

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN, as a member of the communicable disease epidemiology team, monitors the occurrence of zoonotic and other communicable diseases; identifies disease outbreaks; provides consultative services for local health departments, veterinarians, private physicians, and lay citizens; prepares papers and reports recommending prevention and control measures for these diseases; and represents the Health Division in contacts with other State agencies, Federal agencies, professional associations, and the media.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.**Consultative Services.** Typical tasks: provides current information on the diagnosis, occurrence, treatment, prevention, and control of the zoonoses and other communicable diseases to local health departments, private physicians, veterinarians, lay citizens, and other State agencies on topics such as animal bites and the evaluation of rabies risk (the need for animal brain tissue examination and for human prophylaxis), foodborne diseases (including botulism), and plague investigation and prevention.
- 2.**Disease Outbreak Investigation.** Typical tasks: as directed by the section manager, advises county public health personnel in the conduct of disease outbreak investigations, including data collection, analysis, specimen collection, preservation and submission, and types of tests available; if the county requests, on-site assistance is given in the investigation and in dealing with the media.
- 3.**Epidemiologic Studies.** Typical tasks: performs formal case-control or cohort studies of significant health issues and surveillance of health problems: determines the most appropriate way to study an identified health question; plans the epidemiologic study of the question, including identification of the study population, questionnaire design, analytical design, identification and organization of resources needed, and writing a specific project proposal; conducts the epidemiologic study, including training interviewers and clerical staff in project-specific tasks as necessary, identifying subjects from whom biological specimens are to be obtained, assuring quality control of the data collection and data entry, and performing the analysis of the data; prepares a formal written report of the study, including a description of the methods used, the findings and the interpretation of the findings.
- 4.**Monitoring Epidemiological Data Sources.** Typical tasks: examines and evaluates public health laboratory reports, veterinary diagnostic laboratory reports, reports from the Department of Agriculture Laboratories, and State and Federal agency reports to determine the occurrence and distribution and trends of diseases so sources of disease can be determined and control measures instituted; alerts other agencies, local, State, and Federal, to the findings from such monitoring so they can take appropriate action to control the conditions in their locale.
- 5.**Disease Occurrence Studies.** Typical tasks: requests the collection of specimens from foods, animals, and persons, or collects specimens on-site if county resources are limited, to determine the

prevalence of infections, contamination, or infestations that may be the source of diseases requiring control by local, State, or Federal agencies.

6. Education and Training. Typical tasks: gives lectures as requested at institutions of higher learning; conducts disease topic seminars as required to update local health department staffs; gives presentations and prepares manuscripts for professional organizations/journals as requested.

7. Liaison with State and Federal Agencies. Typical tasks: assists the Food and Dairy Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture in the investigation of foodborne diseases; reports foodborne episodes (and the epidemiological information connected with them); assists the Meat Inspection Division of U.S. Department of Agriculture when their products are encountered during an investigation; reports foodborne episodes to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration personnel for products moving in interstate commerce; transmits communicable disease information to surrounding states when they need to know or a possible source/case is in their jurisdiction; communicates the findings of investigations of possible national interest to the Centers for Disease Control, USPHS, Atlanta, Georgia; reports disease conditions that may affect wildlife or domestic livestock to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Animal Health Section, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Veterinary Section, U.S. Department of Agriculture; assists any other State agencies that need information/ advice/assistance in matters related to zoonotic disease.

8. Miscellaneous. Typical tasks: reviews and revises rules concerning rabies control, foodborne diseases and other communicable diseases as necessary; prepares drafts of proposed legislation; testifies before legislative committees on issues concerning the zoonoses; represents section manager at meetings, conferences, and press conferences as assigned; keeps the section manager advised/informed on all issues, communications and occurrences on local, State, and Federal level which may affect the programs responsibility in fulfilling agency/office policy.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have daily contact by telephone with various county health workers, physicians, veterinarians, the lay public, and the Oregon Public Health Laboratory. The employee is in frequent contact with the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OSU), workers for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, county animal control personnel, the news media, and public health professionals in adjacent states. Information on communicable diseases is given and received so reports can be initiated, investigations started, and public education carried out.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class receive general supervision from the section manager who reviews work by oral evaluations, review of written communications, and feedback from personnel in local health departments and other State agencies. Much of the employee's work is governed by Oregon Revised Statutes and the Oregon Administrative Rules dealing with communicable diseases. An interagency agreement specifies the relationship between the employee and the Food and Dairy Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture in the handling of foodborne outbreaks and use of laboratories for the testing of food specimens.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

Extensive knowledge of the common zoonoses that occur in Oregon and in the United States.

Extensive knowledge of rabies as it occurs in this state and the northwest area so physicians can be assisted in making life and death decisions concerning this disease.

Extensive knowledge of diagnostic microbiology and serology for communicable diseases.

Extensive knowledge of therapeutic treatment and immunization practices for zoonotic communicable diseases that occur in Oregon.

General knowledge of the principles and methods of epidemiology, including study design, analytical procedures, and interpretative methods.

General knowledge of principles and methods of biostatistics and demography.

General knowledge of methods of preparing written scientific reports.

General knowledge of the methods of disease surveillance.

General knowledge of all communicable diseases reportable in Oregon.

Basic knowledge of expert resources in various diseases, so help can be sought when needed.

Skill in planning and organizing the conduct of investigations and other epidemiologic studies.

Skill in monitoring data collection and data entry to assure quality control.

Skill in evaluating epidemiologic data to develop valid interpretations of the data.

Skill in working with a variety of people with differing levels of technical knowledge to achieve efficient and reliable completion of epidemiologic studies.

Skill in the design and maintenance of surveillance systems to monitor the occurrence of disease or other health events.

Skill in writing scientific reports of investigations and special studies.

Skill in preparation of educational material and presentation before groups of varying backgrounds and knowledge.

Skill in providing expert and clear consultation to health professionals.

Ability to work tactfully with local health department staffs, veterinarians, physicians, the public, and personnel in other agencies to obtain full information from them and so information given will be well received, assimilated, and acted upon.

Ability to understand and follow written and verbal instructions with accuracy and perform them within specified time frames.

Ability to study and assimilate professional journals, reports, books, and abstracts so knowledge of communicable diseases is current and useful to those requesting consultative services.

Ability to work as a team member so the work of the section goes forward, regardless of credit or perceived workload differences between team members.

Ability to apply complex technical information.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an approved school or college of veterinary medicine; eligible for licensure as a veterinarian in the State of Oregon.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 4/90

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.