangerous for the human health, shall not be allowed to be used for promotion of productivity and acceleration of animal growth.

(3) The import of veterinary medicine, vaccine and other biopreparations shall be allowed in accordance with the order, established by the Government of the Republic,

Article 14. Application of Law on Veterinary Service.

The Law on Veterinary Service shall be valid from the first of January, 1993.

T. Kelam

Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly

Tallinn, November 10, 1992.