

# IDAHO BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Spring 2016 Newsletter



### Idaho BOVM

2230 Old Penitentiary Road  
P.O. Box 7249, Boise, ID 83707

Phone: (208) 332-8588

Fax: (208) 332-8645

E-mail: [bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov)

Website: [www.bovm.idaho.gov](http://www.bovm.idaho.gov)

## News and Information

See page 3 for an  
important notice on  
reporting CE!



### CONTENTS

Greetings from the President	1
2016-2017 License Renewals	2
FAQs about Renewal	2
OFFICIAL NOTICE About Reporting CE	3
Update from the 2016 Idaho Legislative Session	4
COHE	4
CVT Corner	4
Guest Column from IDFG	5
Summary of Complaints from FY 2015	6
Update from ISDA Animal Industries	7
Update from USDA APHIS VS	8-9

### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Dave Gerber, DVM

After 3½ years on the Board, I can say it is one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences I have had in this profession. I would highly recommend it as one of your career goals.

First, our director and staff are doing a fantastic job of serving our licensees and certificants as well as the public. They are welcoming, understanding, and efficient. Our director recognizes the value of maintaining a positive relationship with the IVMA.

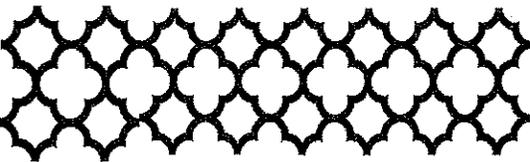
After all, the IVMA and the Board are really on the "same page" as we all want to maintain a high level of quality and service to the public and animals of Idaho.

Next, this has been a big year for positive legislation. The first is a rule change regarding CE reporting (**IDAPA 46-0101-1501**). Currently, most licensees complete the section on the renewal form listing all of their CE credits and then send in the certificates of attendance. This creates a mountain of paperwork for the staff who has to manually enter the information from the certificates into each licensee's file and then also retain the hard copies in a file until the end of the CE reporting period. The rule change directs the licensee to **RETAIN** the certificates until December 31 following the end of their CE reporting cycle. In order to insure compliance, the Board staff will randomly audit some of the CE reporting forms between July 1 and December 31 following the end of each CE reporting period. **It is of note that in the past 10 years, the Board has not detected a single case in which submitted CE had been deliberately falsified.**

Last, I must say that I am thrilled by the other piece of legislation that was **FINALLY** passed on the last day of the session (**House Bill H382a**). Currently, the board has the option to offer a non-disciplinary option for minor violations relating to record keeping and CE. The change in statute now expands that option to all areas of practice, including standard of care. Until now, (except for record keeping and CE) the only option the Board has had was to formally discipline licensees, which then became a part of the licensee's permanent record and was posted on a national database. We feel this was too severe for many of the minor infractions brought to the Board. The new approach will allow the Board the opportunity for early intervention at a time when bad behaviors are just beginning. It should be mentioned that the non-disciplinary option will not be available more than once in a five-year period, or for individuals on probation or already under investigation for other charges.



Dr. Dave Gerber,  
Board President



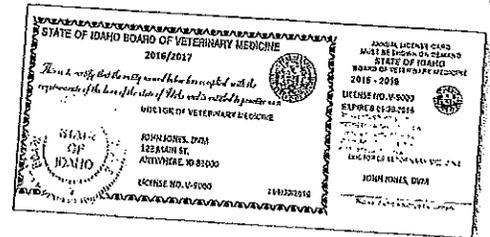
**DID YOU KNOW?** DVMs and CVTs can earn two CE credits for attending part of a scheduled Board meeting. Call the Board office for details.

### IDAHO BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

<b>President:</b>	Dave Gerber, DVM
<b>Liaison Officer:</b>	Carol Eklund, DVM
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Jody Rockett, DVM
<b>Members:</b>	Matt Dredge, DVM Billy Maupin, DVM
<b>Public Member:</b>	Kathy Simpson
<b>Executive Director:</b>	Jodie Ellis
<b>Office Staff:</b>	Cindy Hedge Lecia Johns

# 2015/2016 LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE RENEWALS

Veterinary licenses and certificates must be renewed annually in Idaho.



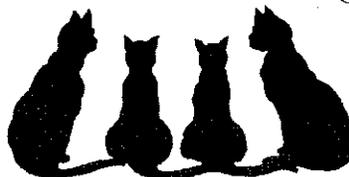
## Deadlines for the 2016 Renewal Season

DEADLINE	ACTION
May 1 - 8, 2016	Renewal forms will be mailed from BOVM office to licensee/certificant <i>using the address on file.</i> (If you moved within the last year but didn't notify the Board office, do so immediately.)
June 30, 2016	Last day to return renewal forms and payments to the Board office. <i>Envelopes must be postmarked by 11:59 PM, June 30, 2016, or will be considered late.</i>
July 1, 2016	This is the day that late licenses/certificates <b>lapse</b> . The licensee/certificant <b>may not legally practice until the lapsed license or certificate is reinstated.</b> <b>If you are late submitting your renewal form and/or fees, contact the BOVM office immediately to make arrangements for reinstatement.</b> You will be required to pay a late fee of \$200 (veterinarians) or \$50 (CVTs). <b>Reinstatement of a lapsed license is only possible through July 31, 2015.</b>
August 1, 2016	Licenses and certificates for which the Board has not received completed renewal forms and/or payment of fees will <b>permanently expire</b> ; reinstatement by a paying late fee is no longer possible. Licensee/certificant must reapply "from scratch."

## FAQs about License/Certificate Renewals

- **Must I enter my Social Security number on the renewal form every year?**  
**YES** – it is mandatory. Your renewal cannot be processed until your SSN is provided.
- **Do I have to complete the Child Support section if I don't have dependent children?**  
**YES.** The State requires that you provide this information.
- **What do I need to do if I answer 'yes' to any of the questions in the Personal History section of the application?** If you answer 'yes' to any question, you must attach a **notarized explanation** of each 'yes' answer to the application before mailing it to the Board office.
- **What payment options are available?** You may pay by check (paper or electronic) or by credit card. There is a \$2.50 processing fee for electronic checks (any amount), and a processing fee of 3% of the total plus \$1.00 for each credit card transaction. These fees do NOT go to the Board but rather to an online payment service. Payment instructions are located on the first page of the renewal form.
- **If I pay online, must I still mail the renewal form to the Board office by regular mail?**  
**YES.** In Idaho, the Board office must receive a signed renewal form from each licensee/certificant. The Board office is unable to process your renewal without the completed, signed application form.

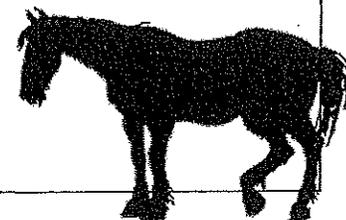
For assistance, contact the Board office at  
(208) 332-8588 or e-mail [bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov)



## **OFFICIAL NOTICE: Changes in Reporting Continuing Education (CE)**

Beginning **July 1, 2016**, the way in which Idaho licensees and certificants report continuing education credits to the Board office will change. Beginning that day:

1. **DO NOT ROUTINELY SEND CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE OR CE COURSE COMPLETION TO THE BOARD OFFICE TO BE RECORDED AND COMPILED.**
2. **Instead, keep all certificates of attendance/completion in your possession until December 31 of the year in which your CE credits are due.** For example:
  - If your CE credits are due on **June 30, 2016**, retain the certificates until **December 31, 2016**.
  - If your CE credits are due on **June 30, 2017**, retain the certificates until **December 31, 2017**.
  - If your CE credits are due on **June 30, 2018**, retain the certificates until **December 31, 2018**.
3. **On the year that your CE is actually due**, report CE to the Board by simply listing it in the space provided on your **annual renewal form** (which you receive by mail in May). **Note: You must sign your renewal form; it serves as a legal affidavit and will be returned to you if left unsigned.**
  - For example, if your CE credits are due on **June 30, 2016**, complete and send the CE reporting section in your 2016 renewal application.
  - If your CE credits are due on **June 30, 2017**, complete the CE reporting section in your 2017 renewal application.
4. *During those years in which your CE is not actually due, simply leave the Continuing Education part of the renewal form blank.*
5. Between July 1 and December 1, a percentage of licensees whose CE was due that year will be **randomly audited** by the Board office. If you are selected for a CE audit, you will be required to provide the actual certificates of attendance/completion to the Board office for confirmation. You will be notified of the audit by mail and given a deadline by which to provide the certificates.
6. We understand that there will be some overlap during the next year as many of you have already sent CE certificates to the office under the old system. The certificates that the Board office have on file for you will still count – *just don't send any more after July 1, 2016.*
7. Questions? Contact the Board office at:  
**(208) 332-8588** or at **bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov**



## UPDATES FROM THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill No.	Summary of proposed legislation	Final Result
HO381	Amends existing law to rename the <b>Euthanasia Task Force</b> as the <b>Committee on Humane Euthanasia</b>	Passed. Effective July 1, 2016.
HO382a	Amends existing law regarding alternatives to formal discipline and defines who may and may not be offered an <b>alternative to formal discipline</b> ; provides that a person who receives an alternative to formal discipline may be subject to certain conditions.	Passed. Effective July 1, 2016.
Negotiated rulemaking	Summary of proposed legislation	Final Result
Docket 46-0101-1501	Allows changes in reporting <b>Continuing Education</b> (see page 3 of this newsletter).	Passed. Effective July 1, 2016

### The Committee on Humane Euthanasia

(formerly Certified Euthanasia Task Force)

The Committee on Humane Euthanasia (COHE) was first created in 1994 to create and oversee a program that provides humane, regulated euthanasia of shelter animals throughout Idaho. Its purpose is not only to improve human safety but to provide a compassionate death to animals when necessary. The task force was originally envisioned as temporary, but the need for the program has grown over the years. **There are currently seventeen certified agencies and 60 certified technicians in the state.**

COHE consists of a dedicated group of volunteers – five veterinarians and one Certified Euthanasia Technician - who oversee the training, testing, and certification of certified euthanasia agencies in Idaho and of the technicians who perform euthanasia and manage the programs. Members of COHE conduct comprehensive training for technicians and inspections of facilities every year. COHE works closely with other agencies such as the Board of Pharmacy to create a safe environment for workers and animals alike.

Please let the Board office know if you are interested in volunteering for service on COHE.



### CVT CORNER –

Information CVTs can use!

**Q. When performing a dental prophylaxis on a dog I removed a premolar. Was that legal?**

**A.** Good question! The short answer is; it depends. According to Idaho's Veterinary Practice Act, a supervising veterinarian shall not authorize a CVT to deliberately extract a tooth.

The key point here is use of the word *deliberate*. If you removed the tooth while trying to clear calculus from the tooth surface, you are probably fine. Alternatively, the use of elevators or extraction forceps signifies that you intentionally removed the tooth, which is definitely outside a CVTs scope of practice.

*Do you have any questions you would like to see in this column? E-mail them to [bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:bovminfo@agri.idaho.gov)!*



# WILDLIFE IN NEED: VETERINARIANS AND WILDLIFE REHABILITATION



-Charlie Justus, Regional Conservation Officer  
Idaho Departments of Fish and Game, Southwest Region

**Let me begin by saying thank you.** Many veterinarians currently provide care to wildlife through partnerships with Idaho Fish and Game licensed rehabilitators. You give time and resources to help injured and orphaned animals. These partnerships are important to the work our state licensed rehabilitators do, since rehabilitators, great care-givers that they are, don't have the ability to take x-rays, give advanced supportive care, or perform surgeries to fix broken bones.

That said, **as a licensed veterinarian you are not exempt from needing a rehabilitation license to care for wildlife.** The Fish and Game rules do not exempt veterinarians, but Federal rules do allow licensed veterinarians to receive, stabilize, and then transfer within 48 hours migratory birds, raptors and federally classified endangered species (which must be transferred within 24 hours) to a licensed rehabilitator.

Because wildlife rehabilitation is intensely regulated, it might seem that Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service don't have confidence in veterinarians' ability to care for wildlife. This is definitely not so, but there are reasons for the seeming heavy-handedness. As you know, there are important differences between wildlife rehabilitation and caring for pets and livestock. For example, some **wildlife are negatively affected by human interaction.** Under the wrong circumstances, they **imprint on or become habituated to humans**, putting both animals and humans at risk. Some wild animals require specialized conditions that provide limited or no human contact; natural habitats must be closely replicated. This is especially important with younger big game animals such as **deer and bears.** If it is determined that an animal cannot care for itself in the wild after rehabilitation efforts, it must be euthanized, which is very difficult for most care-givers. Rehabilitation is never used to place injured animals into captive settings. After an animal is rehabilitated to a suitable condition for release, it must be released to suitable habitat as soon as seasonal conditions allow.

Late March and early April is an exciting time in Idaho as **early nesting raptors** start leaving their nests. Some young owls and hawks end up on the ground before they can fly because they were a little too eager to leave or their siblings crowded them out. Usually these birds are physically fine; placing them back in the nest or up on a branch in the nest tree is all that is required. If a caring member of the public brings you a nestling bird, first make sure it isn't injured or ill and then contact a rehabilitator who will attempt to return the bird to its nest or tree. If that is not possible, depending on the species, the rehabilitator may be able to place the nestling in a surrogate nest or provide care in an appropriate facility until it can be released back into the wild.

Around May, **big game animals** start giving birth. Many compassionate people encounter what they think is an abandoned baby animal and bring it to a veterinarian for help. Unless the dead mother is nearby, the baby most likely would be better off being left alone. Most wildlife mothers watch their offspring from a distance, and baby animals automatically freeze when humans are near; they instinctively regard us as predators. Usually the best course of action is to return the baby to the place it was picked up; most of the time mom is nearby waiting. However, if returning the baby is not possible, the veterinarian should **examine the animal for injuries or illness** and then promptly call Fish and Game. Big game animals are among the toughest to rehabilitate to a condition where the animal will have a reasonable chance to live successfully in the wild, and it is even harder to avoid imprinting on humans in these animals. Fish and Game will make arrangements with one of the few rehabilitators in Idaho who is equipped and trained to care for big game animals. It takes specialized, almost hands-off care to successfully rehab a big game animal. **If this is not done correctly, the animal may lose its innate fear and become aggressive to people.** For example, just last year a rehabilitated male mule deer became aggressive during the fall rutting season and attacked an elderly couple in their yard, putting them both in the hospital.

**Important note:** Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement must be contacted as soon as possible if a protected animal comes to you with **gunshot wounds** or **suspected poisoning.**

Contact your nearest Fish and Game Regional Office to obtain a list of rehabilitators for your area, and to inform Fish and Game if you get a baby big game animal in your facility. Please never hesitate to call if you have any questions.

## IDFG Regional Offices:

<i>Panhandle Region: (208) 769-1414</i>	<i>Southwest Region: (208) 465-8465</i>	<i>Upper Snake Region: (208) 525-7290</i>
<i>Clearwater Region: (208) 799-5010</i>	<i>McCall Sub-Region: (208) 634-8137</i>	<i>Salmon Region: (208) 756-2271</i>
<i>Magic Valley Region: (208) 324-4350</i>	<i>Southeast Region: (208) 232-4703</i>	

## SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS TO THE IDAHO BOVM (FY2015)

An important part of the Board's mission is to safeguard the people and animals of the state by establishing and enforcing professional standards in the licensure and regulation of veterinary health professionals. The Board regulates the licenses and certificates of approximately **1,100 veterinarians** and **250 CVTs**; it is inevitable that complaints from the public or from colleagues will be lodged against a small number of these professionals during any given year. The following table will give a **general idea** of the complaints the Board reviewed during FY2015.

FORMAL COMPLAINTS FY2015	RESOLUTION
Owner complained that pet with pre-existing condition died shortly after dental extractions.	No violations found.
DVM complained that colleague's medical records for a mutual patient were incomplete and misleading.	Letter of warning sent.
Owner complained that veterinarian refused to perform diagnostic test that has already been paid for	No violations found.
Owner of pet rescue facility attempted to purchase veterinary medications from out-of-state mail order pharmaceutical company using a falsified DVM license.	Letter of caution issued; referred to Board of Pharmacy.
Owner complained of "botched" ear crop. In addition, stated veterinarian did not provide pain medication and post-op instructions.	Licensee entered into Stipulation and Consent Agreement with Board.
Owner complained that dog developed infection post-spaying because of unsanitary surgical and clinic conditions.	No violations found.
Owners complained that veterinarian was unprofessional and rude during euthanasia.	The Board determined it had no jurisdiction. Referred to IVMA Peer Review.
Owner complained that veterinarian refused to refill prescription and released medical records without permission.	No violations found.
Owner complained that surgeon "botched" orthopedic surgery.	No violations found.
Owner complained that veterinarian harmed horse during teeth floating procedure.	Complaint was filed outside of allowable time period for filing.
Client observed alleged mistreatment of bull on premises of veterinary clinic by staff members.	Letter of caution sent.
Dispute of ownership of records for horse.	Resolved without formal action.
Owner complained that veterinarian euthanized pet without permission.	Veterinarian produced signed permission slip – no violations found.

INFORMAL COMPLAINTS FY2015 (over which Board had no jurisdiction)
Client felt that veterinarian was rude during an appointment.
Client felt that veterinarian charged too much for appointment and was "price-gouging."
Client alleged that receptionist said that technicians at the clinic performed teeth extractions. (Misunderstanding).
Client said clinic disposed of pet's body without owner's permission after staff assumed owner did not have enough money to pay for cremation.
Client complained that veterinarian refused to come out and see a new horse that was lame. Said owed vet "a lot" of money for previous visits, but felt that vet should come anyway.
Owner took elderly pet to clinic for illness. Owner alleges that pet was misdiagnosed because the prescribed treatment didn't work and pet died several days later.
Vet charged too much for routine surgery.
Client felt that veterinarian and staff was discourteous and insulting during an appointment
Vet charged too much for surgery.
Client felt that veterinarian and staff were discourteous during an appointment.
Vet charged too much for treating sick pet.
Client felt veterinarian's receptionist was overly aggressive in collecting fees.
Client questioned veterinarian's knowledge of correct treatment for respiratory problems in brachycephalic dogs.
Veterinarian didn't want to release records to colleague (but did so when statute was explained).



## UPDATE FROM ISDA DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

### PAPERWORK!

Debra M. Lawrence, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer, Sr.



**One of our important functions** here at the Division of Animal Industries is maintaining a system for **traceability of livestock**. Traceability is not only important in the event of disease, but also for reuniting stray animals (such as untested bulls) with their owners. We cannot maintain a quality system without timely input from practitioners.

**Example:** Brand inspector calls and wants to know who owns a heifer bearing the orange Bangs tag 82VVV1234. We look in our database and that tag has not been reported. We know that it was issued to Dr. Somebody. We call Dr. Somebody's office and his staff has to dig through records to see who got that tag. If Dr. Somebody doesn't fill out vaccination certificates (*we know you're out there*) we are totally out of luck.

**Another example:** A cow that was slaughtered out of state has turned up as a brucellosis suspect. She has a silver tag and no back tag. She came from a mixed lot of cattle from a buying station. The silver tag was issued to Dr. Someone Else in 2011. There is no other record of the silver tag because it was applied to replace a lost orange Bangs tag but not reported. There were cattle from six producers in the lot, the cattle were uniform in weight and many had lost their back tags. All six herds had to undergo a whole herd test because it could not be determined from which herd the suspect had originated.

Based on these examples, it is clear that if paperwork isn't turned in there are problems. **IDAPA 02.04.20 Rules Governing Brucellosis, Section 024** states:

#### **024. REPORTING**

Brucellosis activities conducted privately or as part of the official brucellosis eradication program shall be reported to the Administrator. (5-3-03)

- 01.** Test Results. All test results shall be reported immediately. (5-3-03)
- 02.** Vaccinations. All vaccination reports shall be submitted on a form approved by the Administrator within fifteen (15) days of date of vaccination. (5-3-03)
- 03.** Disease. All owners of animals and veterinarians shall report evidence of brucellosis infection to the Administrator immediately. (5-3-03)

As for certificates of veterinary inspection, **IDAPA 02.04.21 Rules Governing the Importation of Animals, Section 101** states:

#### **101. CONTENTS OF CERTIFICATES**

- 08.** Mailing Certificate to Idaho. The required copies of certificates of veterinary inspection or other approved certificates shall be mailed, within thirty (30) days of inspection, to the Division of Animal Industries, P.O. Box 7249, Boise, ID 83707. (5-3-03)

In short, if the paperwork isn't turned in on time, the event never happened, owners cannot be located quickly, and a small issue unnecessarily becomes a big issue.

**Please turn in your paperwork on time!**

## UPDATE from USDA APHIS VS (Veterinary Services)

Office: 9158 W. Blackeagle Dr. Boise, ID 83709 Phone: (208) 373-1620



**National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP):** The annual one-day Idaho Veterinary Accreditation Seminar will be held this summer at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) building in Boise, Idaho. If you are interested in attending, call the USDA APHIS VS office; we will notify you when the seminar date has been set. Attendance at the seminar qualifies as an orientation for accreditation and for continuing education credits towards your Idaho Veterinary License. It does NOT count toward APHIS approved supplemental training (AAST) for accreditation renewals. Accreditation renewals are due every three years. The renewal process is a two-step process as follows: 1) Complete your AAST modules or other AAST training and 2) Complete and submit your application via paper or on-line at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap>. You may also check the website for more information about the NVAP. If you have questions about accreditation, call Jon Mainord, who is the NVAP Coordinator in the VS office.

**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreak in U.S.:** The 2014-2015 outbreak involved confirmed HPAI detections in 211 commercial flocks and 21 backyard flocks in 15 states; the last detection occurred on 6/17/2015. So far, this year's outbreak is limited to Indiana and involves a different strain. On 1/15/2016, the USDA confirmed the presence of **HPAI H7N8** in a commercial turkey flock in Dubois County, Indiana. Active surveillance in the 10 kilometer control area around the index premises yielded **Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) H7N8** on eight commercial turkey farms, with a ninth designated as presumptive positive. These ten premises and two contact premises (one commercial turkey and one egg layer) have been depopulated and the remains composted on-site or landfilled. The quarantine on the Control Area was released on 2/22/2016. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the risk to people from these HPAI H7 infections low. The U.S. has a strong avian influenza surveillance program, which actively searches for the disease and provides monetary compensation to affected producers, which encourages reporting to State/Federal officials, which may be done either through the ISDA or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. USDA continues to inform the World Organization for Animal Health and international trading partners of any findings, and works with trading partners to minimize trade impacts on poultry and poultry products. Information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>. Additionally, Biosecurity for the Birds Calendars and brochures in English and Spanish are available at our VS office. USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) emphasizes that poultry, poultry products and wild birds are safe to eat if they are properly handled and cooked to a temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit. FSIS webpages on food safety are located at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

**Animal Disease Traceability Reminder:** The USDA final rule establishing general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate became effective on 3/11/2013, and created **Part 86 – Animal Disease Traceability in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations**, with some phased-in requirements. Unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by an **interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI)** or other approved documentation. The ICVI must list the official identification number of each animal, with some exceptions for certain species or types of movement. For more information on Traceability, call the ISDA office at (208) 332-8540 or the VS office, or access the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth>.

If **animal identification number (AIN) ear tags** (15 digit tags - visual only or with radio frequency) are used, only those tags starting with 840 or a prefix representing a U.S. territory will be recognized as **official** tags if applied on or after 3/11/2015. AIN tags starting with USA or a numeric code assigned to the manufacturer are not official tags if applied on or after 3/11/2015. Also, as of 3/11/2015, all official ear tags

applied to animals must bear an official ear tag shield (shaped graphic of the U.S. Route Shield with US, the State postal code or Tribal alpha code within the shield). No more than one official ear tag may be applied to an animal, with some exceptions such as applying a brucellosis vaccination ear tag to an animal that is already officially identified or tagging an animal with an 840 prefix AIN tag when that animal already has a **National Uniform Ear tagging System (NUES) tag** (e.g., the silver or orange metal tags with alphanumeric code starting with 82 for Idaho or other state code). In these cases where an additional ear tag is added, there are extra recording requirements. On official documents requiring the recording of identification devices, all official identification devices should be recorded. Removal of official identification devices, including those devices, approved by APHIS, applied to imported animals in their countries of origin, is prohibited except at the time of slaughter, at any other location upon the death of the animal, or with specific approval by the State/Federal/Tribal officials when a device needs to be replaced.

**Export Information:** The **Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS)** is up and running and includes certificates for horses, cattle, poultry, and swine to Canada. This system greatly streamlines the process for these certificates. Contact our VS office to get information on enrollment. Make sure your accreditation is up to date before you sign export health certificates. We are unable to endorse health certificates for many countries if you are not accredited or your accreditation is expired. Our office now covers exports for several states for live animals. This makes it more important for us to schedule carefully to meet the demand. Please communicate with us when you are working with a client planning to export so we can properly schedule time for endorsement of your clients' paperwork. Also remember that for "in person" endorsements, we work by appointment. Ask your clients to call us to make an appointment for their endorsement.

**Brucellosis Update:** Quarantines have been released from Idaho's two brucellosis affected herds as of December 2015. These affected herds, one cattle and one bison, were detected in 2012. Both have completed three consecutive whole herd tests since the removal of the last brucellosis reactor. Samples from some hunter-killed wild elk harvested in the Designated Surveillance Area in eastern Idaho were reactors for brucellosis this past fall. Therefore separation between wild elk and cattle or farmed bison remains critical to prevent new brucellosis-affected livestock herds.

### USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Contacts

#### *National Import Export Services (NIES)*

*Call Center: 301-851-3300*

- Option 1 - Animal Products - Import
- Option 2 - Live Animals
- Option 3 - Agriculture Select Agent Services
- Option 4 - Animal Products - Export
- Option 5 - Regionalization and Evaluation - Import and Export or the Sanitary Trade
- Option 6 - International Animal Health Standards Team
- Option 7 - Return to Main Menu

#### *Animals Products*

- Fax: 301-734-8226 (importing)
- Fax: 301-734-0571 (exporting)
- [AskNIES.Products@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:AskNIES.Products@aphis.usda.gov)

#### *Live Animals:*

- Fax: 301-734-4704
- [VS-Live.Animals\\_Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS-Live.Animals_Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov)

#### *Select Agents, Organisms and Vectors:*

- Fax: 301-734-3652
- [AgSAS@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:AgSAS@aphis.usda.gov)
- [OV@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:OV@aphis.usda.gov)

#### *NVAP Coordinators by State:*

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/downloads/nvap\\_coordinator.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/downloads/nvap_coordinator.pdf)

#### *Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health Information (CEAH)*

- Phone: 970-494-7200
- Fax: 970-472-2668
- [vs.ceah@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vs.ceah@aphis.usda.gov)

