**Class Summary**

The responsibilities of this classification include providing clinical and technical expertise and leadership in veterinary public health, One Health concepts, communicable disease, and environmental health epidemiology for all operational Seattle/King County Department of Public Health programs related to prevention, preparedness, surveillance, investigation, response, and control of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases and environmental conditions that impact animals and people.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

This is a single-level classification. It is distinguished from the other health and medical classifications in that the incumbent practices veterinary medicine.

**Examples of Duties**

1. Plan, implement, maintain, and evaluate surveillance systems for zoonotic, emerging, and vector-borne diseases of public health importance in King County, including those with pandemic potential. Coordinate with other local, state, and national health organizations to monitor zoonotic disease incidence and trends.
2. Provide leadership and oversight of zoonotic and emerging disease or environmental hazard outbreak investigations among animals and humans; provide recommendations for disease prevention and control.
3. Direct disposition for cases of animals potentially exposed to rabies, avian chlamydiosis, and other zoonotic diseases following state and local regulations and national guidance.
4. Provide technical expertise and direction to the department and agency partners involved in bioterrorism and pandemic preparedness planning and response efforts regarding animal disease agents and diseases with pandemic potential; serve in a leadership role during Health and Medical Area Command communicable disease or environmental health emergencies.
5. Advise the Department Director and Health Officer on appropriate surveillance strategies, risk assessment, and recommended animal interventions to control the zoonotic spread of diseases during communicable disease emergencies.
6. Provide technical expertise, direction, and guidance to Environmental Health programs. Consult with program staff on complex situations such as outbreaks or infection control issues within animal shelters, pet businesses, and rodent infestations; perform field inspections when needed.
7. Assist in developing educational and outreach materials for community stakeholders such as the public, pet-related businesses, animal control agencies, and veterinarians on zoonotic and vector-borne disease prevention topics. Participate in outreach and educational events with program staff when needed.
8. Participate in local, state, and national workgroups related to zoonotic, vector-borne, and animal-related disease prevention and pet food-related regulations.
9. Provide technical assistance and clinical/public health consultation advice to health care professionals, veterinarians, animal control personnel, and the public regarding zoonotic diseases in humans and animals.
10. Interpret state and local disease control regulations and codes and assist with code enforcement when required. Lead code review and revision of local zoonotic regulations. Coordinate with the CDC, WA Department of Health (DOH), USDA, and the WA Department of Agriculture (WSDA) on issues of public health importance.
11. Serve as key spokesperson and agency representative on veterinary public health issues.
12. Perform other duties as assigned.

**Knowledge/Skills**

Knowledge of veterinary medicine

Knowledge of epidemiology, zoonotic disease surveillance and control, and environmental health practices

Knowledge of One Health concepts and implementation

Knowledge of state and local zoonotic disease control codes and pet business regulations

Knowledge of animal importation and animal ownership regulations

Knowledge of zoonotic infectious agents and arthropod disease vectors of public health importance

Knowledge of climate change and its impacts on health

Knowledge of Incident Command and Unified Command structure

Skill in emergency/disaster and pandemic preparedness planning

Ability to effectively engage in and sustain relationships with people from diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds

Ability to work independently and as a team member

Demonstrated proficiency with business applications, such as Microsoft Office suite

**Education and Experience Requirements**

And any combination of education and experience that clearly demonstrates the ability to perform the job duties of the position

**Licensing, Certification, and Other Requirements**

Washington State Veterinarian’s license

Washington State Driver’s License or the ability to provide transportation to work locations with limited or no public transportation services

Some licenses, certifications, and other requirements determined to be necessary to meet the business needs of the employing unit may be required

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| **FLSA Designation** | Exempt (Professional) |
| **Service Status** | Career Service |
| **EEO Code** | 2 |
| **Levels within the same series** | None |
| Class History | 11/1996 – Created  01/2008 – Updated font and format  05/2023 – Updated content |