

# Information for veterinarians

June 2018

## Veterinary Services Program

### Supporting veterinarians who deal with livestock

As part of the Yukon Livestock Health Program, the Government of Yukon is continuing the pilot program to make it easier for farmers to access veterinary services. The Veterinary Services Program will reimburse participating veterinarians up to \$1,000 per premises served to cover:

- travel costs to and from the farm;
- professional service and farm call fees;
- cost of diagnostic tests, materials and professional fees associated with testing;
- fees for up to three phone consultations with the farmer; and/or
- fees for phone consultations with livestock health specialists.

The Veterinary Services Program does not cover the cost of drugs, medications, vaccines or treatments.

The program's goal is to encourage those who raise animals for food to access veterinary care for their animals to ensure a healthy and humane food supply chain. It complements the Government of Yukon's efforts to promote the production and consumption of local food.

Qualifying species for the Veterinary Services Program are:

- domestic livestock animals (beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, swine, alpacas, llamas and yaks);
- game farmed animals (elk, bison and muskox); and
- farmed fish raised for human consumption.

People with six or fewer poultry will be eligible for \$250 per premises per year. Horses are not covered by the program because they are not raised for food in Yukon.

### Process and payment

Participating veterinarians will enter into a transfer payment agreement with the Animal Health Unit (AHU). The agreement sets out the pilot program's goals,



### Contact

Animal Health Unit  
Government of Yukon  
867-667-5600 or  
1-800-661-0408, ext. 5600

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Y1A 2C6

Chief veterinary officer:  
867-456-5582

Program veterinarian:  
867-667-8663

Email:  
[animalhealth@gov.yk.ca](mailto:animalhealth@gov.yk.ca)

effective dates, eligible costs and deliverables and provides for a stipend to cover program administration costs. Veterinarians will be able to withdraw at any time.

After each farm call, the veterinarian will prepare two invoices:

- an **owner invoice** for the fees that must be paid by the owner (e.g., drugs and treatments required for the animals); and
- a **project invoice** for the fees covered by the Veterinary Services Program.

As soon as possible after the farm visit, the veterinarian will submit the project invoice to the AHU. The livestock owner should receive a copy, for information only, along with the owner invoice. Livestock owners already enrolled in the pilot program will have a Premises Identification (ID) number that must be quoted on the project invoice with their contact information.

## Administering the Veterinary Services Program

In some cases, a veterinarian may receive a call from a livestock owner who is not yet enrolled in the program. The veterinarian's role is to provide guidance on enrollment requirements and to deliver enrollment packages to farmers who have agreed to the terms. Enrollment packages containing Veterinary Services Program information have been distributed to all Yukon veterinary clinics. We do recommend that veterinarians and their staff encourage livestock owners to enroll by contacting the AHU in advance.

Veterinarians contacted by livestock owners to enroll should ensure the farmer understands that they will be expected to pay for the services not covered by the program. These will be itemized on an owner invoice. The farmer will receive a copy of the project invoice for their information only.

In order to enroll, livestock owners must complete a program enrollment form and those who are not yet part of the federal Premises ID program must complete that application. The information on these forms is kept confidential and individual privacy is protected by both government and private sector veterinarians. The farmer has seven days after the veterinary visit to submit these completed forms to the AHU, or they will be responsible for the entire cost of the veterinary visit.

## Record keeping and resources

The AHU will maintain a database with the name, contact information, Premises ID number, and project balance available for each owner/premises. A list of account balances will be emailed to veterinarians each time it is updated so all clinics will know the balance remaining for the livestock owners.

The AHU is providing participating veterinarians with a list of livestock specialists to contact for advice or opinions on specific cases. AHU veterinarians are also available to provide advice and may assist with or perform necropsies on livestock.

As part of the Yukon Livestock Health Program, the AHU will provide veterinarians with helpful documents from time to time on livestock health topics, as well as website links and other resources.



## Livestock health

A healthy livestock population is essential for producing safe, wholesome food and contributes to food security in Yukon.

Veterinarians have specialized knowledge of animal health and disease and can help farmers in planning for the best productivity from their livestock.

The Animal Health Unit has veterinarians who are specialists in disease diagnosis (pathology) and the spread of disease in populations, as well as in the relationship of animal disease to public health.

The Animal Health Unit supports veterinarians who participate in the Veterinary Services Program by ensuring access to disease testing and keeping track of the health of Yukon livestock.