



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
BUILDING 5158
8252 BLACKHAWK ROAD
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MARYLAND 21010-5403

MCHB-PH-VHS

23 January 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR Public Health Command Regions

SUBJECT: Eligibility of Patronage in Veterinary Treatment Facilities

1. References:

a. Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD-P&R), Directive-type Memorandum (DTM) 19-012, Expansion of Patronage for Certain Veterans and Certain Caregivers for Veterans, 20 December 2019.

b. Assistant Secretary of the Army-Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASA M/RA), Department of the Army Memorandum, Expansion of Patronage for Certain Veterans and Certain Caregivers for Veterans, 20 December 2019.

c. Army Regulation 40-905/SECNAVINST 6401.1/AFI 48-131, Veterinary Health Services, 29 August 2006.

d. Army Regulation 215-1 Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Non-appropriated Fund Instrumentalities, 24 September 2010.

e. DODVSA Policy C-013, Interim Guidance on Individuals Authorized Veterinary Service at Military Veterinary Treatment Facilities, 13 November 2013.

2. Purpose: To inform Public Health Command leadership and all Army Veterinary Services (AVS) personnel who provide services to individuals authorized veterinary services for privately owned animals (POAs) in veterinary treatment facilities (VTFs) that access eligibility to services has not changed. Individuals authorized access to VTFs are still in accordance with reference c and e. This memorandum also serves to clarify guidance regarding the recently published OUSD-P&R and ASA M/RA memorandum (references a and b, respectively) regarding expansion of patronage eligibility to on post services.

3. On 01 January 2020, eligibility of patronage for DoD commissary, exchange, and morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) activities was expanded to include certain veteran groups and designated caregivers IAW references a and b. These references specifically identify the services as MWR category B and C revenue generating Nonappropriated fund (NAF) activities.

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4. The veterinary services fund is established as a supplemental mission NAF and is not an MWR category A, B or C activity. VTFs do not fall under these categories and are therefore not included in the expansion of patronage. Eligibility for services at the VTF has not changed; individuals authorized access to VTFs are still in accordance with reference c and e.

5. A legal review and opinion was requested and conducted by the U.S. Army Public Health Center (APHC)-Office of the Chief Counsel regarding expansion of patronage to the VTFs. On 15 January 2020, the review determined that the subject memorandums (i.e. references a and b) do not provide the requisite legal authority for Army Veterinary Services to open veterinary services in the VTFs to this expanded group of individuals. As currently written, specific authority would have to be granted by SECDEF through ASD-MRA and ASA M/RA through Office of the Surgeon General. Furthermore, a legal interpretation rendered by the Administrative and Civil Branch, Defense Health Agency (DHA)-Office of General Counsel on 22 January 2020 essentially concurs with APHC-Office of the Chief Counsel and indicates veterinary services is not an MWR activity; and the DTM (reference a) does not mandate additional access to any activity funded as a supplemental mission NAF account. Therefore, eligibility for services at the VTF has not changed; and individuals authorized access to VTFs are still in accordance with reference c and e.

6. The Global Veterinary Medical Practice (GVMP) is not the proponent for patronage eligibility policy. However, GVMP supports the missions of the Public Health Activity Commanders and the Army Public Health Center (APHC), as a key enabler of veterinary medical readiness within VTFs.

7. This memorandum is provided for informational purposes and background explanation. This memorandum was prepared in consultation and coordination with GVMP/VSPHS Directorate, APHC; Deputy Chief of Staff-Public Health, U.S. Army MEDCOM; and Defense Health Agency Veterinary Services.

8. The points of contact for this action is COL Derron A. Alves at 410-436-0011/derron.a.alves.mil@mail.mil or LTC Gregory S. Laughlin at 410-417-3196/gregory.s.laughlin.mil@mail.mil.

Encl

JOHN C. BEACH
COL, VC
Director, VSPHS Directorate



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
VETERINARY SERVICE ACTIVITY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
7700 ARLINGTON BLVD STE 5140
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-5140

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DODVSA

18 November 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: DODVSA Policy C-013, Interim Guidance on Individuals Authorized Veterinary Services at Military Veterinary Treatment Facilities

1. Reference AR40-905/SECNAVINST 6401.1/AFI 48-131, Veterinary Health Services, 29 Aug 2006.
2. Purpose: This interim guidance updates individuals who are authorized veterinary services for their privately owned animals (POAs) until publication of the revised AR40-905 Veterinary Health Services. The updated guidance pertains to paragraph 3-4a and replaces an individual's enrollment in the Defense Enrollment/Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) as the sole criteria for establishing veterinary services for their POAs.
3. The following revision (para 3-4a) is effective 18 November 2013: "The appropriate commander providing veterinary support will establish the extent to which veterinary services are authorized for animals owned by individuals. Individuals who seek veterinary care for their animal shall be positively identified as an authorized patron. Authorized patrons shall be identified by an official form of identification including the DoD Common Access Card (with affiliation "uniformed services" on the front of the CAC), DD Form 2 (retired active duty and retired reserve ID cards), DD Form 1173 (dependents of active duty ID card), DD Form 1173-1 (dependents of Guard and Reserve ID card), or DD form 2765 (Medal of Honor recipients, 100% disabled veterans, and other eligible categories as described in DoD policy); or by an official identification card issued by the Military Service of which the patron is affiliated."
4. Point of contact is LTC Derron A. Alves, DODVSA, Commercial (703) 681-3063/ DSN 761-3063.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob E. Walters".

BOB E. WALTERS

COL, VC

Director, Department of Defense
Veterinary Service Activity

DODVSA

**SUBJECT: DODVSA Policy C-013, Interim Guidance on Individuals Authorized
Veterinary Services at Military Veterinary Treatment Facilities**

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