June 2022

Dear BC veterinary clinics;

We all hope that our animals will be healthy and safe, but we must prepare for those occasions when they are threatened by disease events or natural disasters. **Premises identification (ID)** links livestock and poultry animals to specific geographic locations and is an important tool that is regularly used in emergency planning and response to reduce the impact of these events on animals. On July 1st 2022, B.C. will join Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and PEI as the 6th province in Canada to introduce a mandatory *Premises Identification Regulation*.

Premises ID is one of the three pillars of Canada's livestock traceability system, along with animal identification and movement reporting. **A premises is** any location where livestock and poultry animals are grown, kept, assembled, or disposed of, even for a short period of time. As of July 1st, 2022, commingling sites will need to be registered with the BC Premises ID program, including veterinary clinics that treat animals listed in the Regulation. The full list can be found on our website: http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram

Commingling sites - such as veterinary clinics - are very important to include in the traceability system as animals from many farms are treated at the same location and then discharged. In the event of a disease event or outbreak involving an animal that had been treated by a veterinarian at a particular clinic, it is critical to quickly identify the animals that may have been in the proximity of the diseased animal.

In July 2014, the federal government introduced mandatory movement reporting for pigs to ensure that any disease affecting pigs is contained rapidly and effectively. As such, any site where a pig travels during its life must have a premises ID for reporting purposes. As you may be aware, the federal government is expected to propose additional livestock traceability movement regulations that will affect cattle, sheep, goats, fallow deer, and bison. For more information, please see the CFIA's newsletter series[1]:

Registering your clinic with the program is simple, free and easy. You can register online in less than 10 minutes (paper registrations are also accepted): http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram. You will be expected to keep your contact information up to date so it can be effectively used in an emergency and our staff will remind you to review and update your account information every two years.

If you have already registered your clinic, please take a moment to review your premises account information to ensure it is up to date.

[1] **CFIA newsletters URL:** https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/traceability/regulatory-update/eng/1557981179942/1557981180213

Please help us to spread the word to your clients! Enclosed is a poster for display in your clinic and a link to our brochure: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/programs/premises-id/premisesid_brochure.pdf

More posters and brochures can be made available upon request to our team. We appreciate your support in building awareness of the BC Premises ID Program.

For more information, please visit our website (http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram) or contact the Ministry by email (BCPID@gov.bc.ca) or phone (1 888-221-7141).

Sincerely,



Lisa Levesque
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Extension and Support Services Branch
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food