

USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES AUTHORITIES

Our authority to carryout our mission comes from several laws:

AHPA: The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 consolidates laws related to animal health and quarantine, some of which dated back to the late 1800s. Under the AHPA, VS has legal authority to regulate aquaculture and provide services for aquaculture and animal livestock. The AHPA includes key provisions for VS animal health programs and services.

The AHPA authorizes APHIS to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, and interstate movement of any animal, means of conveyance, or other article if the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent a disease or pest of livestock from being introduced into, or disseminated within or from, the United States.

The AHPA authorizes additional actions in extraordinary emergencies.

It also provides for inspections, seizures, quarantines, and disposal, as well as measures to detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock, and for a veterinary accreditation program.

The Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 added responsibilities for overseeing agents or toxins deemed a severe threat to animal health.

SHPA: In addition, the Swine Health Protection Act (SHPA) of 1980, as amended, regulates food waste containing any meat products fed to swine. Compliance with this act ensures that all food waste fed to swine is properly treated to kill disease organisms. Raw meat may transmit numerous infectious or communicable diseases to swine. Raw meat can transmit exotic animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, classical swine fever, and swine vesicular disease.

VSTA: VS also derives authorities from the 1913 Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (VSTA) as amended by the 1985 Food Security Act. Under the VSTA, APHIS regulates veterinary biologics (vaccines, bacterins, antisera, diagnostic kits, and other products of biological origin) to ensure that the veterinary biologics available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases are pure, safe, potent, and effective.

These laws give us the authority to promulgate regulation