

Dr. Stanley Hewins, DVM
Executive Vice President
American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine
3126 Morning Creek
San Antonio, TX 78247

29 January 1999

Dear Dr. Hewins,

Attached is the proposed model veterinary preventive medicine/public health curriculum for students attending US veterinary colleges. This curriculum was designed by a blue ribbon panel of the ACVPM which identified the need to establish a baseline standard for preventive medicine/public health education in US veterinary schools. The attached document defines what we feel are the minimum knowledge requirements in this core area. The curriculum is intended to serve as a planning guide for curriculum committees and to assist in defining accreditation standards for veterinary preventive medicine/public health education.

The attached curriculum contains six core topics along with subtopics and recommended hours for each. The committee did not specifically attempt to define where or how these topics should be included in the curriculum, other than to specify when they felt laboratories or exercises should be included. The committee did feel that the majority of this curriculum should not be introduced until the second year of veterinary school or later, once students have a basic understanding of disease processes. Other than the above comments, the committee felt that each veterinary school's curriculum committee should determine how these recommendations best fit with their respective curricula and capabilities.

Committee members and reviewers for this project were drawn from all facets of veterinary public health, including academia, production medicine, public practice, and the military. I wish to personally thank all of those committee members who spent many hours on this project. I have listed their names on page two of this document. I would also like to thank the many other unnamed individuals who provided us with copies of sample curricula and participated in an informal review of the draft curriculum prior to its submission. These folks provided us with ideas which might never otherwise have been considered.

The committee used the Pan American Health Organization's 1974 pamphlet entitled "*A Competency Based Curriculum for Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine*" as the starting point for this project and included many of that organization's comprehensive recommendations in the proposed curriculum. This comprehensive document provided an excellent framework from which to begin and made our work much easier. The result of our combined efforts is a proposed curriculum which, in my opinion, accurately reflects the minimum requirements for veterinary preventive medicine/public health education today.

I highly recommend that this document be sent to the AVMA Council on Education and the academic deans of all the colleges of veterinary medicine for review and implementation as applicable. Our goal is to have this curriculum serve as a planning guide for curriculum development committees and to serve as a benchmark for evaluating veterinary preventive medicine/public health education programs in our veterinary schools. We appreciate your support in this effort.

Sincerely,

Vicky L. Fogelman, DVM, MPH
Chairperson, Curriculum Committee