

LAW OF GEORGIA ON VETERINARY MEDICINE

The present Law defines the rights and obligations of veterinary medicine, its organizational and financial-economic bases. It, pursuant to the requirements of the International Veterinary and Sanitary Code, regulates general activity of in the sphere of veterinary medicine, defines veterinary and sanitary standards and requirements, establishes the forms and methods of state control.

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Definitions of Veterinary Medicine Terms

- ***Veterinary medicine*** is the single system of scientific and practical activity ensuring the prevention and treatment of diseases of domesticated and wild animals, poultry, fish, bees, as well as embryos, hatchable eggs, fertilized spawn; the production of sound in veterinary and sanitary terms products, as well as the animal raw stuff (skin, fur, wool, bristle, horse hair, down and feather, by-products, horns, hoofs, bones, endocrine glands, becwax, bee glue (propolis), etc. it embraces a complex of state and public measures which purpose is the protection of the health of population from diseases that are common to man and animals, the protection of the territory of Georgia from bringing and spread from abroad of agents of dangerous infectious animals, poultry, fish diseases; veterinary medicine exercises the examination of animal and plant products, controls their fitness, preservability and realization.
- ***epizooty*** is mass spread among animals of dangerous infectious disease on the restricted territory, in a definite period of time.
- ***zooanthroponotic (zoonotic) diseases*** - group of diseases communicated from animals to man and infecting him (diseases common to animals and man).
- ***epizootic situation*** - the study and evaluation of separate regions or vast area of the country to establish the presence of pathogenic agents causing diseases of animals.
- ***antiepizootic measures*** - a complex of special and economic-organizational measures carried out with the object of preventing infectious diseases, as well as localizing and eradicating the nidi.
- ***veterinary and sanitary examination*** - a complex diagnostic study of food products of animal, plant and other origin with the object of determining their quality and edibility.
- ***state inspection control of veterinary medicine*** is the activity of heads of state veterinary organizations (veterinary inspectors), veterinary specialist in general, which purpose is the supervision of observance by owners of cattle, legal and natural persons engaged in the production, processing, storage and shipment

of animal products, animal raw stuff, forage, biological, plant, chemical preparation of the requirements stipulated by the present Law, veterinary medicine legislation and other laws of the Republic of Georgia.

- **veterinary medicine legislation** comprises the present Law, enactments adopted by the Government of the Republic of Georgia on matters of veterinary medicine, instructions and regulations approved by the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate of the republic of Georgia in compliance with the requirements of the International Veterinary and sanitary Code.

Article 2. Veterinary Medicine Service

A veterinary medicine service is the state, departmental, private activity of legal and natural persons in the sphere of veterinary medicine provided by qualified specialists.

Article 3. Services Active in the Sphere of Veterinary Medicine

The veterinary-medical service in the Republic of Georgia is directed by: the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia, republican organizations under direct jurisdiction thereof, the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorates of the Abkhazian and Ajarian Autonomous Republics, state, departmental and private veterinary medicine services of towns and regions.

Article 4. Objectives of Veterinary Medicine Services

The main objectives of veterinary medicine services are:

- the prevention of infectious and non-infectious diseases of animals (including poultry, fish, bees) and the localization and eradication of their nidi - in case such diseases arise.
- the organization of production of quality in veterinary and sanitary terms products and animal raw stuff.
- the protection of the population from the common to animal and man diseases.
- the protection of the territory of the republic of Georgia from bringing and spread from abroad of agents causing infectious diseases of animals.

Article 5. Legal Regulation of Activity in the Sphere of Veterinary Medicine

Activity in the sphere of veterinary medicine is regulated by this Law, veterinary medicine legislation, the International Veterinary and Sanitary Code, other enactments and by-laws adopted on the issues of veterinary medicine.

Article 6. Relations of Veterinary medicine Service with Central and Local Administration Bodies

Professional activity in the sphere of veterinary medicine in Georgia is carried out in coordination with the central state executive bodies, bodies of local administration and self-government.

SECTION II. TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE, THEIR STATUS AND EMPLOYMENT

Article 7. Training of Specialists in Veterinary Medicine

specialists in veterinary medicine in Georgia are trained by higher and specialized secondary-education institutions (faculties); graduates of higher and specialized secondary-education institutions (faculties) are given the profession of veterinary surgeon, veterinary-sanitary surgeon, veterinary assistant surgeon;

training of veterinary surgeons, veterinary-sanitary surgeons, veterinary assistant surgeons is carried out only by way of full-time instruction.

Article 8. Rights of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon

A veterinary assistant surgeon is entitled to hold important positions by profession in the case where such activity is directly guided and controlled by a veterinary surgeon; a veterinary assistant surgeon may be appointed to a vacant position of ordinary veterinary surgeon only as an acting veterinary surgeon.

Article 9. Activity of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Area of Veterinary Medicine

Foreign citizens and stateless persons having the corresponding qualification of a veterinary surgeon may engage in veterinary activity on the territory of Georgia after passing through mandatory certification on the spot.

Article 10. Improvement of Skills, Re-training and Certification of Specialists in Veterinary Medicine

The improvement of skills, re-training and certification of veterinary surgeons, veterinary-sanitary surgeons are conducted by individual kinds of diseases (infectious, invasive, non-contagious, etc.) of veterinary laboratory specialists - in laboratory diagnosis of diseases, veterinary and sanitary examination, radiology, toxicology - at the corresponding faculties of higher education institutions under special programs.

- specialists in veterinary medicine are certified on the basis of a decision by the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia with the participation of specialists of higher education institution of the corresponding profile;
- the improvement of skills and re-training of veterinary assistant surgeons are carried out at corresponding technical colleges or higher education institutions under the programmes made therefor;
- the improvement of skills, re-training and certification of specialists of state veterinary medicine are carried out at the expense of corresponding organizations and establishments, while the education of employees of economic organizations, enterprises, firms, departmental services, private specialists - on a cost - accounting basis or at the expense of own funds.

The improvement of skills of specialists in veterinary medicine is carried out once in 5 years at least.

Article 11. Social Protection of Specialists in Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary medicine employees are provided with bodies of local government, corresponding forms and enterprises by housing, transport and other necessary facilities;

- specialists in veterinary medicine are subject to mandatory insurance, and in the event of becoming disable and losing capacity for work in the course of performance of official duties, conduct of measures and other manipulations to control zoonotic diseases are granted a pension in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Georgia, as well as are paid a lumpsum allowance in the amount from three to five annual salaries out of extra-budget revenues;
- the specialists in veterinary medicine, including pensioners, employed in regional centres, settlement, rural areas, towns of regional subordination are entitled to free use of housing, heating, lighting, they are granted preferential credits for arranging an individual farm, building a dwelling house, purchasing cattle and for other household needs;
- the specialists sent on mission to the nidi of the most dangerous animal diseases - malignant anthrax, rabies, tuberculosis, Bang's disease, foot-and-mouth disease, cattle plague, cholera, glanders, stranglers, etc. - to carry out vaccination, diagnostic studies, necropsy, taking and sending pathological materials to laboratory are given an additional payment at the rate of a three-times average daily earnings;

- the veterinary specialists sent on mission to distant pastures and the workers of nomad plots are given additionally 40 percent of the official rate as compensation of travel expenses;
- specialists in veterinary medicine, technical personnel with unhealthy work conditions are provided with an additional 12-day paid leave;
- the earnings of specialists-veterinarians and technical workers engaged in specially harmful work (bacteriologist, virusologist, morbid anatomists, toxicologist, roentgenologists, desinfectors, desinspectors, deratizators, members of expeditions and detachments to control epizootics, as well as other equated with them specialists) - are increased by 15 percent;
- veterinary surgeons of a veterinary medicine service, having academic degree of doctor of sciences, are additionally paid 50 percent of the average monthly salary, candidates of sciences - 30 percent, Honoured veterinarians of the Republic of Georgia - 25%, Honoured Veterinarians of autonomous republics - 20%;
- specialists in veterinary medicine are entitled to pluralize on the territory of one administrative region, town (with the exception of the same organization and the subordinate veterinary medicine service).

Article 12. Encouragement and Award of Specialists in Veterinary Medicine

The material and moral encouragement of specialists in veterinary medicine is effected pursuant to veterinary medicine legislation and the laws that are in effect in the Republic.

SECTION III. UNITED NETWORK OF STATE, DEPARTMENTAL AND PRIVATE VETERINARY SERVICES

Article 13. State Network of Veterinary Medicine

The state network of veterinary medicine includes:

The State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia, the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorates of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics (central, regional and town veterinary services of the mentioned autonomous republics), the Republican Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine (with the right to submit the diagnostic and expert opinion on the objects of veterinary examination to the court of arbitration), the Corporation of Veterinary Medicine and biological Industry, Tabakhmela Biological Plant, the Scientific Control Centre of Veterinary Medical Preparation, Specialized Veterinary and Sanitary Station, Specialized Veterinary Laboratory of Poultry Diseases, Central Veterinary and Sanitary Station, regional and town veterinary stations, Epizootics Control Expedition, frontier-control, frontier-transport control veterinary districts, disinfecting-washing out

stations, zonal specialized inter-regional and regional laboratories of veterinary medicine, bases and pharmacies of veterinary provision, laboratories of veterinary and sanitary examination on markets and fairs, control veterinary services at enterprises, in livestock, animal product processing shops and slaughter-houses, divisional veterinary surgeries, veterinary points, Bang's disease and tuberculosis control detachments, town veterinary surgeries, disinfecting, desinsecting detachments and other state veterinary services;

the structures and scopes of a state veterinary service are determined by the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia, the corresponding state veterinary medicine inspectorates - in the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics - in coordination with the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia.

Chief of the State Veterinary Medicine Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia, chiefs of state veterinary medicine inspectorates of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, heads of state veterinary services of towns and regions concurrently are chief state veterinary inspectors of the Republic of Georgia, chief veterinary inspectors of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, chief state veterinary inspectors of towns and regions accordingly, while their deputies - deputy chief state veterinary inspectors accordingly.

Chief of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the republic of Georgia is appointed to and released from office by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia, his deputies - also by the Cabinet of Ministers on the presentation of the Chief of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia.

Chiefs of the State Veterinary inspectorates of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics are appointed to and released from office by the Cabinet of Ministers of the corresponding autonomous republic in coordination with the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia.

Chiefs of state veterinary services of the republican jurisdiction, their deputies and senior accountants, heads of town state veterinary services (apart from heads of central, regional and town state veterinary services on the administrative territories of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics appointed and released by the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the corresponding autonomous republic), their deputies and senior accounts are appointed to and released from the occupied office by the Chief of the State Veterinary Inspectorate in agreement with the regional, town council and city halls.

The Chief of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia represents by office the Republic of Georgia in the International Office of Epizootics, the World Veterinary Association, other international organizations.

Article 14. Departmental Veterinary Services

The departmental veterinary services include: veterinary services of the Ministry of Defense, border troops, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the security Service, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, other ministries, departments, organizations, agencies, establishments, enterprises, firms, corporations, etc.

- the departmental veterinary services within their departments shall have a governing veterinary body (administration, division, instruction) or a leading veterinary specialist.

The structure and staff of the departmental veterinary services are determined by the corresponding ministries, committees, departments, agencies, establishments, organizations and enterprises in coordination with state veterinary inspectorates of the Republic of Georgia, the autonomous republics.

Article 15. Private veterinary Services

The following belong to private veterinary services:

- private veterinary clinics, pharmacies, shops, joint and individual veterinary surgeries, private cosmetic parlours for animals and other related services operating in regions, towns, settlements and villages.
- The numerical composition of private veterinary services is determined directly by heads of the service.

Article 16. Subordination of State Veterinary Services of the Republic of Georgia

The central veterinary services of the Republic of Georgia, the state veterinary services of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, regions, towns in line with veterinary medicine are subordinate to the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia, while on administration and organizational matters - to the corresponding central state administration, bodies of local government and self-administration.

Article 17. Official Functions and Duties of State Veterinary Services

The official functions and duties of a state veterinary service include:

- the control over observance of the requirements provided for in this Law, veterinary legislation, the International Veterinary and Sanitary Code, Laws of

the republic of Georgia and subordinated enactments relating to veterinary medicine;

- the control over observance of the veterinary and sanitary requirements at the enterprises engaged in the production, processing and storage of animal products and raw stuff;
- the veterinary and sanitary examination of livestock, animal and plant products, as well as other food products on markets and fairs;
- the control over production and quality of biological and chemical-pharmaceutical preparation for veterinary medicine;
- the veterinary and sanitary control over livestock, animal products and raw stuff, forage and other export, import and transit cargoes subject to veterinary control;
- the prevention, treatment of animal diseases; the eradication of the foci of infection, invasion and non-contagious diseases; the establishment of the state veterinary control over implementation of these activities.
- the laboratory diagnosis of animal diseases (including those of poultry, fish, bees), the examination and determination of the quality of animal products and raw stuff, plant food products, feed and drinking water;
- the coordination of activities of the departmental and private veterinary services and the establishment of control over their work;
- the establishment of control over the assurance of quality of animal products and raw stuff in veterinary terms;
- the protection of the population from diseases common to animals and man;
- the protection of the country's territory from bringing in infectious animal diseases from abroad;
- the establishment of reasons of the origin and spread of dangerous infectious and mass non-contagious animal diseases; the determination of epizootic situations, the organization of prophylaxis and eradication of the foci of infectious animal diseases, as well as the carrying out of disinfections, desinsections, desaccrations, deratizations, desinvasions and other measures;
- the participation in the selection of building sites of livestock-rearing farms, complexes, poultry plants, fish-rearing ponds, enterprises and other facilities of livestock, animal products and raw stuff processing, water-storage reservoirs and livestock watering systems, the participation in commission for examining designs of such structures;
- the participation in the state commission for acceptance of livestock-rearing farms, plants, industrial objects for animal raw stuff processing, as well as the suspension of erection of these objects or their operation in the case of non-compliance with the veterinary and sanitary requirements and standards;

- the implementation of sanctions stipulated by law in order to put and end to the violation of standards and regulations provided for in this Law, veterinary legislation and the International Veterinary and Sanitary Code.

Article 18. Duties of Departmental Veterinary Services

The departmental veterinary services shall:

- in accordance with the plan approved by a town, regional state veterinary service, carry out in the service area preventive and medical measures directed against epizootics, at the control of zoonotic and non-contagious diseases;
- carry out veterinary and sanitary measures to ensure the production of quality animal products and raw stuff in veterinary and sanitary terms;
- immediately notify the state veterinary service of the administrative territory about the cases of the emergence of the nidi of infectious or mass non-contagious animal diseases;
- organize measures for disinfection, desinsection, desacarization, deratization, desinvasion;
- facilitate to the organization of reproduction in animal breeding;
- maintain statistics of veterinary activity and regularly inform the state veterinary service of the administrative territory thereon.

Article 19. Duties of Private Veterinary Services

The private veterinary services shall:

- on the basis of Regulations approved by the State veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia and agreements concluded with the town, regional state veterinary services, carry out preventive and medical measures to control epizootics, zoonotic and non-contagious animal diseases;
- carry out veterinary and sanitary measures to ensure the production of quality animal products and raw stuff in veterinary and sanitary terms;
- provide the implementation of medical and preventive measures, the rendering of surgical, gynecological aid in the case of non-contagious diseases, conduct cosmetic operations, render other veterinary services;
- immediately notify the state veterinary service of the administrative territory about the emergence of infectious or mass non-contagious animal diseases;
- maintain statistics of veterinary activity and regularly inform the state veterinary service of the administrative territory thereof.

Article 20. Rights of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia

The rights of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia include:

- the organization of a veterinary service of Georgia;
- the working out of republican programmes and measures to control epizootics, zoonotic and non-contagious animal diseases;
- the submission for consideration of the Government of Georgia perspective proposals on topical and especially urgent issues of veterinary medicine;
- the discussion and approval of Regulations on central state veterinary services, state veterinary inspectorates of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, regional and town veterinary services, plans of antiepidemic measures;
- the issue of permits for the export, import and transit of animal products and raw stuff, forage and other cargoes subject to veterinary control;
- the issue of permits for the production, storage, realization of domestic biological, diagnostic, chemical and pharmaceutical, other veterinary preparations, as well as for the bringing in, transportation and application of imported biological preparations;
- the exercise of control over the application of domestic, biological, chemical, pharmacological, other veterinary preparations, feed additives; the determination of the effect thereof upon the health of animals, the quality of animal products and raw stuff; the drawing up and approval of standard acts and technical documentation concerning the application of these preparations;
- the drawing up of standard acts concerning the processing, storage, shipment and realization of livestock, animal products and raw stuff;
- the drawing up and approval of Regulations on private veterinary clinics, surgeries, pharmacies, cosmetic parlours and other related private services, their registration, the issue and revocation of licenses.

SECTION IV. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF GEORGIA, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF ABKHAZIAN AND AJARIAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLICS, REGIONAL AND TOWN COUNCILS, CITY HALLS

Article 21. Competence of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia

The following belong to the competence the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia:

- the approval and revocation of appropriate decrees, resolutions with the objective of implementing quarantine measures and programmes to control especially dangerous diseases;

- the exercise of control over activities of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia;
- the allocation of required funds on the annual conduct of measures for preventing and localizing the foci of epizooty, zoonanthropogenic, mass non-contagious and other animal diseases, as well as for purchasing material and technical facilities for a state veterinary service, refrigerating units, laboratory equipment, veterinary ambulances and other special-purpose means of transportation, disinfection motor transport, etc.
- the allocation of additional funds and veterinary means for localizing and eradication of the foci of dangerous contagious animal diseases, where necessary;
- the allocation to veterinary services of required funds for forming a reserve fund of biological, diagnostic, chemical and pharmaceutical and other medications for the needs of civil defense and the establishment of control over a periodic renewal of the above-mentioned fund;
- the exercise of control over the carrying out of measures to prevent the bringing from abroad and spread on the territory of Georgia of dangerous contagious diseases of animals;
- the rendering of necessary financial and material assistance to the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia with the object of establishing cooperation and interrelations with international organizations and individual countries on the issues of veterinary medicine.

Article 22. Competence of the Council of Ministries of the Abkhazian and Ajarian Autonomous Republics

The competence of the councils of Ministries of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics includes:

- the organization of veterinary activity in the autonomous republic in accordance with this Law and veterinary legislation;
- the working out of standard documents of local significance in the sphere of veterinary medicine, the adoption of corresponding decrees and resolutions, the revocation thereof;
- the exercise of control over the carrying out in the autonomous republics of quarantine and antiepidemic measures with the object of the protection of animals from especially dangerous diseases;
- the working up jointly with the state veterinary and health care services of measures for preventing the common to animals and man dangerous diseases, localizing and eradication the foci of infection.

The Council of Ministers of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics on the corresponding administrative territories are settling the issues of veterinary medicine on the presentation of the state veterinary inspectorates of the autonomous republics, with the exception of the matters relating to the competence of the Cabinet of the Ministers of the republic of Georgia.

Article 23. Rights and Duties of Regional and Town Councils, City Halls

The following relate to the rights and duties of councils, halls of towns and regions:

- the declaration and revocation on the corresponding administrative territories on the presentation of a regional, town state veterinary service of a quarantine, special conditions of the economic activity regime with the object of the localization and eradication of the nidi of dangerous animal diseases;
- the exercise of the veterinary and sanitary control at animal breeding farms, pastures, objects of the production, processing and storage of animal products and raw stuff through the state veterinary services;
- the control over the registration and certification of animals being on the administrative territory;
- the organization of measures for preventing epizooty, zoonothronosic and other dangerous diseases;
- the facilitation of the setting up and development of enterprises engaged in the production of medical and preventive means used in veterinary medicine;
- the allocation to organizations and specialists of the state and departmental veterinary services motor transport, spare parts, lubricants;
- the establishment of control over the implementation of the adopted decrees, resolutions on the issues of preventing the common to animals and man contagious and mass non-contagious diseases, localizing and eradicating the nidi thereof;
- the establishment on the administrative territories shops for the utilization and disinfection of bodies of fallen animals, the uneatable meat, meat products, animal law stuff, the arrangement of cattle-burial pits for burial of wastes and exercising control over the operation thereof;
- the allocation from local budget of additional funds to a state veterinary service for carrying out urgent measures to control epizootics, where necessary.

Article 24. Production of Biological and Chemical-Pharmaceutical Preparations of Veterinary Medicine and Control over Their Quality

Biological and chemical-pharmaceutical plants and other enterprises of the Republic manufacture the preparation of veterinary medicine with compliance with international technologies, standards and norms;

an immediate control over quality of the manufactured in the Republic and imported biological and chemical-pharmaceutical veterinary preparations is established by the Scientific and Control Centre of Veterinary Preparations.

The application of vaccines, means of diagnostics, chemical-pharmaceutical and other preparations, feed additives, microelements, wastes of biological and pharmaceutical preparations and reagents not registered in the biological industry, Pharmacopoeia, as well as the preparations manufactured with the violation of standard acts is not permitted.

Article 25. Rights of Chief State Inspectors and Deputy Chief State Inspectors in Veterinary Medicine of the Republic of Georgia, the Abkhazian and Ajarian Autonomous Republics, Regions and Towns

The following belong to the rights of chief state inspectors and deputy chief state inspectors in veterinary medicine of the Republic of Georgia, the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, regions, towns:

- with the object of the observance of the rules and requirements provided by this Law, veterinary legislation, the International Veterinary and Sanitary Code, the ensuring unlimited access to veterinary organizations, enterprises, establishments, companies, corporations and to all other objects irrespective of their subordination, as well as to private and individual organizations and enterprises subjects to veterinary control, their inspection;
- the submission of demands for the implementation of anti-epizootic and other veterinary-sanitary measures, the avoidance of violation of veterinary standards and rules;
- the revealing of the causes for the origin and spread of dangerous contagious animal diseases, as well as the cases of the manufacture and use of inedible by man and unsound in veterinary and sanitary terms animal products;
- the submission of proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia, the Councils of Ministers of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, regional and town councils, city halls;
- the formation of anti-epizootic and other necessary extraordinary commissions;
- the implementation in separate regions and on the administrative territory the quarantine and other restrictive measures in general, whose object is the prevention of dangerous contagious and mass non-contagious animal diseases, the localization and eradication of the foci thereof;

- the making of decisions on the suspension of work of the organizations, departments, establishments, firms, private and individual enterprises in the event of violation of the norms and rules stipulated by this Law, veterinary legislation, or upon revealing the facts of non-performance of the resolutions of the state control bodies of veterinary medicine;
- with the purpose of localizing and eradicating the foci of the most dangerous diseases, to make, in accordance with the epizootic situation, decisions on diagnostic examination and vaccination of animals, as well as on the confiscation and destruction of animals or animal products;
- the suspension or prohibition of production, processing, shipment and realization of the animal products, raw stuff up to the carrying out of necessary measures, the eradication of the facts of violation of the sanitary-veterinary rules;
- the application of sanctions defined under this Law and veterinary legislation in relation to heads of departments, organizations, enterprises, firms, peasant, private, individual and other kind of enterprises, citizens and stateless persons;
- the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Republic of Georgia participates in the preparation and signing by the Governmental Commission of the Republic of Georgia of international treaties on the issues of veterinary medicine.

Article 26. Guarantees of Persons Exercising State Control over Veterinary Medicine of the Republic of Georgia

The Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Republic of Georgia, chief state veterinary inspectors of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, chief state inspectors and deputy chief state inspectors in veterinary medicine of regions, towns, as well as other directors and specialists of the state veterinary services of the Republic of Georgia, who exercise state veterinary control, are representative of the corresponding bodies of the state administration and are under protection of the state;

- representatives of the bodies of state administration of veterinary medicine of the Republic of Georgia are independent and take guidance in their activities from this Law, veterinary legislation, laws of the Republic of Georgia and other subordinated acts.

Article 27. Departmental Veterinary and Sanitary Control

The departmental veterinary and sanitary control is exercised;

on the facilities of the Ministry of Defense, Border Troops, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Security Service, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Georgia by the departmental veterinary and sanitary control services located on the territory of the Republic of Georgia, acting in accordance with the

Regulations worked out on the basis of this Law and veterinary legislation and coordinated with the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia and approved by the corresponding ministries.

SECTION V. STATE VETERINARY-INSPECTION AND VETERINARY-SANITARY CONTROL

Article 28. Exercising State Sanitary-Inspection and Veterinary-Sanitary Control over Planning and Construction of Animal-breeding Premises, Enterprises Engaged in Production of Animal Products, Processing of Animal Raw Stuff and Corresponding Facilities

When planning the construction of animal-breeding facilities, poultry plants, meat packing houses, slaughter-houses, sausage departments, any kind of enterprises engaged in the processing, storage of animal products and raw stuff, peasant, farm and private economies, it is necessary to envisage the ensuring of sanitary conditions of maintaining animals, the production and processing of animal products and raw stuff in order to prevent the contamination of the environment with wastes and by excitors of the common to man and animals dangerous contagious diseases;

- to allocate land areas for keeping animals, the production of animal products, the erection of the facilities to process animal raw stuff, to approve the design documentation for the construction, reconstruction, modernization thereof and commission the facilities on the basis of a conclusion of the state control bodied of veterinary medicine only in the event of compliance of the design documentation with the effective veterinary-sanitary norms and rules;
- the state control bodies of veterinary medicine are entitled in the event of violation of the veterinary-sanitary norms and rules to suspend the erection of the project and notify thereof to the bank with the object of suspending the payments of credits under construction

Article 29. Observing Veterinary-Sanitary Requirements to Keeping, Feeding, Watering Animals during their Driving and Transportation

- the permanent and temporary buildings for animals shall be equipped in compliance with the conditions ensuring the normal keeping and health of livestock;

- the cattle owners – enterprises, departments, organizations, firms, peasant and private production facilities, citizens shall provide animals with quality feed and swill in accordance with the veterinary-sanitary norms and requirements;
- the veterinary-sanitary norms and requirements to animal feed and feed additives are approved in compliance with the requirements of the International Veterinary and Sanitary Code;

- the driving, shipment of animals are carried out in line with the veterinary requirements by routes as coordinated with the state veterinary services.

Article 30. Protection of the Territory of the Republic of Georgia from Bringing Especially Contagious Diseases from Abroad

Only healthy animals and products obtained from such animals are permitted for bringing in the Republic of Georgia; the country-exporter of animals and animal products shall be necessarily safe in respect of dangerous contagious animal diseases;

- the central administration bodies, organizations, establishments, enterprises, departments, firms, commercial structures, citizens of the Republic shall buy in foreign countries and bring to the Republic of Georgia animals, animal products, raw stuff, forage and other cargoes subject to the veterinary control, or export thereof only with the permission of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia;
- with a view of preventing the bringing of the common to animals and man contagious diseases from abroad onto the territory of the Republic of Georgia, the control over the export-import and transit cargoes subject to the veterinary control and transported by any means of transportation (by rail, by mail, as hand luggage) at the border entry points of the Republic (at railway stations of international communication, bus stations, in sea ports, airports, on highways), the conduct of the corresponding measures (registration of veterinary certificates and veterinary permits with the right of further transportation of cargoes, and in the event of doubts as to the quality and fitness of the cargoes or revealing the fact of violation of the veterinary-sanitary norms of transportation, the retention of the cargoes, their decontamination, confiscation or destruction) shall be effected by the border-transport veterinary control service;
- the border-control and border-transport units located on the territories of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics shall coordinate their activities with the state veterinary inspectorates of the corresponding autonomous republic; while in the border regions being beyond the autonomous formations – with the state veterinary services of the corresponding regions;
- the driving of animals across the state border of the Republic of Georgia, the transportation of animal products, raw stuff, forage and other veterinary controllable cargoes are allowed only in the places where the veterinary units of the state border-transport control are arranged;
- the object of control by the said veterinary units are the located within the border zone facilities of public catering and trade, warehouses, the procuring and processing enterprises and organizations, irrespective of their form of ownership.

Article 31. Procurement, Storage, Shipment and Realization of Animal Products and Raw Stuff

- the animal products and raw stuff shall comply with the norms of safety for the health of man, while their procurement is carried out on the territory safe in respect of dangerous contagious diseases;
- enterprises, organizations, agencies, farms, companies, cooperative, peasant and private enterprises engaged in the procurement, processing, storage, shipment and realization of animal products and raw stuff shall observe the veterinary-sanitary and environmental requirements.

Article 32. Obligations of Owners of Cattle, Heads of Organizations and Enterprises engaged in Production of Animal Products and Processing of Animal Raw Stuff

The owners of cattle, heads of the enterprises engaged in the production of animal products, processing of animal raw stuff, departments, organizations, companies, cooperatives, other kind of production objects, peasant, private farms and citizens shall strictly observe the conditions of care and keeping of animals, do not admit the production of low-quality in veterinary-sanitary terms animal products and raw stuff;

- to carry out the economic and special veterinary measures ensuring epizootic safety;
- to keep animal-rearing buildings, feed-processing enterprises and feed stores in proper veterinary-sanitary condition;
- to prevent the contamination of the environment with animal and animal raw stuff wastes;
- to observe the hygienic and veterinary-sanitary norms and requirements to the construction and operation of buildings for animals, the facilities for the storage and realization of animal products;
- to immediately accomplish the instructions of specialists in veterinary medicine concerning the carrying out of preventive and medical measures for eradicating the foci of animal diseases;
- to allocate auxiliary personnel to specialists in veterinary medicine during the conduct by them of the indicated above measures, provide them with proper working conditions;
- to inform forthwith the state veterinary service of the area about the acquisitions of animals and keep the newly acquired or subject to sale pedigree cattle isolated during 30 days with the object of carrying out necessary examination and vaccination;

- to prevent the slaughter of cattle for meat without the permission of veterinary surgeons, the realization and use as food the meat products and meat of the animals slaughtered without the proper veterinary control;
- to sell animals, animal products, raw stuff on markets, fairs and special trade objects only after the conduct of the necessary veterinary inspection and veterinary-sanitary examination;
- until 1 November of each year to register all kinds of livestock with the veterinary service of the area.

Article 33. Confiscation of Animals, Animal Products, Raw Stuff and Forage when Eradicating the Nidi of Dangerous Contagious Animal Diseases

When eradicating the nidi of especially dangerous diseases of animals, animals, animal products and raw stuff as well as forage may, by decision of the Chief State Inspector and the deputy chief state inspectors in veterinary medicine of the Republic of Georgia, the chief state inspectors and deputy chief state inspectors in veterinary medicine of the autonomous republics, towns and regions, be confiscated and exterminated;

- a list of especially dangerous animal diseases, in the emergence of which the confiscation of animals, animal products, raw stuff and forage is allowed, is made by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia on the presentation of the State Veterinary Inspectorate;
- the enterprises, establishments, organizations, firms, cooperatives, peasant farms, citizens and stateless persons are entitled in accordance with the procedure provided for in the Law on Insurance to demand the indemnification of the damage incurred by them as a result of the confiscation of animals, animal products, raw stuff and forage when eradicating the nidi of especially dangerous animal diseases.

SECTION VI. PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION FROM DANGEROUS CONTAGIOUS DISEASES COMMON TO ANIMALS AND MAN

Article 34. The Protection of the Population against Dangerous Contagious Diseases Common to Animals and Man, Ensuring Quality of Animal, Plant and other Food Products in Veterinary-sanitary and Environmental Terms

The State Veterinary Service carries out the veterinary inspection of animals subject to slaughter or sale, the veterinary-sanitary examination of animal, plant, other farm and food products, conducts necessary diagnostic studies, the purpose of which is the protection of the population against dangerous contagious diseases common to man and animals, against the poisoning by animal and other foods products;

- on markets, fairs, in the specially designated places and trade facilities operating on the territory of Georgia, irrespective of their administrative subordination, where the sale in animals, animal and plant products, the animal raw stuff, other farm products is arranged, the laboratories of veterinary-sanitary examination of the state veterinary service shall operate. The setting up of the departmental or private veterinary-sanitary laboratories on markets, fairs, other trade objects is not permitted;
- administrators of markets, fairs, owners of specialized trade objects are obliged to provide laboratories of veterinary-sanitary examination with the appropriate well-equipped premises, equipment, create proper working conditions therefor;
- the veterinary inspection, veterinary-sanitary examination shall apply to animals, various kinds of food products from the meat of the slaughtered cattle, sausage products manufactured in plant conditions and individually, milk and milk products, meat of domesticated poultry and meat products therefrom, the meat of wild animals and birds of pray, eggs, food oils, fish products, honey, honey products and raw material, vegetative products, including:
 - all kinds of stone and seed fruits and berries, citrus fruits, all kinds of melons and gourds and products produced therefrom, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, growing wild fruits, mushrooms processed for use in food, other food products;
 - the realization of leather raw material, fur and other raw material of local origin is allowed as a result of the corresponding veterinary-sanitary processing-conservation and on the basis of a laboratory conclusion thereon;
 - specialists of a laboratory of veterinary-sanitary examination are entitled to prohibit the realization of the inedible products, which shall be subject to the confiscation and destruction after drawing up of a corresponding document;
- legal persons, citizens and stateless persons committing the sale of meat, meat products, fish, fish products, as well as of other poisonous food products without undergoing the state veterinary control, inspection, examination and the appropriate stamp or veterinary certificate issued by the veterinary examination laboratory shall bear responsibility in accordance with the effective in the Republic of Georgia legislation;
- the services of sanitary-epidemiological control of the administrative bodies of state veterinary medicine, establishments, organizations and the system of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Georgia shall regularly carry out the mutually concerted measures with the purpose of protecting the population against the common to man and animals dangerous diseases and poisoning with food products.

SECTION VII. FINANCING AND MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPLY OF THE STATE VETERINARY SERVICE

Article 35. Financing and Material and Technical Supply of Organizations and Establishments of the State Veterinary Medicine

The veterinary service in the country is generally paid, with the exception of anti-epizootic medical-preventive, quarantine, sanitary, decontaminating, disinsecting, desacarizing, desinvasion, deratization, anti-pyroplasmidosis, as well as other emergency and extraordinary measures. A list of the said measures is defined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia on the presentation of the State Veterinary Inspectorate.,

The financing and material and technical supply of the organizations and establishments of the state veterinary medicine is effected:

- by the state at the expense of republican and local budgets, as well as extra-budget funds;

Sources of the extra-budget of financing of organizations and establishments of the state veterinary medicine are:

- the funds received from the organizations, establishments, enterprises, firms citizens, etc. as a result of the performance of work on a contractual basis and rendering of paid services;
- the amounts paid in the form of administrative sanctions;
- the allowances received from public organizations, establishments, enterprises, private persons and citizens;
- other sources not prohibited under legislation.

Article 36. Financing of Anti-epizootic Measures

The measures for preventing and eradicating contagious diseases of animals, the laboratory-diagnostic and radiological inspection of food products and raw materials, other veterinary-sanitary, anti-epizootic and anti-zoonotic (in accordance with the list approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia) measures, as well as emergency aid rendered upon emergence of the danger of a fall of animals are financed from the corresponding budgetary funds.

Article 37. Financing of other Measures of Veterinary Medicine

The measures for preventing and eradicating contagious animal diseases (except ones indicated in Article 36 of this Law), treatment of sick animals, their laboratory examination, services in the border entry points (customs), on markets, fairs, other trade objects, the veterinary-sanitary examination of animal products, raw stuff, plant

and other products, as well as other similar measures are carried out at the expense of their owner in accordance with the rates of paid services.

SECTION VIII. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF VETERINARY LEGISLATION

Article 38. Responsibility for Violation of Veterinary Legislation

The violators of the present Law, veterinary legislation shall be liable in accordance with the effective legislation of the Republic of Georgia, at the same time they are not released from the indemnification of the damage caused;

- the measures of administrative responsibility in relation to officials, citizens and stateless persons shall apply for the violations as follows:
- the refusal from the implementation of the necessary preventive measures (studies, immunization of animals) or the non-observance of the dates of the fulfillment of the measures;
- the violation of quarantine rules;
- the delayed or incomplete conduct of measures for eradicating the nidi of dangerous animal diseases;
- the non-observance of the effective veterinary-sanitary norms and rules in the sphere of the provision of quality animal and other food products in veterinary terms;
- the production and use of low-quality feed, which became or could become the cause of the emergence and spread of contagious and mass non-contagious animal diseases;
- the non-observance of mandatory veterinary-sanitary norms and rules with the purpose of preventing the bringing of dangerous contagious animal diseases to Georgia from abroad;
- The non-observance of veterinary regulations during the transportation animals, animal products, animal raw stuff, forage by all means of transportation on international and internal (export, import, transit) shipments of cargoes subject to veterinary control;
- the deliveries and sale of animal products without veterinary inspection, veterinary-sanitary examination and affixing the stamp of veterinary control;
- the non-observance of zoohygienic and veterinary-sanitary requirements to the designing, construction, operation, reconstruction of animal-rearing objects, keeping of animals, their care, the storage, realization and utilization of animal products;

- the ignoring of the veterinary-sanitary requirements at the state border entry points of the Republic of Georgia;
- the non-observance of veterinary-sanitary requirements during the processing and utilization of leather raw material, fur and other raw material of animal origin;
- the production of products not complying with the veterinary-sanitary and environmental requirements;
- the said violations entail the imposition of penalties upon persons, citizens and stateless persons in the order as stipulated by legislation of the Republic of Georgia;
- the cases of violations are considered by the state control bodies of veterinary medicine.

Article 39 Considering Cases of Administrative Offences and Charging Administrative Payments by State Control Bodies of Veterinary Medicine

The following have the right to consider the cases of administrative offences on behalf of the state control bodies of veterinary medicine and to impose administrative penalties:

- the head of the State Veterinary Service of the Republic of Georgia and his deputies – in the amount of two minimum salaries;
- the heads of the state veterinary services of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, the cities of Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Batumi and the deputies thereof – in the amount of up to one and a half of the minimum salaries;
- The heads of the town, regional state veterinary services, establishments and organizations of the network of the state veterinary medicine, as well as deputies thereof – in the amount of one minimum salary.

The officials of state control bodies of veterinary medicine may charge a penalty on the spot of the administrative offence for:

- 1) the violation of the rules of trade with animals (including fish and poultry), animal products and raw stuff, other food products on markets and fairs;
- 2) the violation of veterinary-sanitary rules of shipment and driving of animals (including poultry, fish and bees), the delivery of animal products and raw stuff on rail, sea and air transport, motor roads, the driving routes;
- 3) the violation on the state borders of veterinary-sanitary rules of the protection of the territory of the Republic of Georgia from bringing from abroad of contagious diseases of animals (including poultry, fish, bees).

SECTION IX. FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS OF THE STATE VETERINARY INSPECTORATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Article 40. On the Council for the Issues of Veterinary Medicine, Biological-Pharmacological and Anti-epizootic Commissions

The State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia sets up a standing Council for Issues of Veterinary Medicine.

The Council for Issues of Veterinary Medicine is composed of: the heads of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia, heads of the state veterinary inspectorates of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, heads of the central republican veterinary services, departments establishments of the state veterinary medicine, the leading researchers in veterinary medicine, experienced specialists of the departmental veterinary services of ministries, committees, departments, representatives of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons of Georgia. The composition of the said Council may be enlarged also by representatives of the concerned ministries and departments.

The Council for Issues of Veterinary Medicine is managed by the head of the State Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Georgia, or by one of his deputies in his absence.

The Regulations of the Council for Issues of Veterinary Medicine are approved at the Council session:

The Biological-Pharmacological Commission is set up at the State Veterinary Inspectorate to carry out an expert assessment of the efficiency of the pharmacological and biological medical-preventive means used for the purposes of veterinary medicine, to enter them into the State Register and issue appropriate certificates.

The Regulations of the Biological-Pharmacological Commission are approved at the Council session;

With the purpose of timely management and coordination of measures for preventing and eradicating the nidi of dangerous infectious animal diseases on the territory of the Republic of Georgia as a whole and in separate regions the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia sets up the Extraordinary Standing Anti-epizootic Commission;

The extraordinary standing anti-epizootoc commissions are also established in the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, regions and towns.

The resolutions on the formation and functioning of extraordinary standing anti-epizootic commissions are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia, the Councils of Ministers of the Abkhazian and Ajarian autonomous republics, regional councils, city halls.

SECTION X. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES IN THE SPHERE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Article 41. On International Treaties in Veterinary Medicine

If an international treaty on the issues of veterinary medicine and animal breeding, as well as the export, import and transit of animals, animal products, animal raw stuff, forage, other cargoes subject to veterinary control provide for the rules other than those of the present Law and legislation on veterinary medicine, the norms of the international treaty shall apply.

Chairman of Parliament of Georgia

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE

Speaker of Parliament of Georgia

VAKHTANG GOGUADZE

Tbilisi, 14 June 1995.

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