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From Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt, Wisconsin State Veterinarian:

Disease threat from Haiti?



Among the many ripples that Haiti's tragic earthquake will likely create is an influx of animals to the United States. Remember that they will be coming from a tropical island with a whole new set of pathogens, and from a poor nation where veterinary care is probably the least of anyone's worries.

A quick Google search turns up many animal rescue groups headed to Haiti to save animals left without owners. We can also expect the number of Haitian immigrants to increase as a result of people losing homes and livelihoods to the earthquake, and these people may bring pets. Finally, the United States has sent lots of search dogs to help in the rescue and recovery effort. These animals will be returning home, after coming in contact with pathogens they would never be exposed to here.

The federal requirement for health certificates has been waived temporarily for most permitted species including dogs, horses, and birds. Dogs will be checked for screwworm at the border, and birds and horses will be quarantined. Swine and ruminants will be denied entry to the U.S.

This is just a reminder to veterinarians, humane societies, and rescue groups that foreign animal diseases do occur in small companion animals as well as livestock. You are on the front lines here. Remember that a private practitioner found the most recent U.S. case of screwworm in a dog. If you have any suspicion that you're seeing a foreign animal disease, contact your [district veterinarian](#), the State Veterinarian's office (608-224-4872), or the USDA Veterinary Services Madison office (608-662-0600). You can also call the state's 24-hour emergency hotline at 1-800-943-0003 after hours. The duty officer in charge will know how to reach the State Veterinarian.

Thanks for your help.

Continuing education opportunity: Fish health and regulatory medicine

A free workshop for veterinarians on fish regulatory medicine is scheduled April 26-27 at the Pyle Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

More than a dozen speakers are already scheduled, many of them nationally recognized in the aquaculture field. Topics include:

- Aquatic certificates of veterinary inspection
- Compliance issues



- Updates from neighboring states and interstate regulations
- OIE's role
- VHS surveillance
- Biosecurity
- Wisconsin's Fish Health Medicine Certificate Program
- The national and international Aquaculture and Veterinary Medicine Organizations
- Diagnostic lab tips
- Practitioner tips
- Veterinary accreditation

The workshop will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, April 26, and ends at 5 p.m. April 27. Continuing education credits will be available. Online registration will be available soon. For more information, contact Bev Simonds at 608-224-4887 or by [email](#).

The workshop is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.



Committee forming to recommend dog breeder standards

We are seeking nominations for a committee that will recommend provisions for administrative rules needed to carry out the recently passed law regulating dog breeders, sellers, rescues and shelters. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Feb. 10.

This is a golden opportunity for those who will be regulated to have input into the rule governing them.

Wisconsin Act 90 specifies the makeup of this advisory committee. Members must be those who will be regulated by the law, including retail dog sellers (pet shops), breeders who sell dogs either wholesale or retail, sporting dog groups, humane societies, animal control facilities and breed rescue groups. Members must be nominated by an organization and speak for the

group's interests as a whole rather than their own individual interests.

The 12-member group will meet about once a month, March to December, and members should be able to commit to attend all the meetings. The recommendations will be used as the department drafts the rule for standards of care for the dogs and for facilities. The rule will go to public hearings in the spring of 2011, and the law takes effect June 1, 2011.

For information or nomination papers, email DATCPanimals@wi.gov or call Dr. Yvonne Bellay, 608-224-4888.

Notes on accreditation

Upcoming orientation seminar Veterinarians who need to complete an accreditation orientation in Wisconsin can attend one scheduled at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. If you plan to attend, please register in advance with Marla Kieler (Marla.M.Kieler@aphis.usda.gov) the USDA Veterinary Services Madison office. The SVM is at 2015 Linden Drive on the campus in Madison. See [map and directions](#).

Changes to National Veterinary Accreditation Program The increasingly complex world of animal health in a global age means that NVAP needs to change to keep up. Changes include:

- Renewal every three years
- Supplemental training requirements
- Accreditation in one of two categories

Veterinarians who are already accredited as of Feb. 1 of this year need to apply for participation in the new program by Aug. 2. Once accredited in the new program, these veterinarians will not need any further training until their renewal is due. Renewals will be staged over 3-5 years. If you do not apply, your current accreditation will expire Aug. 3.

To apply and for more information, visit the [USDA's website](#).

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