



# Texas Authorized Personnel Program for Veterinarians

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is the Texas Authorized Personnel Program (TAPP)?**

Offered by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), TAPP educates and certifies all Texas veterinarians who wish to engage in an activity that is part of a state or federal disease control or eradication program. It also applies to all veterinarians issuing certificates of veterinary inspection for livestock, exotic livestock, fowl, and/or exotic fowl interstate and intrastate.

### **Eligibility for the TAPP Program**

To be eligible for TAPP status with TAHC, veterinarians must first hold a current, active license to practice veterinary medicine in Texas. They must also have an active Category II Texas Accreditation status with USDA.

### **May I transfer my Brucellosis Approved Personnel Status to the Texas Authorized Personnel Program?**

Veterinarians who previously had Brucellosis Approved Personnel Status with the Texas Animal Health Commission must fill out an application to transfer status from the previous program to TAPP. Upon receipt of the original, signed application, TAHC will automatically change the veterinarian's status from Brucellosis Approved to TAHC Authorized Personnel status. Additional TAHC regulatory certification(s) previously held will also transfer over upon receipt of the original, signed TAPP application. To view the application visit [http://www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/authorized/15-07\\_VeterinaryAuthorizedPersonnelApplication.pdf](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/vets/authorized/15-07_VeterinaryAuthorizedPersonnelApplication.pdf).

### **Does TAHC require training for other disease control or eradication programs?**

TAHC offers three (3) additional program certifications.

- 1. Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trich):** Only veterinarians certified and approved by the TAHC may perform Trich program procedures, including but not limited to, collection of samples for official Trich tests within the state of Texas, submission of samples to official laboratories, identification of tested bulls and virgin bulls, management of Trich infected bull herds, movement of infected bulls, and reporting of test results. In order to be certified, a veterinarian shall be TAPP authorized. Veterinarians certified in the Bovine Trichomoniasis program must be recertified every five (5) years.
- 2. Tuberculosis (TB) in Cervidae:** Only veterinarians certified and approved by the USDA or TAHC may perform the Single Cervical Test for TB on cervids and the Cervid Dual-Path Platform (DPP) Test for TB on elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, fallow deer, and reindeer.
- 3. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Antemortem Testing:** Only veterinarians certified and approved by the TAHC may perform the collection, preservation, laboratory submission, and proper record keeping of samples for antemortem (live animal) CWD testing. Veterinarians certified in the TAHC Certified CWD Veterinarian program must be recertified every three (3) years.

Veterinarians must maintain program specific TAHC certification in order to participate in these programs. Contact TAHC Authorized Personnel staff or your TAHC Region Director to schedule one or more of the required certification classes.

### **How do I obtain TAPP status?**

TAPP orientation is scheduled in various locations across Texas throughout the year. Contact the TAHC Authorized Personnel staff at [authorized\\_personnel@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:authorized_personnel@tahc.texas.gov) or at (512) 719-0761 to sign up for a class.

### **What is the time commitment for the TAPP Orientation?**

The basic TAPP orientation lasts four (4) hours. The TAHC Bovine Trichomoniasis and TB Cervidae certifications each last 90 minutes. The TAHC Certified CWD Veterinarian training lasts 60 minutes. Veterinarians who complete these required certification programs are eligible to receive veterinary continuing education credits.

### **What happens if I engage in any TAHC or USDA disease control or eradication program activity without Authorized Personnel Status?**

Failure to complete and return the application prior to participating in TAHC or USDA disease control or eradication programs may affect a veterinarian's ability to continue to perform program activities in the specific disease eradication or control program. More information about the Authorized Personnel rules and requirements, including grounds for suspension or revocation of TAPP status, please visit: [http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=4&pt=2&ch=47](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=4&pt=2&ch=47).

Information provided by the  
Texas Animal Health Commission  
P.O. Box 12966 - Austin, TX 78711-2966  
[www.tahc.texas.gov](http://www.tahc.texas.gov)  
800-550-8242

