

National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) Modules approved for Continuing Education Credit by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME)

All United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited veterinarians are required to complete supplemental training every three years. USDA Category I accredited veterinarians are required to complete three units of supplemental training and USDA Category II accredited veterinarians are required to complete six units of training every three years.

At this time there are 31 training modules offered to veterinarians by the USDA. Currently all 31 of the training modules are available [online, as a PDF or USB upon request using the supplemental training materials order form](#), and [as lectures at various Continuing Education meetings](#).

The training modules are listed below. Each module has been approved by the TBVME for one (1) hour of Practice Management Veterinary Continuing Education (CE). Please note that according to the Texas Administrative Code Rule §573.65 you may only claim 5 hours of CE from Practice Management or Correspondence courses towards your veterinary license renewal requirement.

CE modules offered by USDA are free and serve a dual purpose in Texas: TBVME CE hours and completion of the required NVAP Supplemental Training Modules for veterinary accreditation renewal.

Module 1: Overview of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program

This module gives an overview of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP). A brief history of the veterinary accreditation program, the importance and benefits of being an accredited veterinarian, the duties and responsibilities of accredited veterinarians, and information on the Category I or II level accreditation and program certification opportunities are described.

Module 2: Role of Agencies and Health Certificates

This module reviews the State, Federal, and international agencies that an accredited veterinarian may interact with and the services these agencies provide. Participants learn how to accurately complete health certificates for animals traveling domestically or internationally. Written guidelines for the completion of several USDA APHIS and VS Forms are provided.

Module 3: Overview of Foreign Animal, USDA Program, and Reportable Diseases

This module introduces readers to a variety of foreign animal, USDA Program, and reportable diseases and contains a list of which diseases are applicable to Category I and Category II accredited veterinarians. Information about reporting diseases and the steps in a foreign animal disease investigation are provided. Details about additional training opportunities for accredited veterinarians are also included along with a multitude of resources and learning opportunities to stay informed about these diseases.

Module 4: Preventing Disease Introduction and Spread

The first part of this module reviews disease prevention practices that limit exposure in animals and people including selecting appropriate personal protective equipment. Proper implementation of cleaning protocols and how to select effective disinfectants to prevent disease spread is discussed. Instructions on reading and interpreting disinfectant labels are included as are handouts for future reference. The second part of this module addresses general biosecurity topics for veterinary clinics and livestock facilities. Biosecurity practices such as equipment handling with livestock on the farm or companion animals in the clinic or home visits for mobile clinics are presented.

Module 5: Vesicular Diseases

The first part of this module addresses the importance of foot-and-mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, swine vesicular disease, vesicular exanthema of swine, and Senecavirus A in the United States. Clinical signs associated with vesicular diseases and specific biosecurity measures are included. The second part of this module takes the veterinarian through an interactive scenario investigating a possible vesicular disease outbreak on a swine farm. Veterinarians learn the process of reporting a possible vesicular disease case and the chain of events that occur in a foreign animal disease investigation.

Module 6: Exotic Avian Diseases

The first part of this module addresses two very important diseases of birds – avian influenza and Newcastle disease – and their potential economic impact on the U.S. economy. Clinical signs associated with these diseases and specific biosecurity measures to implement are included. In the second part of this module, veterinarians progress through an interactive scenario where one of these diseases is potentially introduced into the U.S. through the pet bird industry. Veterinarians will learn the process of reporting a possible exotic avian disease and the chain of events that occur in a foreign animal disease investigation.

Module 7: Foreign Animal Disease Detection in Category I Animals

This module addresses the important role companion animal practitioners play as it relates to detecting foreign animal diseases

(FADs) in Category I animals. Each disease also has a one-page reference source (Disease Briefs) as a resource for practitioners. FAD incursions in the United States that were detected by private sector veterinarians are described. Finally, a scenario culminates what was taught in this module regarding how a veterinarian should appropriately handle a suspected FAD in a patient at their clinic.

Module 8: International Movement of Horses

This module illustrates the scope of international horse travel and the economic factors associated with its growth, including examples of disease outbreaks that have occurred throughout the world. Proper completion of health certificates for temporary or permanent movement is included. An interactive scenario that demonstrates the process for permanently exporting a horse internationally is presented. Emphasis is placed on the role of the accredited veterinarian, isolation procedures, the required laboratory tests, and accurately completing an international health certificate.

Module 9: Interstate and International Health Certificates for Category I Animals

This module highlights the importance of health certificates for traveling pets and discusses the potential for disease spread associated with travel. The planning steps and regulation resources for properly completing a companion animal health certificate are presented through a variety of interactive animations and a scenario. Since errors can lead to travel delays or entry refusals, mistakes commonly made when completing health certificates are highlighted to help minimize these problems in real-life situations.

Module 10: Personal Protective Equipment for Veterinarians

This module introduces the various items of personal protective equipment (PPE) from basic items such as gloves and coveralls, to expanded precautions like respirators and chemical resistant outerwear. Situations veterinarians might encounter in practice are presented and they will need to select the best PPE to prevent disease or chemical exposure. Finally, this module discusses the PPE used in response to an animal health emergency.

Module 11: Sheep and Goats: Disease Awareness and Health Certificates

This module begins with an overview of the sheep and goat industries and a review of eight diseases that impact the industry. Veterinarians should be aware of these important conditions, especially when inspecting animals prior to interstate or international movement. The National Scrapie Eradication and the Scrapie Flock Certification programs are reviewed highlighting the genetic components and identification requirements. Finally, examples of properly completed health certificates for sheep and goats are provided to help veterinarians avoid common errors that can lead to delays or refusal of entry for their client's animals.

Module 12: Animal Disease Traceability

This module reviews the aspects of the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) regulation including official identification devices and methods, required documentation for interstate movement of livestock, and the responsibilities of accredited veterinarians as it pertains to ADT. This module concludes with a scenario involving cattle movement to emphasize some important aspects of ADT. Several handouts are provided for future reference.

Module 13: Aquatic Animal Health Regulations and Health Certification

This module provides information about the various agencies involved in regulating aquatic animal health and trade, with an emphasis on USDA and the role of accredited veterinarians. It also addresses the proper completion of health certificates for farmed aquatic animals and provides resources for obtaining current regulations.

Module 14: Evaluation of Aquatic Animals for Detection of Reportable Diseases and Pathogens

This module guides users to the lists of aquatic animal diseases that are reportable to Federal, State or international governments; explains the role of the accredited veterinarian in reporting aquatic animal diseases in the United States; describes the procedures required when conducting veterinary inspections of aquatic animals; and discusses common signs of illness and disease in aquatic animal species. The module also discusses the importance of collecting appropriate samples for diagnostic testing, where to find appropriate diagnostic requirements, and overviews diagnostic sample packaging and shipping procedures.

Module 15: Disease Prevention and Biosecurity in Aquaculture

This module reviews general biosecurity topics (prevention, control and eradication) for aquatic animal production systems, including biosecurity practices and proper handling of animals and equipment during site visits, and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment for various situations. The proper use and dosages of different disinfectants in aquaculture and designing an appropriate cleaning and disinfection plan are reviewed.

Module 16: International Poultry Health Certificates

This module focuses on the international export of live poultry and hatching eggs. It helps veterinarians identify the State, Tribal, Federal, and international agencies involved in the regulation of poultry health, transport, and trade. The different roles of accredited veterinarians with respect to the regulations pertaining to the poultry industry are presented. Finally, veterinarians can learn where to access current poultry health and export regulations to perform all tasks required to properly prepare, complete, and issue an international health certificate for the export of hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and poultry other than day-old chicks.

Module 17: National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

This module begins by describing the purpose and scope of the NPIP and defines the different flock and state classification levels available in the NPIP. Given the different regulations between egg-laying birds and meat-type birds, this module will help accredited veterinarians identify the portions of NPIP that are the most relevant to them for further exploration. Additional resources (e.g. State Agencies, participating laboratories) relative to the NPIP program are also included.

Module 18: Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle Disease (ND)

This module helps veterinarians understand the economic and public health impact of an exotic avian disease outbreak and to better recognize the clinical signs associated with AI and ND. Details relating to collecting and submitting samples for the surveillance as well as reporting positive results for AI or ND are addressed. Understanding the investigative and clean-up process and implementing biosecurity measures specific for each disease are key roles of poultry veterinarians are emphasized. Finally, veterinarians will be able to explain the OIE's role in preventing disease spread via exports.

Module 19: Animal Health Emergency Response

This module describes how practicing veterinarians can play a role in an animal health emergency response. The various “teams” (NAHERC, VMAT, NVRT, State response) are reviewed to demonstrate their similarities and differences. Understanding the structure of a response and how it is coordinated is key to its success, thus the various components related to NIMS, ICS, NRF and the ESF are reviewed. Finally, the components of FAD PReP/NAHEMS Guidelines are described so veterinarians can comprehend what types of duties they will perform in an actual event.

Module 20: Slaughter Horse Transport

This module explains why horses need to be relatively healthy before transport due to the physiological stress they will endure while being shipped long distances. Veterinarians will learn where to find current health and welfare regulations for the interstate movement and international export of horses. The conditions that would make a horse unfit to travel to slaughter will be reviewed, as well as an overview of how to perform physical exams and assessments to determine a horse’s fitness to travel. Finally, various recommendations that can be shared with owners and shippers to ensure their horses arrive at their destination within the legal regulatory framework will be addressed.

Module 21: Animals’ Fitness to Travel

This module discusses the role of the veterinarian when evaluating the fitness of livestock for movement. Veterinarians will learn about various assessments (visual, ambulation, body condition, etc.) to perform on bovine, small ruminant, swine, equine, and deer to determine whether the animal is healthy enough to transport. Finally, steps that can be taken to make livestock transportation more comfortable for the animal and safer for the handlers are reviewed.

Module 22: Animal Welfare: An Introduction

This module introduces veterinarians to important concepts and issues surrounding animal welfare. The module covers the role of the veterinarian in animal welfare, definitions of animal welfare, how welfare can be measured and evaluated, and an overview of some contemporary animal welfare topics.

Module 23: Use of Antibiotics in Animals

This module reviews the terms and concepts necessary for veterinarians to make informed decisions for the proper selection and judicious use of antibiotics in animals. The various benefits and limitations of antibiotic susceptibility testing options and how to correctly interpret a drug label are presented. A review of the many agencies involved in antibiotic regulation and antibiotic resistance and residue monitoring is provided as well as a review of the key components of the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) and extra-label use of drugs. Numerous resources to assist in making informed decisions on antibiotic use in animals are also included.

Module 24: Collecting and Shipping Swine Diagnostic Samples

This module provides information on collection techniques for swine diagnostic samples and the necessary steps for labeling, packaging, and shipping diagnostic samples from any animal species. It also emphasizes occasions when collecting samples is not appropriate, as in the case of suspected foreign animal diseases. Lastly, this module addresses regulations related to shipping samples to veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Module 25: Using Behavior to Assess Animal Welfare

This module explains how veterinarians can assess the health and welfare of animals by observing their behavior. Normal behaviors seen in many healthy animal species under conditions promoting good welfare are explained as are abnormal behaviors exhibited from different illnesses and improper living conditions. Information on recognizing, treating, and preventing pain and distress in animals is also provided.

Module 26: Nonhuman Primate Transportation

This module describes an accredited veterinarian's responsibilities for nonhuman primate (NHP) transportation including the oversight by various regulatory entities. Key aspects of injury prevention as well as minimizing infectious disease spread are reviewed. There are numerous certificates needed for transportation and those are reviewed in this module.

Module 27: Bovine Trichomoniasis

This module provides an overview of bovine trichomoniasis and its impact on the cattle industry. State testing and entry requirements are presented as well as how to properly collect, handle, package, and ship samples from bulls to a diagnostic laboratory for testing. Resources are provided to develop a herd management plan to reduce the risk of introduction and spread on cattle operations.

Module 28: Significant and Emerging Viral Diseases of Carp, Koi, and Goldfish

Cyprinids (e.g., carp, koi, goldfish) are an important aquaculture species within the United States. These species are susceptible to a variety of reportable, monitored, and emerging diseases. This module describes and differentiates the OIE-listed diseases of susceptible cyprinid (koi herpesvirus disease, spring viremia of carp) as well as other monitored and emerging diseases of concern for these aquaculture species. (e.g., cyprinid herpesvirus 1 and 2, and carp edema virus disease). The module also discusses the role of the accredited veterinarian in monitoring, detecting, and reporting these diseases.

Module 29: Veterinary Feed Directive

This module provides an overview of the veterinary feed directive. The module begins with an introduction to antimicrobial resistance and the need for veterinary supervision of medicated feed, FDA regulatory oversight, and development of new animal drugs to be delivered in feed. The second half of the module describes what must be included in a veterinary feed directive and illustrates how to complete a VFD. Resources for additional information are provided throughout the module.

Module 30: The Role of Veterinarians in Honey Bee Health

This module provides basic knowledge of honey bee biology and beekeeping, as well as information about relevant honey bee diseases and conditions, to foster communication with beekeepers and ensure stewardship of antimicrobial use in honey bees. Although this module focuses on the role of veterinarians related to antimicrobial use and the issuance of prescriptions and VFDs in honey bees, veterinarians can offer many valuable services to beekeepers, such as assisting hobbyist beekeepers with plans for parasite management or assisting commercial beekeepers with the development of protocols to be followed by beekeeping staff for disease detection and control. For these reasons, veterinarians are encouraged to gain more knowledge in this area and explore potential opportunities with both hobbyist and commercial beekeepers.

Module 30: High-Impact Equine Diseases in the U.S.

This module provides information on high-impact equine disease that have occurred recently within the United States. It will explain how equine regulatory disease outbreaks can lead to significant economic and trade impacts affecting the U.S. equine industry, will list the principles of equine biosecurity as well as recent high-impact equine disease encountered in the United States, and will clarify the accredited veterinarian's role in response to these diseases.