



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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January 15, 2010

Attention Washington State Veterinarians,

We have been notified of the following policy of USDA-APHIS:

*The recent earthquake in Haiti may result in an increase in the numbers of pets and other animals accompanying refugees which are coming into the US. The following Veterinary Service (VS) policy should take effect immediately and remain in effect for the next 10 days for such animals arriving at US ports of entry by air or boat from either Haiti or the Dominican Republic:*

*Dogs should be held by CBP and referred to VS for inspection for evidence of screwworm infestation. VS will waive requirements for health certificates for these dogs, but will require inspections and refer dogs with open wounds for further veterinary treatment or exams as needed.*

We would like to remind practitioners to continue their vigilance for screwworm myiasis in any animal originating from *any* screwworm endemic area, including areas of the Caribbean and South America.

A screwworm factsheet is available on the WSDA website

<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth>.

If you suspect a patient has presented with screwworm infestation, immediately contact the Washington State Veterinarian's office at 360-902-1878 or the USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) at (360) 753-9430. You will be provided instructions on collection and additional protocols.

In addition Washington State requires rabies vaccination and heartworm testing on dogs from endemic rabies areas. Consult your local health jurisdiction for possible rabies quarantine requirements.

We appreciate your attention in this matter. Our thoughts and best wishes are with people of Haiti and with those involved with the rescue and humanitarian efforts.

Leonard E. Eldridge, DVM  
State Veterinarian