

TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

“SERVING TEXAS SINCE 1893”



TEXAS AGRICULTURE CODE

**TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

**SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS**

CHAPTERS 161 - 168

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AGRICULTURE CODE
TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 161. GENERAL DISEASE AND PEST
CONTROL

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 161.001. DEFINITIONS.

(a) In this chapter:

- (1) "Animal" includes livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl.
- (2) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.
- (3) Repealed by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 604, Sec. 5.
- (4) "Exotic livestock" means grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved or cloven-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and antelope families.
- (5) "Exotic fowl" means any avian species that is not indigenous to this state. The term includes ratites.

(b) References in Subchapter A, C, D, E, or H of this chapter to "livestock," "domestic animals," "domestic fowl," or other specifically named animals shall be construed to include all or part of the carcasses of those animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1393, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 637, Sec. 6, eff. Aug. 31, 1987; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 35, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 203, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 604, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 161.002. CARETAKER OF ANIMAL.

- (a) A person is subject to this chapter as the caretaker of an animal and is presumed to control the animal if the person:
 - (1) is the owner or lessee of the pen, pasture, or other place in which the animal is located and has control of that place; or
 - (2) exercises care or control over the animal.
- (b) This section does not limit the care and control of an animal to any person.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1393, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.003. DUTY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT.

- (a) The commissioners court of each county shall cooperate with and assist the commission in protecting livestock, domestic animals, and domestic fowl from communicable diseases, regardless of whether a particular disease exists in the county.
- (b) Each commissioners court may employ a veterinarian at the expense of the county. Any veterinarian employed is subject to approval by the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1393, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.004. DISPOSAL OF DISEASED LIVESTOCK CARCASS.

- (a) A person who is the owner or caretaker of livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl that die from a disease listed by the commission in rules adopted under Section 161.041, or who owns or controls the land on which the livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl die or on which the carcasses are found, shall dispose of the carcasses in the manner required by the commission under this section.
- (b) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality may not adopt a rule related to the disposal of livestock under this section unless the rule is developed in cooperation with and is approved by the Texas Animal Health Commission.
- (c) The commission shall:
 - (1) determine the most effective methods of disposing of diseased carcasses, including methods other than burning or burial; and
 - (2) by rule prescribe the method or methods that a person may use to dispose of a carcass as required by Subsection (a).

(d) The commission by rule may delegate its authority under this section to the executive director.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1394, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1333, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. 2543), Sec. 1, eff. January 1, 2008.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.005. COMMISSION WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS.

(a) The commission may authorize the executive director or another employee to sign written instruments on behalf of the commission. A written instrument, including a quarantine or written notice, signed under that authority has the same force and effect as if signed by the entire commission.

(b) Any written instrument issued by the commission is admissible as evidence in court if certified by the presiding officer or the executive director.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1394, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 24, ch. 3, Sec. 17, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.006. DOCUMENTS TO ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT.

(a) If this chapter requires that a certificate or permit accompany animals or commodities moved in this state, the document must be:

(1) in the possession of the conductor of a train and attached to the waybill of the shipment, if the movement is by rail; or

(2) in the possession of the person in charge of the animals or commodities, if the movement is made by any other means.

(b) This section does not apply to a certificate provided for by Section 161.088 of this code.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1394, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.007. EXPOSURE OR INFECTION CONSIDERED CONTINUING.

If a veterinarian employed by the commission determines that a communicable disease exists among livestock, domestic animals, or domestic fowl or on certain premises or that livestock, domestic animals, or domestic fowl have been exposed to the agency of transmission of a communicable disease, the exposure or infection is considered to continue until the commission determines that the exposure or infection has been eradicated through methods prescribed by rule of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1394, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.008. STATE FUNDS REFORM ACT APPLICABLE.

All money paid to the commission under this chapter is subject to Subchapter F, Chapter 404, Government Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.009. CONFIDENTIALITY OF BIOSECURITY AND OTHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION.

(a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (c), information held by the commission is confidential and excepted from disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, if the information consists of or relates to a biosecurity plan, a secure food supply plan, an emergency preparedness plan, or biosecurity data that was voluntarily provided to the commission by an owner or caretaker of an animal.

(b) The commission may release information described by Subsection (a) to:

(1) the attorney general's office, for the purpose of law enforcement;

(2) the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of animal health protection;

(3) the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, for the purpose of homeland security;

(4) the Department of State Health Services, for the purpose of protecting the public health from zoonotic diseases;

(5) any person, if required by a court order;

(6) a federal, state, municipal, or county emergency management authority, for the purpose of management or response to natural or man-made disasters; or

(7) any person the executive director of the commission considers appropriate, if:

(A) the executive director determines that:

(i) livestock may be threatened by a disease, agent, or pest; and

(ii) the release of the information is related to actions the commission may take in performance of its powers and duties; or

(B) the executive director determines that the release of the information is necessary for emergency management purposes under Chapter 418, Government Code.

- (c) The commission's release of confidential information under Subsection (b):
 - (1) does not affect the confidentiality of the information;
 - (2) is not an offense under Section 552.352, Government Code; and
 - (3) is not a voluntary disclosure for purposes of Section 552.007, Government Code.

Added by Acts 2023, 88th Leg., R.S., Ch. 850 (H.B. 3257), Sec. 1, eff September 1, 2023.

SUBCHAPTER B. TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Sec. 161.021. COMPOSITION.

- (a) The commission is composed of 13 commissioners appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, with the appropriate number from each of the following categories:
 - (1) a practitioner of veterinary medicine;
 - (2) a dairyman;
 - (3) a cattle raiser;
 - (4) a hog raiser;
 - (5) a sheep or goat raiser;
 - (6) a poultry raiser;
 - (7) an individual involved in the equine industry;
 - (8) an individual involved in the feedlot industry;
 - (9) an individual involved in the livestock marketing industry;
 - (10) three members of the general public; and
 - (11) an individual involved in the exotic livestock or exotic fowl industry.
- (b) In making appointments to the commission, the governor, to the extent practicable, shall give proportionate representation to the northern, eastern, southern, and western portions of the state.
- (c) Appointments to the commission shall be made without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the appointees.
- (d) A person is not eligible for appointment as a public member of the commission if the person or the person's spouse:
 - (1) is registered, certified, or licensed by the commission;

- (2) is employed by or participates in the management of a business entity or other organization regulated by the commission or receiving money from the commission;
- (3) owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other organization regulated by or receiving money from the commission; or
- (4) uses or receives a substantial amount of tangible goods, services, or money from the commission, other than compensation or reimbursement authorized by law for commission membership, attendance, or expenses.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1394, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 14, ch. 3, Sec. 1, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 699, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 30, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1170, Sec. 2.01, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.022. TERM.

Commissioners serve for staggered terms of six years, with the terms of four or five members expiring every other year.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1395, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 699, Sec. 2, eff. Aug. 30, 1993; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1170, Sec. 2.02, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 161.023. MANDATORY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR COMMISSIONERS.

- (a) A person who is appointed to and qualifies for office as a member of the commission may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member in attendance at a meeting of the commission until the person completes a training program that complies with this section.
- (b) The training program must provide the person with information regarding:
 - (1) the law governing the commission operations;
 - (2) the programs, functions, rules, and budget of the commission;
 - (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking authority of the commission;
 - (4) the results of the most recent formal audit of the commission;
 - (5) the requirements of:
 - (A) laws relating to open meetings, public information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of interest; and
 - (B) other laws applicable to members of a state policy-making body in performing their duties; and
 - (6) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the commission or the Texas Ethics Commission.

(c) A person appointed to the commission is entitled to reimbursement, as provided by the General Appropriations Act, for the travel expenses incurred in attending the training program, regardless of whether attendance at the program occurs before or after the person qualifies for the office.

(d) The executive director of the commission shall create a training manual that includes the information required by Subsection (b). The executive director shall distribute a copy of the training manual annually to each member of the commission. Each member of the commission shall sign and submit to the executive director a statement acknowledging that the member received and has reviewed the training manual.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.024. PRESIDING OFFICER.

The governor shall designate a member of the commission as the presiding officer of the commission to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1395, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.025. VACANCIES.

The governor shall fill vacancies by appointment for the unexpired term.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1395, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.026. EXPENSES AND PER DIEM.

Each commissioner is entitled to reasonable travel expenses incurred in performing official duties and to the per diem set in the General Appropriations Act for members of state boards and commissions.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1395, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 161.027. SUNSET PROVISION.

The Texas Animal Health Commission is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the commission is abolished September 1, 2035.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1395, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 479, Sec. 188, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 729, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 17, Sec. 2.02, eff. Nov. 12, 1991; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1232 (S.B. [652](#)), Sec. 5.01, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2023, 88th Leg., R.S., Ch. 941 (S.B. 1659), Sec. 3.03, eff. June 18, 2023.

Sec. 161.028. RESTRICTIONS ON COMMISSION APPOINTMENT, MEMBERSHIP, AND EMPLOYMENT.

(a) In this section, "Texas trade association" means a cooperative and voluntarily joined statewide association of business or professional competitors in this state designed to assist its members and its industry or profession in dealing with mutual business or professional problems and in promoting their common interest. The term does not include an association formed to benefit or promote a particular breed of livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl.

(b) A person may not be a member of the commission and may not be a commission employee in a "bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.), if:

(1) the person is an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of livestock production, exotic livestock production, domestic fowl production, or exotic fowl production; or

(2) the person's spouse is an officer, manager, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of livestock production, exotic livestock production, domestic fowl production, or exotic fowl production.

(c) A person may not serve as a member of the commission or act as the general counsel to the commission or the agency if the person is required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, because of the person's activities for compensation on behalf of a profession related to the operation of the commission.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.029. REMOVAL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.

- (a) It is a ground for removal from the commission if a member:
- (1) does not have at the time of taking office the qualifications required by Section 161.021;
 - (2) does not maintain during service on the commission the qualifications required by Section 161.021;
 - (3) is ineligible for membership under Section 161.021(d) or 161.028;
 - (4) cannot, because of illness or disability, discharge the member's duties for a substantial part of the member's term; or
 - (5) is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled commission meetings that the member is eligible to attend during a calendar year without an excuse approved by a majority vote of the commission.
- (b) The validity of an action of the commission is not affected by the fact that it is taken when a ground for removal of a commission member exists.
- (c) If the executive director has knowledge that a potential ground for removal exists, the executive director shall notify the presiding officer of the commission of the potential ground. The presiding officer shall then notify the governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for removal exists. If the potential ground for removal involves the presiding officer, the executive director shall notify the next highest officer of the commission, who shall notify the governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for removal exists.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 386, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.030. SEPARATION OF AUTHORITY.

The commission shall develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the commission and the management responsibilities of the executive director and the staff of the commission.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.0305. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; QUALIFICATIONS.

The executive director must hold a degree in veterinary medicine.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 665, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 161.031. PERSONNEL.

(a) The executive director or the executive director's designee shall develop an intraagency career ladder program that addresses opportunities for mobility and advancement for employees within the commission. The program shall require intraagency posting of all positions concurrently with any public posting.

(b) The executive director or the executive director's designee shall develop a system of annual performance evaluations that are based on documented employee performance. All merit pay for commission employees must be based on the system established under this subsection.

(c) The commission shall provide to its members and employees, as often as necessary, information regarding their qualifications for office or employment under this chapter and their responsibilities under applicable laws relating to standards of conduct for state officers or employees.

(d) The executive director or the executive director's designee shall prepare and maintain a written policy statement to assure implementation of a program of equal employment opportunity under which all personnel transactions are made without regard to race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin. The policy statement must include:

(1) personnel policies, including policies relating to recruitment, evaluation, selection, appointment, training, and promotion of personnel that are in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 21, Labor Code;

(2) a comprehensive analysis of the commission work force that meets federal and state guidelines;

(3) procedures by which a determination can be made about the extent of underuse in the commission work force of all persons for whom federal or state guidelines encourage a more equitable balance; and

(4) reasonable methods to appropriately address those areas of underuse.

(e) A policy statement prepared under Subsection (d) of this section must cover an annual period, be updated annually and reviewed by the Texas Commission on Human Rights for compliance with Subsection (d)(1) of this section, and be filed with the governor's office.

(f) The governor's office shall deliver a biennial report to the legislature based on the information received under Subsection (e) of this section. The report may be made separately or as a part of other biennial reports made to the legislature.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.0311. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND GRANTS.

- (a) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this chapter.
- (b) The commission shall report to the legislature by December 31 of each year the source and amount of each gift, grant, and donation received under this section.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 410, Sec. 1, eff. May 28, 2001.

Sec. 161.033. PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS.

- (a) The commission shall maintain a system to promptly and efficiently act on complaints filed with the commission. The commission shall maintain information about parties to the complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a summary of the results of the review or investigation of the complaint, and its disposition.
- (b) The commission shall make information available describing its procedures for complaint investigation and resolution.
- (c) The commission shall periodically notify the complaint parties of the status of the complaint until final disposition unless the notice would jeopardize an investigation.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 13, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.0335. TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

The commission shall implement a policy requiring the commission to use appropriate technological solutions to improve the commission's ability to perform its functions. The policy must ensure that the public is able to interact with the commission on the Internet.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.0336. INFORMATION RELATING TO COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.

The commission shall:

- (1) post information about its complaint procedures on the home page of the Internet website maintained by the commission;
- (2) post specific information on how to file a complaint, what types of information to provide with the complaint, and a description of the complaint process; and

(3) explain on that website what types of complaints the commission has authority to resolve, distinguishing those from complaints that the commission does not have authority to resolve.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.034. PUBLIC MEETINGS.

- (a) The commission is subject to the open meetings law, Chapter 551, Government Code.
- (b) The commission shall develop and implement policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the commission and to speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the commission.
- (c) Each meeting of the commission must be held in a location that provides adequate access to members of the public.
- (d) The commission shall post audio archives of its meetings on the commission's Internet website.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 12, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 14, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 9(a), eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.035. ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

- (a) The commission by rule may establish advisory committees to make recommendations to the commission on programs, rules, and policies administered by the commission.
- (b) In establishing an advisory committee under this section, the commission shall adopt rules, including rules regarding;
 - (1) the purpose, role, responsibility, goals, and duration of the committee;
 - (2) the size of and quorum requirement for the committee;
 - (3) qualifications for committee membership;
 - (4) appointment procedures for members;
 - (5) terms of service for members;
 - (6) training requirements for members;
 - (7) policies to avoid conflicts of interest by members;
 - (8) a periodic review process to evaluate the continuing need for the committee; and
 - (9) policies to ensure the committee does not violate any provision of Chapter 551, Government Code, applicable to the commission or the committee.

(c) Repealed by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S. Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 37, eff. September 1, 2021.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. [705](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. [705](#)), Sec. 37, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.036. PROGRAM AND FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY.

The commission shall comply with federal and state laws related to program and facility accessibility. The executive director shall also prepare and maintain a written plan that describes how a person who does not speak English can be provided reasonable access to the commission's programs and services.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.037. PERIODIC REVIEW OF AGENCY FUNCTIONS.

(a) The commission shall periodically review services provided by the commission, including laboratory services, that also are provided in the private sector in order to determine the most cost-effective method for delivering the services.

(b) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 24 (S.B. [706](#)), Sec. 7(1), eff. September 1, 2017.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 24 (S.B. [706](#)), Sec. 7(1), eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 161.0375. PERIODIC REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE INFORMATION.

(a) The commission shall analyze, on a statewide and regional basis, violations of this subtitle. The commission shall consider;

- (1) violation types and disposition;
- (2) persons who are repeat offenders; and
- (3) persons who commit the most serious offenses.

(b) The commission shall use the analysis under Subsection (a) to compare enforcement practices across each region and determine:

- (1) training needs;
- (2) gaps in enforcement authority; and
- (3) effective enforcement activities.

(c) The commission shall conduct the analysis under Subsection (a) on a periodic basis to ensure that the information reflects current enforcement practices.

(d) The commission shall timely enter and share compliance and enforcement information on a statewide and regional basis.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.038. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT APPLICABLE.

The commission is subject to the administrative procedure law, Chapter 2001, Government Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.039. COMPLIANCE POLICY AND INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURES.

(a) The commission by rule shall adopt agencywide compliance policies and internal operating procedures and convey those policies and procedures to all officers and employees of the commission.

(b) The commission by rule shall adopt clearly defined and uniform procedures addressing compliance with this chapter and commission rules. The compliance procedures shall include the commission's process for:

- (1) receiving and consistently responding to complaints from the public and officers and employees of the commission;
- (2) checking for previous violations whenever a complaint is filed;
- (3) involving a supervisor in the approval of key compliance decisions; and
- (4) regularly updating complainants on the status of their complaints.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.040. RULEMAKING AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.

(a) The commission shall develop and implement a policy to encourage the use of:

- (1) negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government Code, for the adoption of commission rules; and
- (2) appropriate alternative dispute resolution procedures under Chapter 2009, Government Code, to assist in the resolution of internal and external disputes under the commission's jurisdiction.

(b) The commission's procedures relating to alternative dispute resolution must conform, to the extent possible, to any model guidelines issued by the State Office of Administrative Hearings for the use of alternative dispute resolution by state agencies.

(c) The commission shall designate a trained person to:

- (1) coordinate the implementation of the policy adopted under Subsection (a);
- (2) serve as a resource for any training needed to implement the procedures for negotiated rulemaking or alternative dispute resolution; and
- (3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those procedures, as implemented by the commission.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2007.

SUBCHAPTER C. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION

Sec. 161.041. DISEASE CONTROL.

(a) The commission shall protect all livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl from diseases the commission determines require control or eradication. The commission shall adopt and periodically update rules listing the diseases that require control or eradication by the commission. Section 2001.0045, Government Code, does not apply to rules adopted under this subsection.

(b) The commission may act to eradicate or control any disease or agent of transmission for any disease that affects livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl, regardless of whether the disease is communicable, even if the agent of transmission is an animal species that is not subject to the jurisdiction of the commission. The commission may adopt any rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including rules concerning testing, movement, inspection, and treatment.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly fails to handle, in accordance with rules adopted by the commission, livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl:

(1) infected with a disease listed by the commission by rule under Subsection (a);

(2) exposed, as defined by commission rule, to a disease listed by the commission by rule under Subsection (a) if the commission has notified the person that the animal was exposed to the disease; or

(3) subject to a testing requirement due to a risk of exposure, as defined by commission rule, to a specific disease if the commission has notified the person of the testing requirement.

(d) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly fails to identify or refuses to permit an agent of the commission to identify, in accordance with rules adopted by the commission, livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl infected with a disease listed by the commission by rule under Subsection (a).

(e) An offense under Subsection (c) or (d) of this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(f) In complying with this section, the commission may not infringe on or supersede the authority of any other agency of this state, including the authority of the Parks and Wildlife Department relating to wildlife. If a conflict of authority occurs, the commission shall assume responsibility for disease control efforts, but work collaboratively with the other agency to enable each agency to effectively carry out its responsibilities.

(g) The commission's authority to control or eradicate an agent of transmission that is an animal species that is not subject to the jurisdiction of the commission is limited to instances when a disease that threatens livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl has been confirmed or is suspected to exist in that species and the commission determines that a serious threat to livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl exists.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1395, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 13, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 35, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. 2543), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 77 (S.B. 970), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.0411. DOMESTIC AND EXOTIC FOWL REGISTRATION.

(a) A seller, distributor, or transporter of live domestic or exotic fowl in this state shall register with the commission under this section. The commission may exempt from registration a person participating in a disease surveillance program recognized by the commission.

(b) A person may apply for a certificate of registration or a renewal of a certificate of registration under this section by submitting an application and an annual fee prescribed by the commission. A person must complete an application for a certificate of registration that includes a list of each location at which the person conducts the sale, distribution, or transportation of domestic or exotic fowl.

(c) The commission shall adopt rules to administer this section, including rules relating to the testing, identification, transportation, inspection, sanitation, and disinfection of domestic and exotic fowl.

(d) The commission shall prescribe and collect an annual fee for registration as a seller, distributor, or transporter of domestic or exotic fowl in this state.

(e) The commission may set fees under this section in amounts that do not exceed the amounts necessary to enable the commission to recover the costs of administering this section.

(f) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates this section or fails to comply with an order or rule adopted under this section.

(g) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1109, Sec. 1, eff. June 20, 2003.

Sec. 161.0412. REGULATION AND REGISTRATION OF FERAL SWINE HOLDING FACILITIES.

(a) The commission may, for disease control purposes, require the registration of feral swine holding facilities.

(b) To prevent the spread of disease, the commission may require a person to register with the commission if the person confines feral swine in a holding facility for slaughter, sale, exhibition, hunting, or any other purpose specified by commission rule.

(c) Rules adopted under this section shall include registration requirements, provisions for the issuance, revocation, and renewal of a registration, disease testing, inspections, recordkeeping, construction standards, location limitations, and provisions relating to the treatment of swine in and movement of swine to or from a feral swine holding facility.

(d) Rules authorized by this section may be adopted only for disease-control purposes.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.0415. DISPOSAL OF DISEASED OR EXPOSED LIVESTOCK OR FOWL.

(a) The commission by order may require the slaughter of livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl, under the direction of the commission, or the sale of livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl for immediate slaughter at a public slaughtering establishment maintaining federal or state inspection if the livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl is exposed to or infected with a disease other than bluetongue or vesicular stomatitis that:

(1) is recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture as;

(A) a foreign animal disease; or

(B) a reportable animal disease;

(2) is the subject of a cooperative eradication program with the United States Department of Agriculture;

(3) is an animal disease reportable to the World Organisation for Animal Health;
or

(4) is the subject of a state of emergency, as declared by the governor.

(b) The commission by order may require the slaughter and disposal of livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl exposed to or infected with a disease not listed in Subsection (a) if the commission determines that action to be necessary for the protection of animal health in this state. The commission shall immediately deliver a copy of an order issued under this subsection to the appropriate legislative oversight committees.

(c) A person may appeal an order of the commission under this section as provided by Chapter 2001, Government Code.

(d) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality may not adopt a rule related to the disposal of livestock under this section unless the rule is developed in cooperation with and is approved by the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1333, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 149 (H.B. [1521](#)), Sec. 1, eff. May 24, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 149 (H.B. [1521](#)), Sec. 2, eff. May 24, 2013.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.0416. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

(a) The commission may prepare and plan for, respond to, and aid in the recovery from disaster events that may affect livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl, including disease outbreaks, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and acts of terrorism.

(b) The commission may assist with local emergency management planning. This subsection may not be construed to affect the commission's responsibility under any other law, including Chapter 418, Government Code, or any responsibility delegated to the commission by an emergency management authority of this state.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.0417. AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL FOR DISEASE CONTROL.

(a) A person, including a veterinarian, must be authorized by the commission in order to engage in an activity that is part of a state or federal disease control or eradication program for animals.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules for the authorization of a person described by Subsection (a).

(c) The commission may, after reasonable notice, suspend or revoke a person's authorization under Subsection (a) if the commission determines that the person has substantially failed to comply with this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

(d) A person is entitled to a hearing before the commission or a hearing examiner appointed by the commission before the commission may revoke the person's authorization under Subsection (a). The commission shall make all final decisions to suspend or revoke an authorization.

(e) This section does not affect the requirement for a license or an exemption under Chapter 801, Occupations Code, to practice veterinary medicine.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1090 (H.B. [3569](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 161.042. SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF VETERINARY BIOLOGICS.

The commission may control the sale and distribution of all veterinary biologics except rabies vaccine. Rabies vaccine shall be sold, distributed, dispensed, and administered in compliance with Chapter 826, Health and Safety Code and the rules adopted thereunder by the Texas Board of Health.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1396, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 2605, ch. 693, Sec. 25, eff. Jan. 1, 1982; Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 723, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 14, Sec. 284(73), eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 161.043. REGULATION OF EXHIBITIONS.

The commission may regulate the entry of livestock, domestic animals, and domestic fowl into exhibitions, shows, and fairs and may require treatment or certification of those animals as reasonably necessary to protect against communicable diseases.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1396, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.044. REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT FROM STOCKYARDS OR RAILWAY SHIPPING PENS.

The commission may regulate the movement of livestock out of stockyards or railway shipping pens and require treatment or certification of those animals as reasonably necessary to protect against communicable diseases.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1396, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.0445. REGULATION OF EXPORT-IMPORT PROCESSING FACILITIES.

(a) In this section, "export-import facility" means a public or private livestock export-import processing facility that is a land border port in this state with the capacity to receive and hold livestock and livestock products for transportation in international trade. The term includes a department facility authorized by Subchapter B, Chapter 146.

(b) The owner or person in charge of an export-import facility shall notify the commission not later than 24 hours after an animal received or held at the facility is refused export out of this state or entry into another country.

(c) The commission may require that an animal held at an export-import facility be tested or treated for a disease or pest if an authorized commission employee considers the test or treatment necessary. The commission may require the testing or treatment be performed before the animal is removed from the export-import facility. This state is not liable for the amount of any fee charged for the testing or treatment.

(d) The commission may, for disease or pest control purposes, adopt rules necessary to implement, administer, and enforce this section. The rules may include reporting and recordkeeping requirements and provisions governing the movement, inspection, testing, or treatment of animals.

(e) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly moves an animal in violation of a rule adopted under this section.

(f) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the offense is a Class B misdemeanor if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section.

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 329 (H.B. 1958), Sec. 1, eff. June 7, 2021.

Sec. 161.045. EMPLOYEES; CHIEF VETERINARIAN.

The commission may employ personnel as necessary in the administration of this chapter or other duties of the commission, including a chief veterinarian, a first assistant veterinarian, other veterinarians, and clerical personnel.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1396, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.046. RULES.

The commission may adopt rules as necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1396, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 14, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.047. ENTRY POWER.

(a) A commissioner or a veterinarian or inspector employed by the commission may enter public or private property for the exercise of an authority or performance of a duty under this chapter.

(b) If the commissioner, veterinarian, or inspector under Subsection (a) of this section desires to be accompanied by a peace officer, he or she shall apply for a search warrant to a magistrate of the county in which the property is located. The magistrate shall issue the search warrant on a showing of probable cause by oath or affirmation. The search warrant shall describe the place to be entered in a reasonable manner that will enable the owner or caretaker of the property to identify

the property described, but the warrant is not required to describe the property by field notes or by metes and bounds.

(c) A search warrant issued under this section authorizes the person to whom it is issued to be accompanied by a peace officer and by as many assistants as the person considers necessary.

(d) A search warrant issued under this section permits entry and reentry for the purposes of this section for 30 days after the day on which it is issued. After that period, additional search warrants may be issued as often as necessary.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1396, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.048. INSPECTION OF SHIPMENT OF ANIMALS OR ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

(a) An agent of the commission is entitled to stop and inspect a shipment of animals or animal products being transported in this state in order to:

- (1) determine if the shipment is in compliance with the laws and rules administered by the commission affecting the shipment;
- (2) determine if the shipment originated from a quarantined area or herd; or
- (3) determine if the shipment presents a danger to the public health or livestock industry through insect infestation or through a communicable or noncommunicable disease.

(b) The commission may detain a shipment of animals or animal products that is being transported in violation of law or a rule of the commission. The commission may require that the shipment be unloaded at the nearest available loading facility.

(c) The commission may not inspect a railroad train at any point other than a terminal.

(d) The commission may post signs on public highways and use signaling devices, including red lights, in conjunction with signs, if necessary to effectively signal and stop vehicles for inspection.

(d-1) The commission may enter into an agreement with a corporation or other private entity to provide goods or services for the establishment and operation of checkpoints or the performance of inspections under this section.

(e) In this section, "animal product" includes hides; bones; hoofs; horns; viscera; parts of animal bodies; litter, straw, or hay used for bedding; and any other substance capable of carrying insects or a disease that may endanger the livestock industry.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1397, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 16, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1337 (S.B. [9](#)), Sec. 4, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 161.049. DEALER RECORDS.

(a) In this section, "dealer" means a person engaged in the business of buying or selling animals in commerce:

- (1) on the person's own account;
- (2) as an employee or agent of the vendor, the purchaser, or both; or
- (3) on a commission basis.

(b) A "dealer" as defined by Subsection (a) of this section does not include a person who buys or sells animals as part of the person's bona fide breeding, feeding, dairy, or stocker operations but does include livestock markets and commission merchants.

(c) The commission may require a livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl dealer to maintain records of all livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl bought and sold by the dealer.

(d) The commission may inspect and copy the records of a livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl dealer that relate to the buying and selling of those animals.

(e) The commission by rule shall adopt the form and content of the records maintained by a dealer under Subsection (c) of this section.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 17, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.050. INJUNCTION.

The commission is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent or abate a violation of a statute administered or enforced by the commission or a rule adopted or order issued by the commission under such a statute. On request of the commission, the attorney general shall file suit for the injunctive relief. Venue is in Travis County.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 16, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 161.051. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ENFORCEMENT OF COMMISSION POWERS.

(a) The commission and the Department of Public Safety by rule shall adopt a joint memorandum of understanding that includes provisions under which Department of Public Safety officers are to check for health papers and permits when a livestock vehicle is stopped for other reasons in the regular course of the officers' duties. The memorandum shall require:

- (1) commission staff to provide information to Department of Public Safety officers regarding health papers and permits;

- (2) Department of Public Safety officers to report potential problems to the commission;
- (3) commission staff to investigate possible violations reported by Department of Public Safety officers;
- (4) Department of Public Safety officers to provide assistance when requested by the commission; and
- (5) commission personnel to notify the Department of Public Safety, when appropriate, of the location of commission roadblocks or special or night operations.

(b) The commission and the Department of Public Safety shall review and update the memorandum not later than the last month of each state fiscal year.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 17, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.052. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) The commission and the commissioners court of a county by rule may adopt a joint memorandum of understanding that includes provisions under which the sheriff of that county or the sheriff's deputies are to check for health papers and permits when a livestock vehicle is stopped for other reasons in the regular course of the sheriff's or the deputies' duties. The memorandum shall require:

- (1) commission staff to provide information to the sheriff and the deputies regarding health papers and permits;
- (2) the sheriff and the deputies to report potential problems to the commission;
- (3) commission staff to investigate possible violations reported by the sheriff or the deputies;
- (4) the sheriff or deputies to provide assistance when requested by the commission; and
- (5) commission personnel to notify the sheriff, when appropriate, of commission roadblocks located in the county or special or night operations planned for the county.

(b) The commission and each commissioners court with which the commission adopted a memorandum of understanding shall review and update the memorandum not later than the last month of each state fiscal year.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 18, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.0525. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES.

The commission by rule, subject to approval by the governor, may adopt a joint memorandum of understanding with another state that includes provisions under which the commission and the other state may provide assistance to each other in the case of an animal disease outbreak.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 161.053. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

The commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with the department to use for animal health purposes livestock export pens controlled by the department.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 18, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.054. REGULATION OF MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS; EXCEPTION.

(a) As a control measure, the commission by rule may regulate the movement of animals, including feral swine. The commission may restrict the intrastate movement of animals, including feral swine, even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce. The commission may require testing, vaccination, or another epidemiologically sound procedure before or after animals are moved.

(b) The commission by rule may prohibit or regulate the movement of animals, including feral swine, into a quarantined herd, premise, or area.

(c) The commission may not adopt a rule that prohibits a person from moving animals, including feral swine, owned by that person within unquarantined contiguous lands owned or controlled by that person.

(d) On application of the owner of an animal, including a feral swine, a restriction on the movement of the animal imposed under this chapter may be modified by order of the executive director of the commission if the owner demonstrates that the restriction will result in unusual hardship for the owner. In considering an application under this section, the executive director may consider the effect of prolonged drought, inadequacy of pasturage or unusual feed supply resulting from disaster or other unforeseeable circumstances, or economic hardship.

(e) In connection with the regulation of the movement of feral swine, the commission by rule may require disease testing before movement of a feral swine from one location to another, and establish the conditions under which feral swine may be transported.

(f) The commission's authority to regulate the movement of feral swine may not interfere with the authority of the Parks and Wildlife Department to regulate the hunting or trapping of feral swine.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 31, Sec. 1, eff. April 27, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.0541. ELK DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM.

- (a) The commission by rule may establish a disease surveillance program for elk.
- (b) Rules adopted under this section must:
 - (1) require each person who moves elk in this state to have elk tested for chronic wasting disease or other diseases as determined by the commission;
 - (2) be designed to protect the health of the elk population in this state; and
 - (3) include provisions for testing, identification, transportation, and inspection under the disease surveillance program.
- (c) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates a rule adopted by the commission under this section.
- (d) An offense under Subsection (c) is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has previously been convicted of an offense under that subsection, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 948 (H.B. [3330](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 161.0542. NOTICE OF WILDLIFE DISEASE OUTBREAK.

- (a) Notwithstanding any law restricting the disclosure of information by the commission and subject to Subsection (b), if the commission becomes aware of a wildlife disease outbreak on a property, the commission shall provide notice of the location and nature of the outbreak to:
 - (1) each owner of adjacent property; and
 - (2) the Parks and Wildlife Department.
- (b) Subsection (a) applies only to a disease that the commission has designated as reportable.

Added by Acts 2023, 88th Leg., ch. 247, Sec. 1, (S.B. 811), Sec. 1, eff. May 27, 2023.

Sec. 161.0545. MOVEMENT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

The commission may adopt rules that require the certification of persons who transport or dispose of inedible animal products, including carcasses, body parts, and waste material. The commission by rule may provide terms and conditions for the issuance, renewal, and revocation of a certification under this section.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 161.055. SLAUGHTER PLANT COLLECTION.

- (a) The commission may require slaughter plants to collect and submit blood samples and other diagnostic specimens for testing for disease.
- (b) The commission by rule shall determine the method of collecting, submitting, and testing of blood samples and other diagnostic specimens.
- (c) The owner or operator of a slaughter plant commits an offense if the slaughter plant fails to comply with this section or a rule adopted under this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 273, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 161.056. ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM.

- (a) In order to provide for disease control and enhance the ability to trace disease-infected animals or animals that have been exposed to disease, the commission may develop and implement an animal identification program that is no more stringent than a federal animal disease traceability or other federal animal identification program.
- (b) Repealed by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 181, Sec. 2, eff. May 25, 2013.
- (c) The commission may adopt rules to require the use of official identification as part of the animal identification program under Subsection (a) for animal disease control or animal emergency management.
- (d) The commission may by a two-thirds vote adopt rules to provide for an animal identification program more stringent than a program allowed by Subsection (a) only for control of a specific animal disease or for animal emergency management.
- (e) Information collected by the commission under this section is exempt from the public disclosure requirements of Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may provide information to another person, including a governmental entity, without altering the confidential status of the information. The commission may release information to:
 - (1) a person who owns or controls animals and seeks information regarding those animals, if the person requests the information in writing;

- (2) the attorney general's office, for the purpose of law enforcement;
 - (3) the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of animal health protection;
 - (4) the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, for the purpose of homeland security;
 - (5) the Department of State Health Services, for the purpose of protecting the public health from zoonotic diseases;
 - (6) any person, under an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
 - (7) a state, municipal, or county emergency management authority, for the purpose of management or response to natural or man-made disasters; or
 - (8) any person the executive director of the commission considers appropriate, if the executive director determines that:
 - (A) livestock may be threatened by a disease, agent, or pest; and
 - (B) the release of the information is related to actions the commission may take under this section.
- (f) Notwithstanding Subsection (e), the commission shall release information collected under this section if the release is necessary for emergency management purposes under Chapter 418, Government Code. The release of information under this subsection does not alter the confidential status of the information.
- (g) Repealed by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 181, Sec. 2, eff. May 25, 2013.
- (h) Repealed by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 181, Sec. 2, eff. May 25, 2013.
- (i) The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement and enforce this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 18, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Renumbered from Agriculture Code Sec. 161.054 by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 31.01(2), eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 203 (H.B. [1361](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 181 (H.B. [2311](#)), Sec. 1, eff. May 25, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 181 (H.B. [2311](#)), Sec. 2, eff. May 25, 2013.

Sec. 161.057. CLASSIFICATION OF AREAS.

(a) The commission by rule may prescribe criteria for classifying areas in the state for disease control. The criteria must be based on sound epidemiological principles. The commission may prescribe different control measures and procedures for areas with different classifications.

(b) The commission by rule may designate as a particular classification an area consisting of one or more counties.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 31, Sec. 1, eff. April 27, 1995. Renumbered from Sec. 161.053 by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 62, Sec. 19.01(2), eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 161.058. COMPENSATION OF LIVESTOCK OR FOWL OWNER.

(a) The commission may pay an indemnity to the owner of livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl exposed to or infected with a disease if the commission considers it necessary to eradicate the disease and to dispose of the exposed or diseased livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl. The commission shall provide the owner with information regarding available state or federal indemnity funds.

(b) The commission may adopt rules for the implementation of this section, including rules governing:

- (1) eligibility for compensation;
- (2) amounts of compensation; and
- (3) limits and restrictions on compensation.

(c) The commission may spend funds appropriated for the purpose of this section only for direct payment to owners of exposed or infected livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 149 (H.B. [1521](#)), Sec. 3, eff. May 24, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 149 (H.B. [1521](#)), Sec. 4, eff. May 24, 2013.

Sec. 161.059. QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANCE.

On request of an organization representing producers of a commodity in an industry regulated by the commission, the commission may assist in the development, support, and oversight of a food safety or quality assurance program, including the provision of testing services.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 410, Sec. 2, eff. May 28, 2001.

Sec. 161.060. AUTHORITY TO SET AND COLLECT FEES.

(a) The commission may charge a fee, as provided by commission rule, for an inspection made by the commission.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 200, Sec. 5(a), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1288 (H.B. [1992](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 161.0601. CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION.

(a) The commission by rule may provide for the issuance, including electronically, of a certificate of veterinary inspection by a veterinarian to a person transporting livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl.

(b) The commission by rule shall set and charge a fee for each certificate of veterinary inspection provided to a veterinarian under this section.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 205 (H.B. [1363](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1090 (H.B. [3569](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 161.0602. PERSONS OR LABORATORIES PERFORMING EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA TESTS.

(a) The commission shall adopt rules that require a person or laboratory to be approved by the commission if the person or laboratory performs an official equine infectious anemia test.

(b) Rules adopted under this section must include:

- (1) approval requirements;
- (2) provisions governing the issuance, renewal, and revocation of an approval;
- (3) inspection requirements;
- (4) recordkeeping requirements;
- (5) equine infectious anemia testing methods approved by the commission; and
- (6) proficiency standards.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1264 (H.B. [3738](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 161.0603. LABORATORY TESTING.

(a) The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory is the state's regulatory animal health laboratory.

(b) This section does not prevent the commission from:

- (1) using a laboratory other than the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory for a test as needed; or

- (2) collecting specimens and performing field tests to diagnose animal diseases.
- (c) The commission and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to:
 - (1) establish the laboratory services to be performed by the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory;
 - (2) provide reporting requirements for the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory on all test requests received from the commission; and
 - (3) set fees associated with laboratory services performed for the commission in amounts sufficient to recover the costs of those services.
- (d) The commission and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory shall annually review the memorandum of understanding under Subsection (c).

Added by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2021.

SUBCHAPTER D. QUARANTINES

Sec. 161.061. ESTABLISHMENT.

- (a) The commission may establish a quarantine against all or the portion of a state, territory, or country in which a disease listed in rules adopted under Section 161.041 exists.
- (b) A quarantine established under Subsection (a) may extend to any affected area, including a county, district, pasture, lot, ranch, farm, field, range, thoroughfare, building, stable, or stockyard pen.
- (c) The commission may establish a quarantine to prohibit or regulate the movement of:
 - (1) any article or animal that the commission designates to be a carrier of a disease listed in rules adopted under Section 161.041 or a potential carrier of one of those diseases, if movement is not otherwise regulated or prohibited; and
 - (2) an animal into an affected area, including a county district, pasture, lot, ranch, farm, field, range, thoroughfare, building, stable, or stockyard pen.

(d) The commission by rule may delegate its authority to establish a quarantine under this section to the executive director, who shall promptly notify the members of the commission when a quarantine is established.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1397, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 31, Sec. 2, eff. April 27, 1995; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 19, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.0615. STATEWIDE OR WIDESPREAD QUARANTINE.

(a) The commission may quarantine livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl in all or any part of this state as a means of immediately restricting the movement of animals potentially infected with disease and shall clearly describe the territory included in a quarantine area.

(b) The commission by rule may delegate its authority to quarantine livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl under this section to the executive director, who shall promptly notify the members of the commission of the quarantine.

(c) The commission by rule shall prescribe the manner in which notice of a statewide or widespread quarantine under this section is to be published.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 15, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.062. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.

(a) Except as provided by Section 161.0615, the commission shall give notice of a quarantine against another state, territory, or country by publishing notice in a newspaper published in Texas. The quarantine takes effect on the date of publication. The commission shall pay the expense of publication out of any appropriation made for office and stationery expenses of the commission.

(b) The commission shall give notice of a quarantine established within this state by publishing notice in a newspaper published in the county in which the quarantine is established, by posting notice at the courthouse door of that county, or by delivering a written notice to the owner or caretaker of the animals or places to be quarantined. The commission may pay the expense of publication or posting out of any appropriation made for the office and stationery expenses of the commission or out of any appropriation made for the control or eradication of communicable diseases of livestock. The commissioners court of a county in which a quarantine is established may pay the expenses of publication or posting out of any available funds of the county.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1398, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.063. CONTENTS OF NOTICE.

- (a) A quarantine notice must state the requirements and restrictions under which animals may be permitted to enter this state or to be moved from a quarantined area within this state. If the seriousness of the disease is sufficient to warrant prohibiting the movement of animals, the notice must state that the movement is prohibited. The quarantine notice must state the class of persons authorized by the commission to issue certificates or permits permitting movement.
- (b) A quarantine notice must state the cause for which the quarantine is established, whether for infection or for exposure.
- (c) A quarantine notice must describe the area or premises quarantined in a reasonable manner that enables a person to identify the area or premises, but is not required to describe the area or premises by metes and bounds.
- (d) If the quarantine regulates or prohibits the movement of a carrier or potential carrier of a disease, the commission may prescribe any exceptions, terms, conditions, or provisions that the commission considers necessary or desirable to promote the objectives of this chapter or to minimize the economic impact of the quarantine without endangering those objectives or the health and safety of the public. Any exceptions, terms, conditions, or provisions prescribed under this subsection must be stated in the quarantine notice.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1398, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.064. EFFECT OF QUARANTINE.

A quarantine that is established for any location has the effect of quarantining all livestock, domestic animals, or domestic fowl of the kind mentioned in the quarantine notice that are on or enter that location during the existence of the quarantine, regardless of who owns or controls the livestock, domestic animals, or domestic fowl.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1398, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.065. MOVEMENT FROM QUARANTINED AREA; MOVEMENT OF QUARANTINED ANIMALS.

- (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, a person, in violation of a quarantine, may not:
 - (1) move livestock, domestic animals, or domestic fowl in this state from any quarantined place in or outside this state;
 - (2) move quarantined livestock, domestic animals, or domestic fowl from the place in which they are quarantined; or
 - (3) move commodities or animals designated as disease carriers or potential disease carriers in this state from a quarantined place in or outside this state.

(b) The commission may provide for a written certificate or written permit authorizing the movement of commodities or animals from quarantined places or the movement of quarantined commodities or animals. The certificate or permit must be issued by a veterinarian or other person authorized by the commission to issue a certificate or permit. Each certificate or permit must be issued in conformity with the requirements stated in the quarantine notice.

(c) If the commission finds animals that have been moved in violation of a quarantine established under this chapter or in violation of any other livestock sanitary law, the commission shall quarantine the animals until they have been properly treated, vaccinated, tested, or disposed of in accordance with the rules of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1398, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2021.

SUBCHAPTER E. REGULATION OF IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS

Sec. 161.081. IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS.

(a) The commission by rule may regulate the movement, including movement by a railroad company or other common carrier, of livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl into this state from another state, territory, or country.

(b) The commission by rule may provide the method for inspecting and testing animals before and after entry into this state.

(c) The commission by rule may provide for the issuance and form of health certificates and entry permits. The rules may include standards for determining which veterinarians of this state, other states, and departments of the federal government are authorized to issue the certificates or permits.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 205, Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1399, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 239, Sec. 68, eff. Sept. 1, 1985; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 19, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 20, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 205 (H.B. [1363](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2005.

SUBCHAPTER F. VETERINARIAN REPORTS OF DISEASED ANIMALS

Sec. 161.101. DUTY TO REPORT.

(a) A veterinarian, a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, or a person having care, custody, or control of an animal shall report to the commission the existence of diseases listed in rules adopted by the commission among livestock, exotic livestock, bison, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl within 24 hours after diagnosis of the disease. The commission shall adopt and periodically update rules listing the diseases that the commission determines require reporting under this section. Section 2001.0045, Government Code, does not apply to rules adopted under this subsection.

(b) In addition to reporting required by Subsection (a), the commission may adopt rules that require a veterinarian, a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, or a person having care, custody, or control of an animal to report the existence of a disease other than bluetongue in an animal to the commission within 24 hours after diagnosis if the disease:

- (1) is recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture as;
 - (A) a foreign animal disease; or
 - (B) a reportable animal disease;
- (2) is the subject of a cooperative eradication program with the United States Department of Agriculture;
- (3) is an animal disease reportable to the World Organisation for Animal Health;
or
- (4) is the subject of a state of emergency, as declared by the governor.

(c) The commission may adopt rules that require a veterinarian, a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, or a person having care, custody, or control of an animal to report a disease not covered by Subsection (a) or (b) if the commission determines that action to be necessary for the protection of animal health in this state. The commission shall immediately deliver a copy of a rule adopted under this subsection to the appropriate legislative oversight committees.

(d) The commission may not adopt, amend, or repeal a rule under this section unless the commission holds a public hearing on the proposed action following public notice of the hearing.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1401, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 27, ch. 3, Sec. 23, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 21, eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 2, eff. Jan. 1, 2000; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 510, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1312, Sec. 9, eff. June 21, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 198 (H.B. 4006), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.102. SUBMISSION OF SPECIMEN OF ANTHRAX VICTIM.

Immediately after pronouncing that an animal has died from anthrax, as evidenced by a clinical or postmortem examination, a veterinarian shall prepare and submit to the commission or a laboratory approved by the commission:

- (1) a suitable specimen from the animal;
- (2) the name and address of the owner or caretaker of the animal; and
- (3) the location of the premises on which the animal died.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1402, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.103. NOTICE OF REQUIRED METHOD OF DISPOSAL.

A veterinarian who knows or suspects that livestock or domestic fowl have died from anthrax or ornithosis shall inform the owner or caretaker of the animal to dispose of each carcass by fire in accordance with Section 161.004 of this code.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1402, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

SUBCHAPTER G. REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK MARKETS

Sec. 161.111. DEFINITION.

In this subchapter, "livestock market" means a stockyard, sales pavilion, or sales ring where livestock, exotic livestock, or exotic fowl are assembled or concentrated at regular or irregular intervals for sale, trade, barter, or exchange.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1402, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 22, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.112. RULES.

(a) Following notice and public hearing, the commission shall adopt rules relating to the movement of livestock, exotic livestock, and exotic fowl from livestock markets and shall require tests, immunization, or treatment as necessary to protect against the spread of communicable diseases.

(b) Following notice and public hearing, the commission may adopt rules requiring permits for moving exotic livestock and exotic fowl from livestock markets as necessary to protect against the spread of communicable diseases.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1402, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 23, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.113. TESTING, TREATMENT, OR VACCINATION OF LIVESTOCK.

(a) The commission shall adopt rules for testing, treatment, or vaccination under this subchapter. The state may not be required to pay the cost of fees charged for the testing, treatment, or vaccination.

(b) If the commission requires the dipping of livestock under this subchapter, the livestock shall be treated in a manner prescribed by rule of the commission.

(c) The commission may require the owner or operator of a livestock market to furnish adequate equipment or facilities or have access to essential equipment or facilities within the immediate vicinity of the livestock market.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1402, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 995, ch. 235, art. 1, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1983.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 15, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.114. INSPECTION OF LIVESTOCK.

An authorized inspector may examine livestock consigned to and delivered on the premises of a livestock market before the livestock are offered for sale. If the inspector considers it necessary, the inspector may have an animal tested or vaccinated. Any testing or vaccination must occur before the animal is removed from the livestock market.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1403, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 204 (H.B. [1362](#)), Sec. 1, eff. May 27, 2005.

Sec. 161.115. ENTRY POWER.

An agent of the commission is entitled to enter any livestock market for the exercise of authority or performance of a duty under this subchapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1403, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.116. SALE OR DELIVERY OF DISEASED CATTLE.

(a) In this action, "diseased" means affected by actinobacillosis, actinomycosis, carcinoma, mastitis, or any other disease that renders the carcass of an animal potentially dangerous for human consumption and has been so designated by rule of the commission.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) of this section, a person may not sell diseased cattle unless:

(1) the cattle are sold through a livestock market where visual examination of livestock is made by an agent of the commission or by the United States Department of Agriculture; or

(2) the cattle are sold by a recognized slaughtering establishment maintaining federal, state, or state-approved veterinary postmortem inspection.

(c) The original owner of diseased cattle may sell the cattle in violation of Subsection (b) of this section if the cattle are sold and delivered on the premises of the original owner, but the purchaser shall comply with the requirements of this section.

(d) A person may not release diseased cattle from a livestock market unless the cattle are:

(1) consigned directly to a federally approved terminal market or to a slaughtering establishment maintaining federal, state, or state-approved veterinary postmortem inspection; and

(2) accompanied by a certificate or permit issued by a representative of the commission or the United States Department of Agriculture naming the terminal market or slaughtering establishment.

(e) This section does not prevent the original owner of diseased cattle, or an agent of the owner, from voiding the sale of the cattle if the owner is not satisfied with the top bid price, but the owner shall obtain a certificate or permit under Subsection (d) of this section and shall deliver the cattle to the place specified on the certificate or permit. A person is not liable for a violation of this subsection unless the agent of the commission shows the person a list of approved establishments to which the cattle may be consigned and allows the person to select an establishment from that list.

(f) A person may not deliver or divert diseased cattle consigned under a certificate or permit issued under Subsection (d) of this section to a place other than the terminal market or slaughtering establishment named in the certificate or permit. The cattle must be delivered to the terminal market or slaughtering establishment not later than the fifth day following the day on which the certificate or permit is issued.

(g) A person may not release diseased cattle from a terminal market or slaughtering establishment to which the cattle have been consigned under a certificate or permit issued under Subsection (d) of this section except on authority of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1403, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

SUBCHAPTER H. REMEDIES AND PENALTIES

Sec. 161.131. INJUNCTION.

(a) Any citizen of this state may sue for an injunction to enforce a provision or restrain a violation of this chapter other than Section 161.048, Subchapter F, or Subchapter G.

(b) A court may hear and dispose of a suit under this section in term or in vacation. A court shall direct that reasonable notice be given to a defendant in a suit for a mandatory injunction.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1404, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.132. CIVIL SUIT AGAINST NONRESIDENT VIOLATOR.

(a) If a person who commits an offense under Section 161.135, 161.136, 161.137, 161.138, 161.141, or 161.143 of this code is not a resident of this state, is a foreign corporation not permitted to do business in this state, or is absent from this state at the time the offense is committed, the county attorney of the county in which the violation occurs shall sue that person for collection of the fine provided for the offense. In addition, the county attorney shall seek to attach that person's property in this state and, after final judgment, have the attached property sold under execution for the purpose of paying the fine and costs of suit.

(b) A suit under this section shall be brought in the name of the State of Texas and the court may not require a cost or attachment bond.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1404, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.133. VIOLATION BY CORPORATION.

If a corporation, including a railroad company or a common carrier, violates a provision of this chapter other than Section 161.048, Subchapter F, or Subchapter G, the county attorney of the county in which the offense occurs shall file and prosecute a civil suit against the corporation on behalf of the state.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1404, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.134. PROOF OF TREATMENT OR VACCINATION.

In the trial of any case involving the compliance of an owner or caretaker with a provision of this chapter requiring the treatment or vaccination of livestock, a person may not attempt to prove that the action was taken by a person other than an authorized representative of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1404, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 161.135. IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF DISEASED CARCASS.

- (a) A person required to dispose of a diseased carcass in accordance with Section 161.004 of this code commits an offense if the person fails to dispose of the carcass in accordance with that section.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor for each animal carcass improperly disposed of.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1404, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 20, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.136. ENTRY OF ANIMALS IN EXHIBITION WITHOUT CERTIFICATE.

- (a) A person commits an offense if, without a certificate required by rule of the commission under Section 161.043 of this code, the person:
 - (1) enters livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl into an exhibition, show, or fair; or
 - (2) brings livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl on the grounds of an exhibition, show, or fair for the purpose of entering.
- (b) A person commits an offense if, as owner or person in charge of the exhibition, show, or fair, the person permits entry under Subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) Each entry of an animal without a certificate in an exhibition, show, or fair constitutes a separate offense.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1404, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 21, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 24, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.137. MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS FROM STOCKYARD OR RAILWAY SHIPPING PEN WITHOUT CERTIFICATE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) removes livestock from a stockyard or railway shipping pen without a certificate required by rule of the commission under Section 161.044 of this code; or

(2) as owner or person in charge of the stockyard or pen, permits the removal of livestock under Subdivision (1) of this section.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor for each head of livestock moved as prohibited by Subsection (a) of this section unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1405, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 22, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 161.1375. MOVEMENT OF FERAL SWINE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person recklessly:

(1) moves feral swine in a manner that is not in compliance with rules adopted by the commission under Section 161.0412 or 161.054; or

(2) as the owner or person in charge of a holding facility in which a feral swine is held, permits another to remove feral swine from the holding facility in a manner that is not in compliance with those rules.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor for each feral hog that is moved or permitted to be removed unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2007.

Sec. 161.138. REFUSAL TO PERMIT ENTRANCE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person refuses to permit a representative of the commission to enter property or premises of which the person is the owner, tenant, or caretaker for the purpose of carrying out a provision of this chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of refusal under Subsection (a) of this section.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1405, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 23, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 161.139. REFUSAL TO PERMIT INSPECTION OF SHIPMENT.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) refuses to permit inspection of animals under Section 161.048 of this code; or

(2) fails to stop a truck, trailer, wagon, or automobile suspected of carrying animals or animal products if requested or signaled to do so by an agent of the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1405, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 24, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 25, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.140. REFUSAL TO PERMIT EXAMINATION OF ANIMAL OR CARCASS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) refuses to allow the commission or an agent of the commission to examine an animal or all or part of an animal carcass that is owned by or possessed by the person and that the commission or agent has reason to believe is affected by a communicable disease; or

(2) hinders or obstructs the commission or its agent in an examination under Subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1405, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 25, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 26, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 161.1405. REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ANIMAL.

(a) A person who is the owner or caretaker of livestock, exotic livestock, fowl, or exotic fowl commits an offense if the person knowingly refuses to gather the animals for testing, identification, inspection, or another procedure required by commission rule.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense on each day of refusal under Subsection (a) of this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 31, Sec. 3, eff. April 27, 1995.

Sec. 161.141. MOVEMENT IN VIOLATION OF QUARANTINE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 161.065(a)(1) or (a)(2) of this code or, as owner or caretaker of the livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl, the person permits movement in violation of Section 161.065(a)(1) or (a)(2) of this code. Except as provided by Subsection (c) or (d) of this section, an offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor for each animal moved in violation of the quarantine unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 161.065(a)(3) of this code or, as owner or caretaker of the commodities or animals, the person permits movement in violation of Section 161.065(a)(3) of this code. Except as provided by Subsection (c) or (d) of this section, an offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor for each animal or shipment of commodities moved in violation of the quarantine unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) An offense under Subsection (a) or (b) of this section for violating a quarantine established in relation to foot-and-mouth disease is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) A second or subsequent offense under Subsection (c) is a felony punishable by:

(1) imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for not less than two years nor more than five years; and

(2) a fine of not more than \$10,000.

(e) A person commits a separate offense for each county into which livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, disease carriers, or potential disease carriers are moved within six months following the original movement in violation of Section 161.065 of this code.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1406, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 26, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 27, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 87 (S.B. [1969](#)), Sec. 25.006, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 161.142. SALE OR MOVEMENT OF ANIMAL WITH GLANDERS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) wilfully fails or refuses to place in secure confinement apart from all other livestock an animal of the horse or ass species that is diseased with glanders and is owned by that person or subject to that person's control;

(2) sells, trades, or offers to sell or trade an animal of the horse or ass species that the person knows or suspects to be diseased with glanders;

(3) drives, leads, or rides along or across a public highway an animal that the person knows is diseased with glanders; or

(4) permits an animal that the person knows is diseased with glanders to run at large on the open range.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c), (d) Deleted by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 27, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1406, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 27, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.143. IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS.

(a) A person, including a railroad company or other common carrier, commits an offense if the person knowingly moves an animal into this state in violation of a rule of the commission adopted under Section 161.081 of this code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each animal moved in violation of a rule of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1407, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 161.145. VETERINARIAN FAILURE TO REPORT DISEASED ANIMALS.

- (a) A person commits an offense if, as a veterinarian, the person wilfully fails or refuses to comply with a provision of Subchapter F of this chapter or with a rule adopted under that subchapter.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1407, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 29, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 161.146. COMPLIANCE WITH LIVESTOCK MARKET REGULATION.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person, as owner or operator of a livestock market, fails or refuses to furnish adequate facilities in accordance with Section 161.113(c) of this code or fails or refuses to permit an agent of the commission to enter the market, exercise an authority, or perform a duty under Subchapter G of this chapter. A person commits a separate offense for each day of failure or refusal.
- (b) A person commits an offense if the person removes livestock from a livestock market without a certificate required by rule of the commission adopted under Subchapter G of this chapter.
- (c) A person commits an offense if the person violates any provision of Subchapter G of this chapter or a rule adopted under that subchapter. A person commits a separate offense for each day on which the person violates a provision of the subchapter or a rule.
- (d) A person commits an offense if the person violates a provision of Section 161.116 of this code. A person commits a separate offense for each animal sold, released, diverted, or delivered in violation of that section.
- (e) An offense under Subsection (a), (c), or (d) of this section is a Class B misdemeanor. An offense under Subsection (b) of this section is a Class B misdemeanor for each animal removed from the livestock market.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1407, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 30, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.147. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN DEALER RECORDS.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person fails to maintain or permit the inspection of a record required under Section 161.049 of this code.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 31, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 161.148. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY.

- (a) The commission may impose an administrative penalty on a person who violates this subtitle or a rule or order adopted under this subtitle.
- (b) The penalty for a violation may be in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Each day a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for purposes of imposing a penalty. The amount of the penalty shall not be based on a per head basis.
- (c) The amount of the penalty shall be based on:
 - (1) the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of any prohibited acts, and the hazard or potential hazard created to the health, safety, or economic welfare of the public;
 - (2) the economic harm to property or the environment caused by the violation;
 - (3) the history of previous violations;
 - (4) the amount necessary to deter future violations;
 - (5) efforts to correct the violation; and
 - (6) any other matter that justice may require.
- (d) An executive director who determines that a violation has occurred may issue to the commission a report that states the facts on which the determination is based and the director's recommendation on the imposition of a penalty, including a recommendation on the amount of the penalty.
- (e) Within 14 days after the date the report is issued, the executive director shall give written notice of the report to the person. The notice may be given by certified mail. The notice must include a brief summary of the alleged violation and a statement of the amount of the recommended penalty and must inform the person that the person has a right to a hearing on the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.
- (f) Within 20 days after the date the person receives the notice, the person in writing may accept the determination and recommended penalty of the executive director or may make a written request for a hearing on the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.
- (g) If the person accepts the determination and recommended penalty of the executive director, the commission by order shall approve the determination and impose the recommended penalty.
- (h) If the person requests a hearing or fails to respond timely to the notice, the executive director shall set a hearing and give notice of the hearing to the person. The hearing shall be held by an administrative law judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law and promptly issue to the commission a proposal for a

decision about the occurrence of the violation and the amount of a proposed penalty. Based on the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and proposal for a decision, the commission by order may find that a violation has occurred and impose a penalty or may find that no violation occurred.

(i) The notice of the commission's order given to the person under Chapter 2001, Government Code, must include a statement of the right of the person to judicial review of the order.

(j) Within 30 days after the date the commission's order becomes final as provided by Section 2001.144, Government Code, the person shall:

(1) pay the amount of the penalty;

(2) pay the amount of the penalty and file a petition for judicial review contesting the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty; or

(3) without paying the amount of the penalty, file a petition for judicial review contesting the occurrence of the violation, the amount of the penalty, or both the occurrence of the violation and the amount of the penalty.

(k) Within the 30-day period, a person who acts under Subsection (j)(3) of this section may:

(1) stay enforcement of the penalty by:

(A) paying the amount of the penalty to the court for placement in an escrow account; or

(B) giving to the court a supersedeas bond that is approved by the court for the amount of the penalty and that is effective until all judicial review of the board's order is final; or

(2) request the court to stay enforcement of the penalty by:

(A) filing with the court a sworn affidavit of the person stating that the person is financially unable to pay the amount of the penalty and is financially unable to give the supersedeas bond; and

(B) giving a copy of the affidavit to the executive director by certified mail.

(l) An executive director who receives a copy of an affidavit under Subsection (k)(2) of this section may file with the court, within five days after the date the copy is received, a contest to the affidavit. The court shall hold a hearing on the facts alleged in the affidavit as soon as practicable and shall stay the enforcement of the penalty on finding that the alleged facts are true. The person who files an affidavit has the burden of proving that the person is financially unable to pay the amount of the penalty and to give a supersedeas bond.

(m) If the person does not pay the amount of the penalty and the enforcement of the penalty is not stayed, the executive director may refer the matter to the attorney general for collection of the amount of the penalty.

(n) Judicial review of the order of the commission:

(1) is instituted by filing a petition as provided by Subchapter G, Chapter 2001, Government Code; and

(2) is under the substantial evidence rule.

(o) If the court sustains the occurrence of the violation, the court may uphold or reduce the amount of the penalty and order the person to pay the full or reduced amount of the penalty. If the court does not sustain the occurrence of the violation, the court shall order that no penalty is owed.

(p) When the judgment of the court becomes final, the court shall proceed under this subsection. If the person paid the amount of the penalty and if that amount is reduced or is not upheld by the court, the court shall order that the appropriate amount plus accrued interest be remitted to the person. The rate of the interest is the rate charged on loans to depository institutions by the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and the interest shall be paid for the period beginning on the date the penalty was paid and ending on the date the penalty is remitted. If the person gave a supersedeas bond and if the amount of the penalty is not upheld by the court, the court shall order the release of the bond. If the person gave a supersedeas bond and if the amount of the penalty is reduced, the court shall order the release of the bond after the person pays the amount.

(q) A penalty collected under this section shall be remitted to the comptroller for deposit in the general revenue fund.

(r) All proceedings under this section are subject to Chapter 2001, Government Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 213 (H.B. 3856), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 161.149. TEST FOR EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA.

(a) In this section, "equine animal" includes horses, mules, asses, ponies, and other members of the horse family, but does not include zebras.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person transfers ownership of an equine animal eight months of age or older that has not tested negative for equine infectious anemia during the 12 months preceding the date of the transfer unless the equine animal:

(1) is a nursing foal that is transferred with its dam and the dam has tested negative for equine infectious anemia during the 12 months preceding the date of the transfer; or

(2) is sold to slaughter to be tested for equine infectious anemia at a slaughter establishment.

(c) An offense under Subsection (b) is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 263, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

**Sec. 161.150. FAILURE TO REGISTER FERAL SWINE HOLDING FACILITIES;
HOLDING OF FERAL SWINE.**

(a) A person commits an offense if the person recklessly:

(1) maintains a feral swine holding facility that is not registered under Section 161.0412; or

(2) as the owner or person in charge of a holding facility that is not registered under Section 161.0412, holds or permits another to hold a feral swine in the holding facility.

(b) Each feral swine held or permitted to be held in violation of Subsection (a)(2) constitutes a separate offense.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1242 (H.B. [2543](#)), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2007.

AGRICULTURE CODE
TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 162. TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

Sec. 162.001. DEFINITIONS.

(a) In this chapter:

(1) "Caretaker" has the meaning assigned by Section 161.002 of this code.

(2) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.

(b) References to animals in this chapter shall be construed to include all or part of the carcasses of the animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1408, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 162.002. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

(a) The commission may cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture and the county commissioners courts in a cooperative program for the eradication of tuberculosis among cattle and the establishment of areas based on prevalence of the disease.

(b) The commissioners court of each county may cooperate with the commission and the United States Department of Agriculture in a cooperative program under this chapter, but shall cooperate if presented with a petition signed by at least 75 percent of the owners of cattle in the county as shown by the county tax rolls.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1408, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 522, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 162.003. TESTING.

The commission by rule shall prescribe the manner, method, and system of testing cattle for tuberculosis under a cooperative program.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1409, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 162.004. CERTIFICATE OF TEST OR VACCINATION OF CATTLE OR OTHER ANIMALS.

(a) For each tuberculosis test performed on cattle, hogs, or fowl, a veterinarian shall file a certificate with the commission that identifies the animals tested and shows:

- (1) the name and post office address of the owner;
- (2) the location of the premises and the animals;
- (3) the date of the test;
- (4) the kind of test conducted;
- (5) the result of the test; and
- (6) whether the test was an interstate, accredited herd, municipal, or private test.

(b) For each vaccination of hogs, a veterinarian shall file a certificate with the commission that shows:

- (1) the name and post office address of the owner;
- (2) the location of the premises;
- (3) the number of hogs vaccinated; and
- (4) the amount and serial number of the serum and virus or other biologics used.

(c) A certificate under this section must be;

- (1) in a form prescribed by the commission; and
- (2) sent to the commission within the time prescribed by the commission by rule.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1409, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 17, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 162.005. IDENTIFICATION OF CATTLE.

If cattle examined by a veterinarian show a positive reaction to the tuberculin test or show evidence of tuberculosis infection by clinical or laboratory examination, the veterinarian shall:

- (1) comply with any identification requirements of the commission; and
- (2) not later than 48 hours after the identification, report the identification to the commission, together with the location, description, and number of animals identified.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1409, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 522, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 162.006. QUARANTINE.

(a) The commission shall immediately quarantine cattle and the premises on which the cattle are located if the cattle show a positive reaction when tested for tuberculosis by a veterinarian recognized by the commission for that purpose.

(b) Before the establishment of a quarantine a person may not move the cattle that show a positive reaction from the enclosure in which they were located at the time of testing, and may not sell, trade, barter, grant, or loan those animals. After a quarantine is established, a person may not move any cattle from the quarantined premises without first obtaining a written permit from the commission.

(c) A person who violates this section may not be prosecuted under Chapter 161 of this code for the same act.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1409, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 522, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 162.009. TUBERCULOSIS MODIFIED ACCREDITED ADVANCED AND TUBERCULOSIS FREE AREAS.

(a) As part of a cooperative program, the commission or its representative may examine, test, and retest any cattle in this state as necessary to maintain an area of this state as a tuberculosis modified accredited advanced area or to establish or maintain each area of this state as a tuberculosis free area under the uniform methods and rules of the United States Department of Agriculture and the rules of the commission.

(b) The commission or its representative may test or retest all or part of a herd of cattle at intervals considered necessary or advisable by the commission to control and eliminate tuberculosis in animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1410, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 522, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 162.010. DUTY OF OWNER OR CARETAKER TO ASSIST; NOTICE.

(a) On written notice by the commission or its representative, the owner, part owner, or caretaker of cattle shall assemble and submit the cattle for tuberculosis examination and testing. The notice must set the date and approximate time the cattle are to be tested and must be delivered by registered mail not later than the 10th day before that date.

(b) The person receiving the notice shall provide reasonable assistance in confining the cattle and providing facilities for proper administration of the test. The person shall return the cattle to the same place for observation at a time designated by the commission or its representative.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1411, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 162.011. PENALTY FOR VETERINARIAN'S FAILURE TO FILE CERTIFICATE OR TO IDENTIFY ANIMALS.

(a) A person commits an offense if, as a veterinarian, the person:

- (1) fails to file a certificate under Section 162.004 or a report under Section 162.005; or
- (2) fails to properly identify an animal under Section 162.005.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1411, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 32, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 522, Sec. 5, 6, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 162.012. PENALTY FOR MOVEMENT OR SALE OF QUARANTINED OR DISEASED CATTLE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person moves, sells, trades, barter, grants, or loans animals in violation of Section 162.006(b).

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor for each animal that was moved, sold, traded, bartered, granted, or loaned.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1411, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 33, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 522, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 162.013. PENALTY FOR OWNER'S OR CARETAKER'S FAILURE TO ASSIST.

(a) A person commits an offense if, as the owner, part owner, or caretaker of cattle, the person fails or refuses to assemble the cattle or to provide assistance in accordance with Section 162.010 of this code at the time and place provided in the notice issued by the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of failure or refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1411, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 34, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 12, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 162.014. REVIEW OF CURRENT TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVED PROGRAM.

(a) The following agencies, colleges, and services jointly shall conduct a review of the state's current programs to research, control, and eradicate animal tuberculosis in both traditional and nontraditional farm and ranch animals:

- (1) the commission;
- (2) the Department of Agriculture;
- (3) the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station;
- (4) the Texas Agricultural Extension Service;
- (5) the Texas Animal Damage Control Service;
- (6) the Texas Department of Health;
- (7) the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University; and
- (8) the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

(b) The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is the coordinating agency for the review.

(c) Each agency, college, or service conducting the review under Subsection (a) shall as part of its review seek the advice and opinions of persons who are involved in commercially raising or feeding traditional or nontraditional farm or ranch animals. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station shall ensure that persons who are involved in commercially raising or feeding traditional or nontraditional farm or ranch animals have ample notice of and opportunity to comment on the review's findings and that the comments of those persons are considered part of the review's findings.

(d) The agencies, colleges, and services listed under Subsection (a) shall implement an improved program based on the review conducted under Subsection (a) that is designed to research, control, and eradicate animal tuberculosis in both traditional and nontraditional farm and ranch animals. The agencies, colleges, and services shall agree on the elements of the improved program that will be implemented by each agency, college, or service. The improved program may not conflict with current law.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 89, Sec. 1, eff. May 16, 1995.

AGRICULTURE CODE
TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 163. BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 163.001. DEFINITIONS.

(a) In this chapter:

(1) "Caretaker" has the meaning assigned by Section 161.002 of this code.

(2) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.

(b) References to cattle in this chapter shall be construed to include all or part of the carcasses of cattle.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1413, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 163.002. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

In order to bring about effective control of bovine brucellosis, to allow Texas cattle to move in interstate and international commerce with the fewest possible restrictions, and to accomplish those purposes in the most effective, practical, and expeditious manner, the commission may enforce this chapter and enter into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1413, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 15, ch. 3, Sec. 2, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.003. FEES.

The commission may establish fees in amounts necessary to cover the cost of administering this chapter when combined with funds received from other sources.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 35, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

SUBCHAPTER B. BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL AREAS

Sec. 163.021. CLASSIFICATION OF AREAS.

(a) The commission by rule may prescribe criteria for classifying areas in the state for purposes of brucellosis control. The commission may prescribe differing control measures and procedures according to the classification of the areas. The classifications shall be based on criteria that use sound epidemiological principles and are similar to the criteria provided by federal brucellosis control regulations.

(b) The commission by rule may designate as a particular classification any area consisting of one county or two or more contiguous counties. The designation of an area for state purposes need not be the same as the designation of the area for federal purposes.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1413, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 15, ch. 3, Sec. 3, eff. June 27, 1983.

SUBCHAPTER D. ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 163.061. RULES; REPORTS.

Following notice and a hearing, the commission may adopt rules and require reports and records as necessary to carry out Subchapters A-D of this chapter, including rules, reports, and records that relate to the testing or vaccination of cattle or to the movement of cattle into and within an area.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1415, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 17, ch. 3, Sec. 4, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.062. EMPLOYEES.

The commission may employ personnel, including veterinarians, inspectors, stenographers, and clerks, as necessary to the enforcement of Subchapters A-D of this chapter or the performance of duties under those subchapters. The commission may assign to those employees any duty under those subchapters.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1415, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 163.063. ENTRY POWER.

(a) A representative of the commission, including a member of the commission, is entitled to enter any public or private property for the exercise of authority or performance of a duty under Subchapters A-D of this chapter.

(b) A representative of the commission under Subsection (a) of this section who desires to be accompanied by a peace officer may apply for and be issued a search warrant in the manner provided by Section 161.047 of this code.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1415, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 163.064. TESTING AND VACCINATION.

(a) Only a person approved by the commission may perform testing and vaccinating for brucellosis, regardless of whether the person is a veterinarian.

(b) The commission by rule shall prescribe criteria for classifying cattle as negative, infected with brucellosis, or suspected of being infected with brucellosis. Each classification must be based on the testing of cattle. The testing may include serological testing, microbiological culturing of blood, tissue, secretions, or excretions, or both.

(c) The commission may by rule regulate and require the vaccination of female cattle within all or any of the area classifications. Among other rules, the commission may adopt rules providing for:

- (1) the identification of cattle to be vaccinated;
- (2) approval of the vaccine used; and
- (3) the method of administering the vaccine.

(d) The commission by rule may regulate the sale and use of brucellosis antigens and vaccines. A person may not sell a brucellosis antigen or vaccine unless the antigen or vaccine is approved by the commission. A person may not administer a brucellosis antigen or vaccine unless the antigen or vaccine is approved by the commission and the person is authorized by the commission to administer the antigen or vaccine.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1416, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 17, ch. 3, Sec. 5, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.065. BRANDING AND HANDLING OF DISEASED CATTLE.

(a) If a tested animal shows evidence of infection with brucellosis, the person performing the test shall handle the animal in accordance with the rules of the commission. The commission may prescribe requirements according to the classification of the area in which the animal is located. Among other requirements, the commission may require the person performing the test to:

- (1) furnish the owner of the animal with written data showing that the animal is infected;
- (2) fire brand the animal on the left jaw with the letter "B";
- (3) place an approved, numbered identification on the animal; and

- (4) report the identification number in writing to the commission.
- (b) If an animal shows evidence of infection, the herd of which it is a part shall also be handled in accordance with the rules of the commission, which may provide for:
 - (1) quarantines;
 - (2) the manner, method, and system of disposing of reactor cattle;
 - (3) the testing and retesting of the herd; or
 - (4) other measures, such as quarantine only, where the animals from the herd are sold exclusively for slaughter and where the commission's rules are in compliance with the current requirements of the Brucellosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules of the cooperative state-federal brucellosis eradication program.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1416, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 19, ch. 3, Sec. 6, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.066. REGULATION OF MOVEMENT OF CATTLE; EXCEPTION.

- (a) As a control measure, the commission by rule may regulate the movement of cattle. The commission may restrict the intrastate movement of cattle even though the movement of the cattle is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce. The commission may require testing, vaccination, or another procedure that is epidemiologically sound before or following the movement of cattle.
- (b) The commission may not adopt a rule that prohibits a person from moving cattle owned by that person within unquarantined contiguous lands owned or controlled by that person.
- (c) Any restriction on the movement of cattle imposed under provisions of this chapter may be modified or set aside by the commission upon application by the cattle owner, provided that the owner can show impending unusual hardship resulting from such restriction. Contributory factors may include but are not limited to prolonged drought, inadequacy of pasturage or usual feed supply resulting from disaster or other unforeseeable circumstance, or economic hardship of the cattle owner; provided that individual animals under restriction shall be handled in a manner to be prescribed by the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1417, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 20, ch. 3, Sec. 7, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.069. INDIVIDUAL HERD PLANS.

- (a) The commission by rule may provide for the handling and treatment of individual herds in which testing or epidemiology has produced evidence of infection or which was adjacent to a herd in which infection is found. Each plan shall be designed to aid the caretaker of the herd in preventing or reducing spread of the infection and in eliminating the infection.

(b) Each herd plan must be based on sound epidemiological principles and the classification of the area in which the herd is located. In prescribing a herd plan, the commission may consider, among other items:

- (1) the risk of the infection spreading to other herds;
- (2) the cost to other herd owners resulting from spread of the infection;
- (3) the extent of infection and of possible exposure within the herd;
- (4) the type of cattle operation conducted by the herd's caretaker; and
- (5) the conditions affecting the economics and management of the herd.

Added by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 21, ch. 3, Sec. 9, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.070. REQUIRED ASSISTANCE.

If ordered by the commission or its representative, the owner or caretaker of cattle shall submit the cattle and furnish labor and facilities used in normal operation in order that the cattle may be tested, vaccinated, or otherwise handled in accordance with the rules of the commission.

Added by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 21, ch. 3, Sec. 9, eff. June 27, 1983.

Sec. 163.072. BLOOD SAMPLES.

- (a) The commission may require slaughter plants to collect and submit blood samples for brucellosis testing.
- (b) The commission by rule shall determine the method of collecting, submitting, and testing of blood samples.
- (c) The owner or operator of a slaughter plant commits an offense if the slaughter plant fails to comply with this section or a rule adopted under this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 36, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 13, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER F. PENALTIES

Sec. 163.081. REFUSAL TO VACCINATE FEMALE CALVES.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person refuses to vaccinate a female calf owned by that person in accordance with the rules of the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1418, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 22, ch. 3, Sec. 10, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 37, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 14, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 163.082. REFUSAL OF OWNER TO ASSIST.

(a) A person who is the owner of cattle commits an offense if the person knowingly refuses to gather cattle or to furnish necessary labor and facilities in accordance with Section 163.070 of this code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1418, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 22, ch. 3, Sec. 11, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 38, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 163.083. REFUSAL OF ENTRY.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person refuses to permit a representative of the commission to enter property or premises of which the person is the owner, tenant, or caretaker for the purposes of carrying out a provision of this chapter.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1418, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 23, ch. 3, Sec. 12, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 39, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 16, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 163.084. MOVEMENT OF CATTLE IN VIOLATION OF COMMISSION RULE.

(a) A person, including a railway or a common carrier, commits an offense if the person knowingly moves an animal in violation of a rule of the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1418, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 23, ch. 3, Sec. 13, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 40, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 17, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 163.085. FAILURE TO PROPERLY HANDLE INFECTED ANIMAL.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly refuses to handle in accordance with the rules of the commission an animal that the commission has classified as infected with brucellosis.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1418, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 23, ch. 3, Sec. 14, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 41, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 18, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 163.086. SALE OF INFECTED CATTLE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person sells or otherwise disposes of an animal for purposes other than slaughter that the person knows to be infected with brucellosis.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) The sale or disposal of an animal with the letter "B" branded on the left jaw is prima facie evidence that the person knew the cow was infected with brucellosis.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1418, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 23, ch. 3, Sec. 15, eff. June 27, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 42, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 163.087. IMPROPER SALE OR USE OF VACCINE OR ANTIGEN.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person sells or administers a brucellosis antigen or vaccine in violation of Section 163.064 of this code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., 1st C.S., p. 24, ch. 3, Sec. 16, eff. June 27, 1983. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 43, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

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TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
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SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 164. SCABIES CONTROL

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 164.001. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

- (1) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.
- (2) "Inspector" means an inspector employed by the commission, including the chief inspector, a district supervising inspector, or a local inspector.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1420, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 164.002. SCABIES INFECTION OR EXPOSURE.

- (a) For purposes of this chapter, cattle or sheep are scabies-infected if:
 - (1) actually infected with scabies; or
 - (2) in a herd in which scabies infection is present.
- (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) of this section, cattle or sheep are exposed to scabies for purposes of this chapter if:
 - (1) the cattle or sheep enter or have access to any place, including a corral, shed, car, road, or pasture, that scabies-infected cattle or sheep have entered or had access to during the preceding 90 days; or
 - (2) the sheep are shorn by a shearing plant that has shorn scabies-infected sheep within the preceding 90 days.
- (c) Cattle or sheep are not exposed to scabies under Subsection (b) of this section if the place or plant has been disinfected since the infected cattle or sheep were removed. This subsection does not exempt the cattle or sheep from treatment required by this chapter.

(d) If an inspector determines that a scabies infection exists among cattle, sheep, or goats or that cattle, sheep, or goats have been exposed to scabies, the infection or exposure is considered to continue until the commission determines that the infection or exposure has been eradicated through methods prescribed by rule of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1420, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.003. INSPECTORS.

(a) For the purpose of eradicating scabies, the commission may employ a chief inspector, district supervising inspectors, and local inspectors.

(b) The chief inspector shall supervise the inspectors engaged in scabies eradication.

(c) The state shall pay the salaries of the chief inspector and the district supervising inspectors. The counties shall pay the salaries and necessary traveling expenses of local inspectors.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1420, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 164.004. DUTIES OF INSPECTORS.

(a) All treatments, inspections, and certifications for scabies eradication and the disinfection of all equipment or facilities required by this chapter shall be performed by or under the supervision of an inspector.

(b) Local inspectors shall perform all duties necessary for the treatment, inspection, and certification of livestock under this chapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1420, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 19, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.005. ENTRY POWER.

(a) An inspector is entitled to enter any public or private place where cattle or sheep are kept or ranged for the purpose of:

(1) ascertaining the presence of scabies infection;

(2) ascertaining any exposure to scabies; or

(3) inspecting, classifying, or treating cattle or sheep for scabies infection or exposure.

(b) If the inspector under Subsection (a) of this section desires to be accompanied by a peace officer, the inspector may apply for and obtain a search warrant as provided by Section 161.047 of this code.

(c) The person who owns or controls the place to be entered under this section or who owns or controls the animals shall, on request of the inspector or a member of the commission, gather the animals on the range for inspection. Failure or refusal to gather the animals is prima facie evidence that the premises and the animals are infected with scabies and authorizes the commission to quarantine the premises or animals in accordance with this chapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1421, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 20, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.006. ACTIONS OF COMMISSION.

The presiding officer of the commission may perform any act or duty of the commission under this chapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1421, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 29, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

SUBCHAPTER B. TREATMENT

Sec. 164.021. TREATMENT REQUIRED ON ORDER OF COMMISSION.

(a) The commission by written order may direct a person who owns, controls, or cares for cattle or sheep that are scabies-infected or are exposed to scabies, to treat any or all of those animals for the purpose of destroying, eradicating, curing, or removing a scabies infection or a source of exposure to scabies.

(b) An order of the commission under this section must be signed by the commission or the presiding officer of the commission and must contain the following:

- (1) the date of issuance;
- (2) the name of the person to whom the order is made;
- (3) the approximate location of the premises on which the animals are located;
- (4) the county in which the premises are located;
- (5) a statement in clear and intelligible language that the sheep or cattle that the person owns, controls, or cares for are infected with or exposed to scabies;
- (6) an order directing the person to treat the animals, under the supervision of an inspector and in the manner prescribed by the commission; and

(7) a designation of the date, time, and place that the treatment is to occur.

(c) An order under this section must be delivered to the person owning or controlling the cattle or sheep not later than the 14th day before the date and time for the treatment designated in the order.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1421, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 30, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 22, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.022. HEARING.

(a) Not later than the fifth day following the day on which a person receives an order to treat cattle or sheep, the person may file with the commission or the presiding officer of the commission a written affidavit that:

(1) denies that the animals are subject to being treated under this chapter, or states that, for good and sufficient reason set out in the affidavit, the person is entitled to have the order rescinded or the treatment postponed; and

(2) requests that the commission withhold enforcement of the order and grant a hearing on the matter or investigate the matter as necessary to determine the correctness of the statement contained in the affidavit.

(b) Not later than the fifth day following the day on which the commission receives an affidavit under Subsection (a) of this section, the commission shall, if desired by the affiant, grant the affiant a hearing in the office of the presiding officer. The commission shall give the affiant notice of the hearing by telegram or registered mail and shall hold the hearing not earlier than the fourth day following the day of giving that notice.

(c) The commission shall consider the affidavit at the hearing and shall, in person or by agent, investigate the matter as the commission considers necessary.

(d) If the commission finds that the statement in the affidavit is correct, the commission shall rescind the order or postpone the treatment until a time that the commission considers proper. If the commission finds that the statement in the affidavit is not correct, the commission shall enforce the order on the date and at the time designated in the order.

(e) Following a hearing, the commission shall deliver its written findings to the affiant not later than the fourth day before the date and time that the order requires the animals to be treated.

(f) A person who is dissatisfied with the findings of the commission under this section may apply to a court of proper venue and jurisdiction for an injunction or other relief.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1422, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 31, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 23, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.023. METHOD OF TREATMENT.

The commission by rule shall prescribe the methods of treatment available for the treatment of scabies.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1422, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 24, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.028. TREATMENT AT EXPENSE OF COUNTY.

If a person ordered to treat cattle or sheep under this chapter fails or refuses to treat the animals, the county commissioners court shall;

- (1) provide the necessary equipment and facilities for the treatment of the animals;
- (2) have the animals treated in accordance with this chapter; and
- (3) pay the expenses of the treatment by warrant drawn on the general funds of the county.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1423, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 25, eff. September 1, 2021.

SUBCHAPTER C. QUARANTINES

Sec. 164.041. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) The commission may establish a quarantine against all or the portion of a state, territory, or country in which the commission determines scabies exists. A quarantine established under this section is governed by Chapter 161, except that only a scabies inspector recognized by the commission for that purpose in the quarantine notice may issue certificates or permits for the movement of cattle subject to the quarantine. A person who violates the quarantine is subject to the penalties provided by Chapter 161.

(b) If an inspector determines that a scabies infection or exposure exists in a county or area of this state, on any premises, including a road, pasture, lot, yard, stockyard, or enclosure, or among any cattle or sheep, the commission may quarantine the area, premises, or animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1423, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.042. NOTICE.

The commission shall give notice of a quarantine established under Section 164.041(b) of this code in one of the following manners:

- (1) by posting written notice of the quarantine at the courthouse door of the county in which the quarantine is established and at two other conspicuous places in the area or on the premises quarantined;
- (2) by publishing notice in a newspaper in the county or, if there is no newspaper in the county, by publishing notice in a newspaper in an adjoining county; or
- (3) by delivering written or printed notice to the owner or caretaker of the animals or premises to be quarantined, with the delivery made in person by a commission inspector, employee, or member or with the delivery made by United States mail.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1424, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 164.043. EFFECT OF QUARANTINE.

If a county or area is quarantined under Section 164.041(b) of this code, all premises within the county or area and all cattle and sheep within the county or area are quarantined even though not separately designated.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1424, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 164.044. MOVEMENT FROM QUARANTINED PREMISES; MOVEMENT OF QUARANTINED ANIMALS.

(a) A person may not move or permit to be moved cattle or sheep that are under quarantine for scabies infection or exposure or that are on premises quarantined for scabies infection or exposure unless the cattle or sheep are certified by a commission inspector.

(b) If the commission finds animals that have been moved in violation of a quarantine established under this chapter, the commission shall quarantine the animals until they have been properly tested or treated in accordance with the rules of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1424, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 27, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.045. DISINFECTION OF SHEARING PLANT IN QUARANTINED AREA.

(a) If scabies-infected sheep located on premise quarantined for sheep scabies infection are shorn by an itinerant shearing plant or crew, the person owning, controlling, or having charge of the plant or crew shall, in accordance with this section, disinfect the plant and the wearing apparel of the crew, including laborers who shear the sheep or pack the wool, before the plant or crew moves from the premises where the sheep are shorn.

(b) All utensils, machinery, floors, ground coverings, and other portions of the plant that come in contact with the body of the sheep must be thoroughly cleaned with pure gasoline. The wearing apparel of the shearers or laborers must be submerged in boiling water for at least five minutes.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1424, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 164.046. DISINFECTION OF QUARANTINED PREMISES.

(a) In accordance with this section, the owner, lessee, or person in charge of premises quarantined for sheep scabies shall cleanse and disinfect all places in which infected or exposed sheep have been closely confined, including corrals, water lots, pens, and sheds.

(b) The person shall remove and burn or bury all manure and litter and then spray the surface of the places in which the sheep were confined with a solution of six ounces of 95 percent carbolic acid to each gallon of water or a solution of four ounces of cresol compound USP to each gallon of water.

(c) Disinfection under this section must be performed under the supervision of a commission inspector and before uninfected or unexposed sheep are permitted to enter the places to be disinfected.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1425, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

SUBCHAPTER D. IMPORTATION OF SHEEP

Sec. 164.062. CERTIFICATE REQUIRED.

(a) A person may not import sheep into this state unless the shipment is accompanied by a certificate certifying that:

- (1) the sheep are free from scabies infection and exposure; or
- (2) the sheep have been treated by a method recognized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, for eradication of sheep scabies and in a manner designed to have eradicated infection or exposure within 10 days prior to the date of importation.

(b) A certificate under this section must be issued by an accredited veterinarian of the state of origin of the shipment or by a veterinarian of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1425, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 44, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 28, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.063. QUARANTINE OF IMPORTED SHEEP.

If the certificate for a shipment of sheep shows that the sheep were treated at the point of origin in accordance with Section 164.062(a)(2), the sheep shall be quarantined at the range on which the sheep are placed in this state for a period of 180 days.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1425, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 29, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.064. DESIGNATION OF INFECTED OR FREE AREAS; TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS.

The commission may adopt rules designating areas as infected or free from infection and shall establish treatment requirements for the importation of sheep into this state.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1426, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.065. EXHIBITIONS.

The commission shall provide an importer of show sheep a reasonable length of time, not to exceed 60 days after the date of importation, in which to display the sheep at county fairs or livestock exhibitions. The importer shall keep the sheep separate from all sheep other than show sheep and shall treat the sheep as required by the commission before they are distributed to the range.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1426, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 31, eff. September 1, 2021.

SUBCHAPTER E. REMEDIES AND PENALTIES

Sec. 164.082. CIVIL SUITS TO RECOVER PENALTY FOR CORPORATE OFFENSE.

If the person who commits an offense under this subchapter is a corporation, the county attorney of the county in which the offense occurred shall sue that person in a court of competent jurisdiction on behalf of the state for the collection of the fine provided for the offense.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1426, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 164.083. FAILURE TO TREAT FOR SCABIES.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) owns, controls, or cares for cattle or sheep infected with scabies or cattle or sheep that have been exposed to scabies infection within six months prior to the date of an order to treat under Section 164.021; and

(2) fails or refuses to treat the sheep or cattle at the time and in the manner provided by the order of the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of failure or refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1426, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 45, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 32, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 33, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.084. MOVEMENT OF INFECTED, EXPOSED, OR QUARANTINED ANIMALS.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person:
 - (1) moves cattle or sheep in violation of Section 164.044(a) of this code; or
 - (2) moves or permits to be moved along or across a public highway or railroad, or on or across the land or premises of another person, cattle or sheep that are infected with scabies, exposed to scabies, or quarantined for scabies.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person commits a separate offense under Subsection (a)(2) of this section for each highway, railroad, or person's land or premises along, across, or onto which the person moves the cattle or sheep.
- (d) Venue for prosecution of an offense under Subsection (a)(2) of this section is in any county into which or through which the cattle or sheep are moved.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1426, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 46, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 164.085. REFUSAL TO PERMIT ENTRY OR GATHER ANIMALS FOR INSPECTION.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person:
 - (1) refuses to permit an inspector to enter any premises of which the person is the owner, tenant, or caretaker for the purpose of inspecting, classifying, or treating animals infected or exposed to scabies; or
 - (2) refuses to gather animals in accordance with Section 164.005(c).
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1427, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 47, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. 705), Sec. 34, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 164.086. FAILURE TO DISINFECT SHEARING PLANT.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person fails or refuses to disinfect all or part of a shearing plant, or the wearing apparel of each person shearing the sheep or handling or packing the wool, in accordance with Section 164.045 of this code.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1427, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 48, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 164.087. FAILURE TO PROPERLY DISINFECT QUARANTINED PREMISES.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person violates a provision of Section 164.046 of this code.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1427, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 49, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 164.088. IMPORTATION OF SHEEP WITHOUT CERTIFICATE OR PERMIT.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person imports sheep into this state in violation of Subchapter D of this chapter.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor for each head of sheep imported in violation of Subchapter D of this chapter.
- (c) A person commits a separate offense for each county into which or through which the sheep are moved.
- (d) Venue for prosecution of an offense under this section is in any county into which or through which the sheep are moved.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1427, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 50, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

AGRICULTURE CODE
TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 165. CONTROL OF DISEASES OF
SWINE

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 165.001. DEFINITION.

In this chapter, "commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1428, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 165.002. TREATMENT.

Except as otherwise provided by law, a representative of the commission or a person authorized by the commission may vaccinate, inoculate, or treat hogs with classical swine fever virus or serum or with another remedy.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1428, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. 1997), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 165.003. SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF UNATTENUATED CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER.

- (a) A person may not sell, offer for sale, barter, exchange, or give away unattenuated classical swine fever virus.
- (b) This section does not prohibit:
 - (1) acquisition, propagation, manufacture, or use of unattenuated classical swine fever virus by, and on the licensed premises of, a firm operating under a United States veterinary license issued by the secretary of agriculture of the United States;
 - (2) manufacture of unattenuated classical swine fever virus by a firm operating under a United States veterinary license for the sale or distribution in states in which use of attenuated classical swine fever virus is permitted; or

(3) keeping vaccine on hand for purely experimental or research activities by a recognized college, university, school, or laboratory engaged in research activities.

(c) In this section, "unattenuated classical swine fever virus" means a classical swine fever virus that has not been modified or inactivated.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1428, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. 1997), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2021.

SUBCHAPTER B. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR DISEASE ERADICATION

Sec. 165.021. COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The commission may cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture in the eradication of vesicular exanthema, foot and mouth disease of swine, classical swine fever, and other diseases of swine.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1429, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. 1997), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2021.

Text of section as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. [705](#)), Sec. 35

For text of section as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. [1997](#)), Sec. 4, see other Sec. 165.022.

Sec. 165.022. METHOD OF DISEASE ERADICATION.

Following notice and public hearing, the commission shall adopt rules for the enforcement of this subchapter, including rules providing for the manner, method, and system of eradicating swine diseases. The commission may by a two-thirds vote adopt rules more stringent than the rules relating to minimum standards for cooperative programs adopted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1429, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. [705](#)), Sec. 35, eff. September 1, 2021.

Text of section as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. [1997](#)), Sec. 4

For text of section as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 849 (S.B. [705](#)), Sec. 35, see other Sec. 165.022.

Sec. 165.022. METHOD OF DISEASE ERADICATION.

(a) Following notice and public hearing, the commission shall adopt rules for the enforcement of this subchapter, including rules providing for the manner, method, and system of eradicating swine diseases.

(b) The commission may by a two-thirds vote adopt rules under this section that are more stringent than the minimum standards for cooperative programs adopted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1429, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. [1997](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 165.023. USE OF BIOLOGICS.

The commission shall adopt rules governing the use of biologics as a protection against dissemination of communicable swine diseases.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1429, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 165.026. FEEDING GARBAGE TO SWINE.

(a) A person may not feed restricted garbage to swine or provide restricted garbage to any person for the purpose of feeding swine, except that a facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice may feed restricted garbage to swine if the garbage is properly treated in accordance with applicable federal requirements.

(b) A person may feed unrestricted garbage to swine only if the person first registers with and secures a permit from the commission.

(c) The commission may adopt rules for registration under this section, including rules providing for registration issuance, revocation, and renewal, disease tests, inspections, bookkeeping, and appropriate handling and treatment of unrestricted garbage. Registration with the commission shall be made on forms prescribed by the commission, and the commission shall furnish those forms on request. The commission may impose a registration fee not to exceed \$25 a year.

(d) The commission or the executive director of the commission may issue an emergency administrative order to suspend a registration under this section or require the immediate quarantine and closure of a garbage feeding facility if the commission or the executive director determines that the practice presents a danger to public health or the livestock industry, including any danger related to an insect

infestation or the transmission of a disease. An order must expire not later than the end of the second month after the effective date of the order.

(e) The commission or the commissioner may issue an order prohibiting the feeding of restricted garbage to swine in all or part of the state if the commission or the commissioner determines that the practice presents a danger to public health or the livestock industry, including any danger related to an insect infestation or the transmission of a disease.

(f) This section does not apply to an individual who feeds unrestricted garbage from the individual's own household, farm, or ranch to swine owned by the individual.

(g) The commission, in cooperation with the department and any other appropriate state agencies and political subdivisions, shall:

(1) attempt to inform each supplier of restricted garbage and each individual feeding garbage to swine of the provisions of this section;

(2) assist garbage feeding facilities and individuals feeding garbage to swine in identifying a source for obtaining unrestricted garbage; and

(3) adopt measures designed to ensure compliance with this section.

(h) In this section:

(1) "Restricted garbage" includes:

(A) the animal refuse matter and the putrescible animal waste resulting from handling, preparing, cooking, or consuming food containing all or part of an animal carcass;

(B) the animal waste material by-products or commingled animal and vegetable waste material by-products of a restaurant, kitchen, cookery, or slaughterhouse; and

(C) refuse accumulations of animal matter or commingled animal and vegetable matter, liquid or otherwise.

(2) "Unrestricted garbage" includes the vegetable, fruit, dairy, or baked goods refuse matter and vegetable waste and refuse accumulations resulting from handling, preparing, cooking, or consuming food containing only vegetable matter, liquid or otherwise.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1430, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 764, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1207, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 165.027. ENTRY POWER.

(a) A representative of the commission, including a member of the commission, is entitled to enter the premises of any person for the purpose of inspecting swine or the heating or cooking equipment required by this subchapter or for the purpose of performing another duty under this subchapter.

(b) A person may not refuse to permit an inspection authorized by this subchapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1430, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

SUBCHAPTER C. PENALTIES

Sec. 165.041. GENERAL PENALTY.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates a provision of Subchapter B of this chapter or a rule adopted under that subchapter.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of violation.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1430, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 51, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 20, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 165.042. SALE OF UNATTENUATED CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER VIRUS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 165.003 of this code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1431, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 52, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 623 (S.B. [1997](#)), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2021.

AGRICULTURE CODE
TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 167. TICK ERADICATION

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 167.001. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

(1) "Animal" means any domestic, free-range, or wild animal capable of hosting or transporting ticks capable of carrying Babesia, including:

- (A) livestock;
- (B) zebras, bison, and giraffes; and
- (C) deer, elk, and other cervid species.

(1-a) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.

(2) "Enclosure" includes a pasture, pen, or lot.

(3) "Inspector" means an inspector of the commission, including a local inspector, a county or district supervising inspector, and the chief inspector.

(4) "Livestock" means cattle, horses, mules, jacks, or jennets.

(5) "Peace officer" includes a sheriff, constable, or other peace officer authorized to perform services in the county in which services are required.

(6) "Tick" means any tick capable of carrying Babesia, otherwise known as "fever."

(7) "Exotic livestock" has the meaning assigned by Section 161.001(a)(3) of this code.

(8) "Treatment" means a procedure or management practice used on an animal to prevent the infestation of, control, or eradicate ticks capable of carrying Babesia.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1436, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 637, Sec. 7, eff. Aug. 31, 1987; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 53, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.002. CARETAKER OF ANIMAL.

A person is subject to this chapter as the caretaker of an animal if the person:

- (1) is the owner, part owner, lessee, occupant, or caretaker of land or premises, and controls that land or those premises, on which the animal is located;
- (2) is the parent of a minor child who owns an interest in the animal, unless a person other than the parent is the legal guardian of the minor child's estate; or
- (3) is the administrator, executor, or guardian of an estate that owns the animal, or owns land on which the animal is located, and controls the estate by reason of the administration or guardianship.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1436, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 167.003. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

- (a) In accordance with this chapter, the commission shall eradicate all ticks capable of carrying Babesia in this state and shall protect all land, premises, and animals in this state from those ticks and exposure to those ticks.
- (b) In carrying out this chapter, the commission may:
 - (1) adopt necessary rules;
 - (2) employ necessary personnel, including a chief inspector, chief clerk, stenographers, and clerks, and assign the personnel to perform duties authorized by this chapter or incidental to its enforcement;
 - (3) assist and cooperate with county officials; and
 - (4) enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies or agencies of the federal government.

(c) The commission by rule may provide for the manner and method of treating saddle stock and stock used for gentle work and for the handling and certifying of that stock for movement, but unless the commission so provides, the stock is subject to this chapter as other animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1436, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.004. CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMALS OR PREMISES AS INFESTED, EXPOSED, OR FREE FROM EXPOSURE.

(a) If a tick is found on an animal, the following are classified as tick infested:

- (1) each animal that is in the same herd or is then or thereafter on the same range or in the same enclosure as the animal on which the tick is found; and
- (2) the range or enclosure in or on which the animal is located.

(b) The commission by rule shall define what animals and premises are to be classified as exposed to ticks. The commission shall classify as exposed to ticks animals that have been on land or in an enclosure that the commission determines to be tick infested or exposed to ticks or to have been tick infested or exposed to ticks before or after the removal of the animals, unless the commission determines that the infestation or exposure occurred after the animals were removed and that the animals did not become infested or exposed before removal.

(c) Animals, land, and premises classified as tick infested or exposed to ticks retain that classification until the classification is changed by the commission in accordance with this chapter.

(d) Animals, land, and premises in the tick eradication area may not be considered to be free from exposure to ticks unless:

- (1) the commission has officially classified the animals or premises as free from exposure and filed a copy of the order making that classification in the office of the supervising inspector of the county in which the animals or premises are located; or
- (2) the supervising inspector of the county in which the animals or premises are located, under the authority of the commission, has classified the animals or premises in writing as free from exposure and filed the written classification in the supervising inspector's office.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1437, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.005. ERADICATION, FREE, AND INACTIVE QUARANTINE AREAS.

- (a) The tick eradication area is composed of counties and parts of counties designated for tick eradication under Section 167.006 of this code.
- (b) The free area and the inactive quarantine area are composed of counties and parts of counties designated by the commission to be part of the applicable area.
- (c) The commission may transfer a county or part of a county from the tick eradication area, the free area, or the inactive quarantine area to another type of area as the commission considers advisable or necessary.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1437, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 167.006. DESIGNATION OF TICK ERADICATION AREA.

- (a) The commission may designate for tick eradication any county or part of a county that the commission determines may contain ticks.
- (b) The commission shall give notice that a county or part of a county is designated for tick eradication by:
 - (1) publishing a brief notice of the designation in a newspaper published in that county or that part of the county, as applicable; or
 - (2) posting a brief notice of the designation at the courthouse door of the county.
- (c) The notice must prescribe a date on which the designation is to take effect and must be published or posted before the 10th day preceding that date. The county affected by the designation shall pay the expenses of giving notice.
- (d) The designation of a county or part of a county for tick eradication takes effect on:
 - (1) the date specified in the notice, if the notice is published or posted within the time prescribed by Subsection (c) of this section; or
 - (2) the 10th day following the day on which notice is published or posted, if the notice is not published or posted within the time prescribed by that subsection.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1437, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 167.007. TICK ERADICATION IN FREE AREA.

- (a) The commission may conduct tick eradication in the free area and may establish quarantines and require the treatment of animals in the free area as provided by this chapter. The commission shall designate in writing the land or premises in the free area in which tick eradication is to be conducted.

(b) An owner or caretaker of animals in the free area and the commissioners court of a county all or part of which is located in the free area shall cooperate with the commission in the manner provided by this chapter for tick eradication in the tick eradication area.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1438, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.008. INSPECTIONS.

The commission may order the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals to gather the animals for inspection at a time and place prescribed in the order of the commission. The commission shall serve written notice of the order not later than the 12th day before the day of inspection. A person on whom an order is served is entitled to request and obtain a hearing in the manner provided by this chapter for hearings on orders to treat animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1438, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER B. QUARANTINES; REGULATION OF MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS AND COMMODITIES

Sec. 167.021. GENERAL QUARANTINE POWER.

(a) The commission may establish quarantines on land, premises, and animals as necessary for tick eradication.

(b) The commission in writing may release a quarantine established under this chapter if the commission considers it necessary or advisable to do so.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1438, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.022. QUARANTINE OF TICK ERADICATION AREA.

(a) The order designating a county or part of a county for tick eradication shall contain a provision quarantining that county or part of a county.

(b) A quarantine under this section has the effect of quarantining all land, premises, and animals in the area quarantined, regardless of whether any person's land, premises, or animals are specifically described in the quarantine order.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1438, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.023. QUARANTINE OF FREE AREA.

(a) The commission by written order may establish a quarantine in the free area if necessary for the purpose of regulating the handling of animals and eradicating ticks or exposure to ticks in the free area or for the purpose of preventing the spread of tick infestation into the free area.

(b) The order of the commission establishing a quarantine in the free area shall designate the land or premises to be quarantined.

(c) The commission shall give notice of a quarantine established in the free area by:

(1) delivering notice to each owner or caretaker of animals in the area to be quarantined or to each owner or caretaker of land or premises in the area on which animals are located;

(2) posting written notice at the courthouse door of each county in which the area to be quarantined is located; or

(3) publishing notice in a newspaper published in each county in which the area to be quarantined is located.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1438, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.024. MOVEMENT IN OR FROM QUARANTINED AREA.

(a) Unless a person first obtains a permit or a certificate from an authorized inspector, the person may not move animals in a quarantined area:

(1) from land owned, leased, or occupied by one person into or through any other land owned, leased, or occupied by another person; or

(2) onto any open range, public street, public road, or thoroughfare.

(b) Unless the person first obtains a permit or a certificate from an authorized inspector, the owner or caretaker of animals in a quarantined area may not move the animals, or permit the animals to be moved, from an enclosure owned, leased, or occupied by that person, from any open range, street, road, or thoroughfare, or from any land that the person does not own or control, into any other enclosure or other land owned, cared for, or controlled by that person, if:

(1) the animals are subject to treatment under this chapter and the land or enclosure to which the animals are moved:

(A) is classified in the records of the county supervising inspector as being free from ticks; or

(B) has been released from quarantine by the commission; or

(2) the animals are subject to treatment but are not being treated under this chapter in the conduct of regular systematic tick eradication by the commission and the land or enclosure to which the animals are moved is owned or controlled by that person and:

(A) tick eradication work is being conducted there; or

(B) the land or enclosure is vacated under the direction of the commission for the purpose of tick eradication.

(c) The owner or caretaker of animals located in a quarantined area may move animals, or permit animals to be moved, to and from treatment facilities for the purpose of treating the animals on a regular treatment date at the treatment facility to which the animals are to be moved or on another date designated by the inspector in charge of the treatment facility. The movement of animals under this subsection must be in accordance with the rules of the commission. Any other movement is considered to be in violation of the quarantine.

(d) In this section, "other land" means land that is separated from the land from which movement is made by a fence, dividing line, or the land of another person.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1439, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.025. MOVEMENT IN OR FROM INACTIVE QUARANTINED AREA.

A person may not move animals or permit animals to be moved from or within the inactive quarantined area except in accordance with the rules of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1440, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.026. MOVEMENT INTO THIS STATE FROM QUARANTINED AREA.

(a) A person may not move animals, or permit animals of which the person is the owner, part owner, or caretaker to be moved, into this state from an area in another state, territory, or country that is under state or federal quarantine for tick infestation or exposure unless the animals are accompanied by a certificate from an inspector

of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(b) A person may not move goats, hogs, sheep, exotic livestock, or circus animals into this state from an area of another state, territory, or country that is under state or federal quarantine for tick infestation unless the animals:

- (1) have been treated free from infestation or exposure; and
- (2) are certified as having been so treated by an inspector of the commission or of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) A person may not move hay, straw, grass, packing straw, pine straw, corn shucks, weeds, plants, litter, manure, dirt, posts, sand, gravel, caliche, or animal by-products into this state for any purpose from an area of another state, territory, or country that is under state or federal quarantine for tick infestation unless the articles:

- (1) have been treated in accordance with the requirements of the commission or the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture; and
- (2) are certified as having been so treated by an inspector of the commission or the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1440, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 54, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 10, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.027. PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE TO ACCOMPANY MOVEMENT.

(a) A certificate or permit required for movement of animals within or into this state must be in the possession of the person in charge of the movement or the conveyance from the point of origin to the point of destination. If the movement is by a transportation company, including a railway or express company, the certificate must be attached to the shipping papers accompanying the movement from the point of origin to the point of destination. On demand of an inspector, the person in charge of the movement or conveyance shall exhibit the certificate or permit.

(b) A certificate required for movement of articles listed in Section 167.026(c) must accompany the movement to the final destination in this state or so long as the articles are moving through this state.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1440, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 55, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 11, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.028. STATEMENT OF POSSESSION AND DESTINATION.

On request of an inspector, the owner, part owner, or caretaker, or a person accompanying and connected with a shipment, of animals that are being moved in this state or have been moved in this state within 60 days preceding the request, shall make a written statement of:

- (1) the name of the owner or the person controlling the land from which the shipment originated and the county in which that land is located;
- (2) the county and the particular place in that county to which the shipment is or was destined;
- (3) the name and address of the person from whom the animals were obtained, if the animals were obtained in the 30 days preceding the request, or, if the animals were not obtained during the 30 days preceding the request, a statement of that fact; and
- (4) the territory through which the shipment passed since leaving the point of origin and through which the shipment is intended to pass before reaching the point of destination.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1440, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.029. CONDITIONS, MANNER, AND METHOD OF MOVING AND HANDLING.

(a) The commission by rule shall provide the conditions for and the manner and method of handling and moving animals:

- (1) into, in, and from the tick eradication area;
- (2) into, in, and from quarantined land or premises in the free area;
- (3) into the released part of the free area; and
- (4) into, in, and from the inactive quarantined area.

(b) Animals must be certified as being free from ticks and exposure to ticks, and must be moved to the destination without exposure, if the animals are to be moved:

- (1) into the free area;
- (2) from one county to another in the tick eradication area; or
- (3) within a county to land or premises that are classified by the official records of the supervising inspector of the county as being free from ticks and exposure to ticks.

(c) The commission may adopt rules relating to testing, immunizing, treating, certifying, or marking or branding animals moving into this state from another state or country.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1441, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.030. DISINFECTION OF CONVEYANCE.

(a) A person, including a railway or transportation company, who operates a conveyance into which animals are loaded shall clean and disinfect each car or other conveyance after removal of the animals unless the animals are clean and free from ticks or exposure to ticks.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the cleaning and disinfecting of conveyances.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1441, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.031. USE OF SAND AS BEDDING IN CONVEYANCE.

The commission may establish quarantines and restrict the use of sand as bedding in an animal conveyance except for sand from known tick-free sand pits.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1441, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.032. MOVEMENT OF COMMODITIES.

The commission may establish quarantines and restrict the movement from quarantined areas of hay, hides, carcasses, or other commodities that are capable of carrying ticks.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1441, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 167.033. HANDLING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE OR DEAD OR INJURED ANIMALS.

The commission may establish quarantines and regulate the removal and handling of refuse matter from quarantined stockyards, quarantined stock pens, and other quarantined places and may establish quarantines and regulate the handling or removal of animals that die or are injured in transit.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1442, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER C. TREATMENT

Sec. 167.051. ANIMALS SUBJECT TO TREATMENT.

(a) Animals located in the tick eradication area are subject to treatment if the animals:

- (1) are infested with ticks;
- (2) were exposed to ticks within the nine months preceding an order to treat; or
- (3) are on premises described in an order to treat during the time that the order is in effect and the person to whom the order is issued is the owner, part owner, or caretaker of the animals.

(b) Animals located in the free area are subject to treatment if:

- (1) the animals are infested with ticks;
- (2) the animals were exposed to ticks within the nine months preceding an order to treat;
- (3) the animals are on premises described in an order to treat during the time the order is in effect and the person to whom the order is issued is the owner, part owner, or caretaker of the animals; or
- (4) the commission determines that treatment is necessary to ensure that the animals are entirely free from infestation.

(c) The commission may require the treatment of animals that are located in the free area and are tick infested or have been exposed to ticks regardless of whether the animals or the area in which the animals are located is under quarantine.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1442, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.052. ORDER TO TREAT.

(a) The commission may order the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals to treat the animals in accordance with the directions of the commission. The order must be dated, in writing, and signed or stamped with the signature of the commission or the presiding officer of the commission.

(b) An order to treat must:

- (1) state the period of time covered by the order;
- (2) describe the premises on which the animals to be treated are located;
- (3) state that the person to whom the order is directed shall treat all animals of which the person is the owner, part owner, or caretaker and which are located on those premises during that time;
- (4) state that the treatment must be done under the supervision of an inspector;
- (5) designate the method by which the animals are to be treated;
- (6) state the dates on which the animals are to be treated; and
- (7) state that if the person does not treat the animals on those dates, the treatment will be done at the person's expense by a peace officer acting in accordance with this chapter.

(c) The order is not required to describe the premises on which the animals are located by field notes or metes and bounds, but must provide a reasonable description sufficient to inform the person to whom it is directed of the premises or land covered by the order.

(d) An order may require the treatment of the animals on as many dates as the commission considers necessary for eradicating the infestation or exposure of the animals or the premises on which the animals are located.

(e) An order to treat must be delivered to the person to whom it is directed not later than the 12th day before the date specified in the order for the first treatment, not including the date of delivery or the date of the first treatment.

(f) A person to whom an order to treat is directed shall comply with the order and treat the animals in accordance with the directions of the commission. If the order is not delivered within the time provided by Subsection (e), the person receiving the order shall begin treatment on the first treatment date that is more than 12 days after the date of receipt of the order and shall continue treatment on subsequent dates as specified in the order.

(g) If the animals or the premises are not freed from ticks or exposure to ticks before an order to treat expires, the commission may issue additional orders regardless of whether the animals were exposed to ticks in the nine months preceding the date of the subsequent order.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1442, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 32, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 16, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.053. HEARING.

(a) A person is entitled to request and obtain a hearing for the purpose of protesting an order to treat by filing a sworn application with the supervising inspector of the county in which the animals are located. The application must be filed not later than the 10th day after the day on which the order was received.

(b) Following a hearing, the commission shall transmit its written decision to the supervising inspector, who shall transmit it to the protesting person by delivering it in person or by mailing it by registered mail to the address shown in the hearing application. If the commission overrules the protest, the person to whom the order was directed shall comply with the order.

(c) If the commission's decision is delivered in person, a person whose protest is overruled shall begin treatment of the animals on the first treatment date in the order that is more than two days after the day on which the decision is received. If the decision is delivered by mail, the person shall begin treatment on the first treatment date in the order that is more than four days after the day on which the decision was deposited in the mail.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1443, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 17, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 17, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.054. EXCUSE FROM COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER.

The supervising inspector of a county for good cause may excuse a person from complying with an order to treat, but shall be held responsible for excusing compliance without good cause.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1443, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.055. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE.

(a) A person who owns any interest in animals subject to treatment or who is the caretaker of the animals is responsible for the treatment of the animals under this chapter and is subject to prosecution for failure to treat the animals.

(b) A husband and wife are jointly and severally liable for the treatment of animals subject to treatment that belong to their community estate. Each spouse is responsible for the treatment of animals belonging to that person's separate estate, except that a spouse who is the caretaker of animals owned by the other spouse is responsible for the treatment of the animals.

(c) A person responsible for the treatment of animals subject to treatment shall furnish all necessary labor, at the person's own expense, for gathering the animals, driving the animals to the treatment facility, treating the animals, and returning the animals to the person's premises after treatment.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1443, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.056. MANNER OF TREATMENT.

If the commission requires animals to be treated, the animals shall be treated in the manner prescribed by the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1444, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.057. TREATMENT CHEMICALS.

(a) The commission shall prescribe by rule the official materials in which animals are to be treated under this chapter. A person may not treat animals for purposes of this chapter in a material other than an official material prescribed by the commission.

(b) The state, an agency of the state, or an agency of the government of the United States shall, and a county may, furnish the official materials for the treatment of animals under this chapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1444, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 18, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.059. TREATMENT FACILITIES.

(a) The commissioners court of each county, including a county in the free area, in all or part of which the commission conducts tick eradication shall cooperate with the commission and shall furnish facilities necessary to the treatment of animals in that county. The commissioners court shall furnish dipping vats, pens, chutes, and other necessary facilities in the number, at the locations, and of the type specified by the commission. In addition, the county, at its expense, shall maintain the facilities and repair or remodel them as necessary, shall provide the water for filling the vats, and shall clean and refill the vats as necessary.

(b) For the purpose of constructing, purchasing, or leasing treatment facilities, and for the purpose of providing necessary land, labor, or materials, a commissioners court may appropriate money out of the general fund of the county or may incur indebtedness by the issuance of warrants. A warrant issued may not draw interest at a rate of more than six percent per year and may not have a term of more than 20 years. The commissioners court may levy taxes to pay interest on warrants and may establish a sinking fund for the payment of warrants.

(c) For the purpose of acquiring necessary land for the construction or maintenance of treatment facilities, for the purpose of acquiring treatment facilities that have already been constructed, or for the purpose of acquiring land necessary for ingress and egress to and from those facilities, a commissioners court has the power of eminent domain. The commissioners court shall exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner provided by law for acquiring land for the building and maintenance of public buildings, except that the court shall institute and prosecute condemnation proceedings on written request from the presiding officer of the commission. The request from the commission shall designate:

- (1) the land to be condemned and its location;
- (2) the name of the owner of the land to be condemned; and
- (3) the easement to be acquired for ingress and egress.

(d) In acquiring land or facilities by eminent domain, the commissioners court may retain the property for permanent use by making appropriate compensation or may acquire the property for temporary use by making proper compensation for the period of time determined necessary by the commissioners court.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1444, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 33, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 19, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 20, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 19, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 20, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.060. TREATMENT REQUIRED FOR MOVEMENT FROM QUARANTINED AREA.

(a) An inspector may not issue a certificate or permit for the movement of animals from a quarantined enclosure unless the owner or caretaker of the animals:

(1) is cooperating with the commission in the regular systematic treatment of the animals listed in Subsection (b); and

(2) has treated those animals on the last two treatment dates that were prescribed for the area in which the animals are located and that preceded the date of movement.

(b) In order to be issued the permit or certificate, the owner or caretaker must cooperate with the commission in the regular systematic treatment of animals of which the person is the owner or caretaker and which:

(1) are located in the enclosure from which the animals are to be moved;

(2) are located in quarantined enclosures that connect with the enclosure from which the animals are to be moved, including an enclosure that:

(A) connects with an enclosure that connects with the enclosure from which the animals are to be moved; or

(B) is on the opposite side of a lane or road from the enclosure from which the animals are to be moved; or

(3) are located on the quarantined open range that connects with any of the enclosures under Subdivision (1) or (2).

(c) If ticks are found on any of the animals submitted for movement, before the certificate or permit is issued, each head of the animals must be treated as prescribed by commission rules.

(d) The commission may waive the enforcement of this section for good cause. A waiver of the commission must be in writing.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1445, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 21, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 22, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 21, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 22, eff. September 1, 2013.

SUBCHAPTER D. STOCKYARD REGULATION

Sec. 167.081. DESIGNATION OF FACILITY TO HANDLE CERTIFIED LIVESTOCK.

(a) The commission may designate a stockyard that is in the tick eradication area or in the free area and is open to the public for yarding, marketing, and selling livestock as a facility to handle intrastate movements of livestock certified by an inspector to be free from ticks or exposure to ticks. A stockyard so designated shall provide tick-free facilities for the handling of that livestock in accordance with this subchapter.

(b) A designation under this section is effective for 24 months following the day on which notice is served, and the commission may redesignate a facility for the purpose of this section.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1445, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 167.082. NOTICE AND HEARING.

(a) The commission shall give written notice of a designation under this subchapter to the stockyard company or to the owner, operator, or other person in control of the stockyard.

(b) A person to whom a notice is directed may request a hearing for the purpose of protesting the designation in the manner provided by Section 167.053 for requesting a hearing on an order to treat. The commission shall grant the hearing and give notice of its decision in the manner provided by that section.

(c) A person whose protest is overruled shall complete the work required to provide tick-free facilities not later than the 60th day following the day on which the person receives notice of the commission's decision.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1446, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 23, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 23, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.083. MAINTENANCE OF TICK-FREE FACILITIES.

(a) A person who owns or operates and is in control of a stockyard designated under this subchapter shall maintain clean and tick-free facilities, including pens, alleys, and chutes, so that livestock certified by an inspector to be free from ticks or exposure to ticks may be received, yarded, weighed, and sold for intrastate purposes without being subject to exposure to ticks.

(b) In accordance with Subsection (a) of this section, the owner or operator shall maintain tick-free scales, entrances, exits, pens, and territory immediately surrounding the pens.

(c) The stockyard company, owner or operator, or other person in control of a stockyard may not discriminate between interstate and intrastate handling of livestock.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1446, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

SUBCHAPTER E. ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 167.101. INSPECTORS.

(a) The commissioners court of a county in which the commission conducts tick eradication may nominate the number of local inspectors found by the commission to be necessary for tick eradication in that county. The commission shall appoint those persons nominated unless, following appointment of local inspectors, the commission finds that the county is trying to retard tick eradication or is nominating persons who are incompetent or negligent in the performance of duty. In that case, the commission may ignore the nominations of the county.

(b) If a commissioners court fails or refuses to nominate persons as local inspectors, the commission shall appoint local inspectors without nomination.

(c) Local inspectors work under the direction and orders of the commission and are subject to discharge by the commission. The commission shall fix and the state shall pay the salaries of local inspectors, but a county may pay the salary and traveling expenses of a local inspector.

(d) The commission may employ county and district supervising inspectors without nomination by the commissioners courts.

(e) Only an inspector appointed for the purpose may conduct tick eradication or issue permits and certificates certifying animals to be free from ticks or exposure to ticks. An inspector shall issue those permits and certificates in accordance with the rules of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1446, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 24, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 24, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.102. ENTRY POWER.

(a) A commissioner or an inspector, and assistants, may enter public or private property, without a warrant, for the exercise of an authority or performance of a duty under this chapter.

(b) If an inspector or commissioner desires to be accompanied by a peace officer, the inspector or commissioner shall apply for a search warrant to a magistrate of the county in which the property is located. The magistrate shall issue the search warrant on a showing of probable cause by oath or affirmation.

(c) The search warrant shall describe the place to be entered in a reasonable manner that will enable the person in charge of the property to identify the property described, but the warrant is not required to describe the property by field notes or by metes and bounds. If the applicant for the warrant seeks to enter the property to determine whether animals are on the property, the application for the warrant shall state that. If the warrant is obtained for the purpose of seizing or treating animals, the application and the warrant shall describe the animals and give the approximate number of animals. If any of that information is unknown to the applicant, the application and warrant shall state that the information is unknown.

(d) A search warrant issued under this section authorizes the person to whom it is issued to enter the property for the exercise of an authority or performance of a duty under this chapter and to be accompanied by a peace officer and assistants. In addition, the warrant authorizes the peace officer and the assistants to perform any duty authorized by this chapter.

(e) A search warrant issued under this section permits entry and reentry for the purposes of this section for a period of 60 days beginning on the day on which it is issued. After that period, additional search warrants may be issued as often as necessary.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1447, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 25, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 25, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.103. TREATMENT OF ANIMALS BY PEACE OFFICER ON REQUEST OF INSPECTOR.

(a) If a person responsible for treating animals fails to treat the animals at the time and place directed in the order or, prior to a treatment date in the order, states that he or she does not intend to treat the animals, the inspector in charge of tick eradication in that county shall notify a peace officer.

(b) The peace officer shall deputize a sufficient number of assistants, to be designated by the supervising inspector of the county, shall enter the property on which the animals are located, and shall gather and treat the animals under the supervision of an inspector and in accordance with the directions of the commission.

(c) The peace officer shall continue to treat the animals on each treatment date specified in the order until the person responsible for treatment begins and continues the treatment in accordance with that order.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1447, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.104. SEIZURE AND DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE.

(a) An inspector may request a peace officer to seize animals if:

(1) the inspector determines the animals to be running at large or on the open range of a county or part of a county in which the commission is conducting tick eradication under this chapter; and

(2) the inspector is unable to locate the owner or caretaker of the animals.

(b) The peace officer may deputize assistants, shall seize the animals, and shall treat the animals under the supervision of an inspector. The officer shall impound the animals at a place designated by the inspector or otherwise dispose of the animals as necessary for the purpose of tick eradication.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1448, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.105. SEIZURE AND DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS MOVED IN VIOLATION OF QUARANTINE.

(a) An inspector who discovers animals that are being or have been moved in violation of a quarantine may request a peace officer to seize the animals and:

(1) impound the animals at the expense of the owner; or

(2) if practicable, return the animals at the expense of the owner to the point of origin.

(b) In addition to other expenses, the owner of the seized animals shall pay the officer a fee of \$2 and the cost of feeding, watering, and holding the animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1448, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 26, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.106. INJUNCTION; MANDAMUS.

(a) The commission or a resident of this state may sue for an injunction to compel compliance with a provision of this chapter or to restrain a threatened violation of a provision of this chapter.

(b) A resident of this state may sue for mandamus against a commissioners court to compel the compliance of that court with the duty of the commissioners court under this chapter.

(c) The commission or a resident of a county or part of a county in which tick eradication is being conducted may sue for permanent or temporary relief to compel a person who is an owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals to treat the animals in accordance with this chapter if the person has failed or refused to treat the animals or has threatened to fail or refuse to treat the animals. If the court finds that the defendant has been served with an order of the commission to treat the animals, that the animals are subject to treatment, and that the material allegations of the plaintiff's petition are true, the court shall enter an order commanding the defendant to treat the animals in accordance with the directions of the commission at the time and place designated in the order of the commission or in the order of the court. If the defendant fails to comply with the order of the court, the court may hold the defendant in contempt and punish the defendant accordingly and shall order a peace officer to deputize assistants and treat the animals in accordance with the order of the court. The expense of treating the animals and employing the peace officer and assistants shall be taxed against the defendant as a cost of suit.

(d) A court may hear and determine a suit under this section in term or in vacation. Notice of the suit shall be given to the defendant as the court determines justice requires.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1448, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 27, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 27, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.107. SALE OF ANIMALS TREATED OR SEIZED BY PEACE OFFICER.

(a) A peace officer who gathers and treats or who seizes and impounds or disposes of animals under Section 167.103, 167.104, or 167.105 is entitled to retain and sell the animals for the purpose of securing payment for the expenses of handling, including the expenses of holding, feeding, and watering the animals.

(b) Not later than the 60th day after the day on which animals are treated or seized, the peace officer may sell at public sale to the highest bidder a number of the animals sufficient to cover the secured expenses. The officer shall conduct the sale at the courthouse door of the county in which the animals are located and shall post notice of the sale at that courthouse door at least five days before the day of the sale.

(c) If any proceeds of the sale remain after deducting the amount to which the peace officer is entitled, the peace officer shall pay those proceeds to the county treasurer subject to the order of the owner of the animals.

(d) A peace officer who treats animals under Section 167.103 is entitled to act under this section to secure the expenses of each day on which the animals are treated.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1449, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 28, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 28, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.108. LIENS.

(a) A peace officer who gathers and treats or who seizes and impounds or disposes of animals under Section 167.103, 167.104, or 167.105 has a lien on the animals for the purpose of securing payment of the officer's fees and the expenses of handling the animals, including the expenses of holding, feeding, and watering the animals and the expenses of paying assistants. Instead of retaining and selling the animals under Section 167.107, the officer may perfect and foreclose a lien granted by this section.

(b) A peace officer who treats animals in accordance with an order of a court under Section 167.106(c), and the peace officer's assistants, have a lien on the animals to secure payment of the expenses and costs of the treatment.

(c) A peace officer may perfect a lien under Subsection (a) by filing a sworn statement of indebtedness with the county clerk of the county in which the animals are located. The statement must describe the animals and must be filed within six months after the treatment or other action of the peace officer giving rise to the lien. The statement may cover a single action or actions over a period of time. If the statement covers actions over a period of time, the statement must be filed within six months after the last treatment or other action giving rise to the lien.

(d) A peace officer may perfect a lien under Subsection (b) by filing a sworn statement covering a single treatment or a number of treatments with the clerk of the district court. The statement must show the number of animals treated and must describe the animals. The statement must be filed within 12 months after each treatment.

(e) A peace officer may foreclose a lien under Subsection (a) by filing suit against the owner of the animals in a court of competent jurisdiction for collection of the account and foreclosure of the lien. The suit must be filed within 24 months after the

statement is filed with the county clerk. In the suit, the court may not require a cost bond of the peace officer or any person to whom the peace officer has assigned the account. The court shall enter judgment for the debt, with interest and costs of suit, and for foreclosure of the lien on the number of animals that the court determines necessary to defray the expenses and fees secured.

(f) The court shall foreclose a lien under Subsection (b) of this section after the filing of the statement and shall do so against the number of animals necessary for the payment of the expenses and costs. The court shall order those animals sold as under execution.

(g) If a lien is foreclosed under this section, the remainder of the proceeds of the sale following deduction of expenses and costs shall be paid to the clerk of the court in which the suit is pending and are subject to the order of the owner of the animals.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1449, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 29, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 29, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.109. ADMISSIBILITY OF COMMISSION INSTRUMENTS; IDENTIFICATION IN COMPLAINT.

(a) A copy of a written instrument issued by the commission is admissible as evidence in any court of this state if the copy is certified by the presiding officer of the commission.

(b) In a prosecution for a violation of this chapter, the state is not required to include in the complaint, information, or indictment a verbatim copy of a written instrument or proclamation, but may allege the issuance and identify it by date of issuance.

(c) In the trial of a civil or criminal case under this chapter, in which a certified copy of a commission written instrument or a proclamation is to be introduced in evidence, the instrument or proclamation is not required to be filed with the papers of the cause and the party introducing it is not required to give notice of it to the other party.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1450, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 34, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 167.110. PRESUMPTION OF EXISTENCE OR SUFFICIENCY OF TREATMENT.

(a) In the trial of any case under this chapter in connection with the treatment of animals or the failure to treat animals, it is presumed that:

(1) the treatment contained a sufficient amount of treatment chemical and the treatment chemical had been properly tested; or

(2) the treatment chemical could have and would have been put into the treatment facility and tested if the owner or caretaker had brought the animals to the treatment facility for the purpose of treatment.

(b) In a criminal prosecution for failure to treat animals under this chapter, the state is not required to allege and prove that the treatment facility contained treatment chemical.

(c) If it is necessary in a court proceeding to prove the test of a treatment chemical, it is only necessary to prove that:

(1) the treatment chemical used was one of the official treatment chemicals prescribed by the commission; and

(2) the inspector tested the treatment chemical in accordance with the rules of the commission.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1450, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.111. PRESUMPTION OF OWNERSHIP OR CARE.

(a) If an inspector determines that a person is the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals subject to treatment and an order to treat is issued and served, it is presumed that, at the time of a failure to treat, the person was still the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals subject to treatment located on the premises described in the order. In that case, the state is required to prove only that the person was the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals subject to treatment located on the premises at the time the order was served.

(b) After the service of an order to treat, if there are no longer any animals subject to treatment located on the premises and if no animals subject to treatment have been illegally removed, the defendant may file a sworn statement of that fact at the beginning of the trial. If the defendant does not file that statement, it is presumed that the defendant's status as owner, part owner, or caretaker remained unchanged since the service of the order.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1451, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.112. VENUE OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

The owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals is subject to prosecution under this chapter in the county in which the animals and the premises are located, regardless of whether the defendant was in the county at the time of issuance and service of the order to treat, at the time of the failure to treat, or at the time of violation of the quarantine.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1451, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 30, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.113. CIVIL SUIT AGAINST CORPORATE OFFENDER.

If a corporation or an agent of the corporation acting within the agent's scope of authority commits an offense under this chapter, the county attorney of the county in which the violation occurs shall institute a civil suit on behalf of the state in a court of competent jurisdiction for collection of the fine.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1451, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

SUBCHAPTER F. PENALTIES

Sec. 167.131. REFUSAL OF INSPECTION.

(a) A person commits an offense if, as the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals, the person fails to gather the animals for inspection at the time and place ordered by the commission under Section 167.008.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1451, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 56, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 21, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 31, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 31, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.132. MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS IN VIOLATION OF QUARANTINE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person moves, or as owner, part owner, or caretaker permits the movement of, animals from any land, premises, or enclosure that is under quarantine for tick infestation or exposure in violation of the quarantine without a permit issued by an inspector of the commission or of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(b) A railroad or other transportation company commits an offense if it permits an animal to enter stock pens in the tick eradication area under the company's control without a written certificate or permit from an inspector of the commission or of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor for each animal moved, permitted to move, or permitted to enter the pen unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) Except as provided by this subsection, a person commits a separate offense under Subsection (a) for each county into which animals are moved within 30 days following the day on which the animals leave the county in which they were quarantined. A person does not commit an offense for a county if the person complied with the requirements of this chapter prior to entry into that county.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1451, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 57, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 22, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 32, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 32, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.133. MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS OR COMMODITIES INTO TEXAS FROM QUARANTINED AREA.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) moves animals or, as owner, part owner, or caretaker, permits animals to be moved into this state in violation of Section 167.026(a); or

(2) moves animals or commodities into this state in violation of Section 167.026(b) or (c).

(b) An offense under Subsection (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor for each animal moved or permitted to be moved unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) An offense under Subsection (a)(2) of this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor. A person commits a separate offense under that subsection for the movement of each animal, each animal product, or each shipment of another commodity.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1452, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 58, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 23, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 33, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 33, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.134. MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS IN VIOLATION OF PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person moves or, as owner, part owner, or caretaker, permits the movement of, animals under a certificate or permit from quarantined land, premises, or enclosures to a place other than that designated on the certificate or permit by the inspector.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor for each animal moved unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1452, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 59, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 24, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 34, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 34, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.135. FAILURE TO POSSESS OR EXHIBIT PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person is in charge of animals for which a certificate or permit is required or is in charge of the conveyance transporting that animal and the person fails to possess or exhibit the certificate or permit in the manner provided by Section 167.027.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor for each animal moved or conveyed without a certificate or permit as required by Subsection (a) unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1452, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 60, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 25, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 34, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 34, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.136. FAILURE TO MAKE STATEMENT OF POSSESSION AND DESTINATION; MAKING FALSE STATEMENT.

(a) A person required by Section 167.028 of this code to make a written statement commits an offense if the person:

- (1) fails or refuses to make the statement in accordance with that section; or
- (2) makes a false statement under that section.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1452, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 61, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 26, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 167.137. FAILURE TO DISINFECT CONVEYANCE.

(a) A person required by Section 167.030 of this code to clean and disinfect a conveyance commits an offense if the person fails or refuses to clean and disinfect the conveyance in accordance with the rules of the commission.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor for each car or other means of conveyance not cleaned and disinfected unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of failure or refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1453, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 62, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 27, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 167.138. USE OF SAND AS BEDDING.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person uses sand as bedding in an animal conveyance in violation of a quarantine established or a commission rule adopted under Section 167.031.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1453, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 63, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 35, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 35, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.139. MOVEMENT OF COMMODITIES FROM QUARANTINED AREA.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person moves a commodity capable of carrying ticks from a quarantined area in violation of a quarantine established or a commission rule adopted under Section 167.032 of this code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1453, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 64, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 29, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 167.140. IMPROPER HANDLING AND REMOVAL OF ANIMAL REFUSE OR DEAD OR INJURED ANIMALS.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates a quarantine established or a commission rule adopted under Section 167.033 of this code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1453, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 65, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 30, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 36, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 36, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.141. FAILURE TO TREAT ANIMALS.

(a) A person who is the owner, part owner, or caretaker of animals commits an offense if, after the 12th day following the day on which notice of an order to treat is received, the person fails or refuses to treat the animals as prescribed in the order, on any date prescribed in the order, during the hours prescribed in the order, under the supervision of an inspector, with an official treatment chemical, or in the treatment facility designated in the order.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1453, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 66, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 31, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 37, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 38, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 37, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 38, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.142. DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TREATMENT FACILITIES.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person, without lawful authority:
 - (1) damages or destroys all or part of a dipping vat, pen, chute, or other facility provided under Section 167.059 of this code by use of any means, including cutting, burning, or tearing down or by use of dynamite or another explosive; or
 - (2) attempts to damage or destroy all or part of one of those facilities.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1453, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 67, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 32, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 324 (H.B. [1807](#)), Sec. 39, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 773 (S.B. [1095](#)), Sec. 39, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 167.143. FAILURE TO PROVIDE TICK-FREE STOCKYARD FACILITIES.

- (a) A stockyard company or an owner, operator, or person in charge of a stockyard commits an offense if the person fails or refuses to provide and complete facilities required by the commission under Subchapter D of this chapter within 60 days after the day on which notice of designation is served under that subchapter.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor unless it is shown on the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously convicted under this section, in which event the offense is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person commits a separate offense for each 30 days of failure or refusal within the 24 months following service of notice.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1454, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 68, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 548, Sec. 33, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 167.144. REFUSAL TO PERMIT SEARCH.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person refuses to permit a person to whom a search warrant is issued under Section 167.102 of this code, that person's assistant, or a peace officer, to enter the property described in the warrant or to perform a duty under this chapter.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person commits a separate offense for each day of refusal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1454, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 69, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

AGRICULTURE CODE
TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND
SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE C. CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES
AND PESTS
CHAPTER 168. PULLORUM DISEASE AND
FOWL TYPHOID CONTROL

Sec. 168.001. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

- (1) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health Commission.
- (2) "Laboratory" means the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.
- (3) "Flock" means poultry and eggs produced by poultry.
- (4) "Hatchery" means an enterprise that operates equipment for the hatching of eggs.
- (5) "Poultry" means domestic fowl, including chickens, turkeys, and game birds.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1454, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 1, eff. April 19, 1991.

Sec. 168.002. CONTROL AND ERADICATION PROGRAM.

The laboratory shall promulgate and administer a program to control and eradicate pullorum disease and fowl typhoid, with standards at least as stringent as those specified in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (7 U.S.C. Section 429).

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1455, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 2, eff. April 19, 1991; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 14, Sec. 2.01, eff. Nov. 12, 1991.

Sec. 168.003. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM; SEARCH WARRANT.

- (a) In administering the program, the laboratory may:
- (1) require the registration of hatcheries and hatchery supply flocks;
 - (2) examine, test, monitor, and collect samples from any flock, whether a hatchery supply flock or not, if the flock is suspected of being infected or a potential source of infection;
 - (3) examine, test, monitor, and collect samples from any hatchery supply flock;

(4) enter premises where flocks are kept or eggs are hatched as necessary to administer this chapter; and

(5) promulgate rules necessary to the control and eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.

(b) If a person conducting an inspection of premises under Subsection (a)(4) of this section desires to be accompanied by a peace officer, the person may apply to any magistrate in the county where the property is located for the issuance of a search warrant. In applying for the warrant, the person shall describe the premises or place to be entered and shall by oath or affirmation give evidence of probable cause to believe that entry is necessary for the control or eradication of pullorum disease or fowl typhoid. The application for the warrant and the warrant itself need only describe the property or premises in terms sufficient to enable the owner or caretaker to know what property is referred to in the documents. The warrant entitles the person to whom it is issued to be accompanied by a peace officer and by assistants. The issuing magistrate may not charge court costs or other fees for the issuance of this warrant.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1455, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 2, eff. April 19, 1991; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 14, Sec. 2.01, eff. Nov. 12, 1991.

Sec. 168.004. QUARANTINE AND DISPOSAL.

(a) If the laboratory determines that any part of a flock is infected, it shall certify that information to the commission, and the commission shall verify the infection and immediately quarantine part or all of the flock. The commission may authorize the laboratory to quarantine an infected flock on behalf of the commission. The commission shall give notice of the quarantine in the same manner as provided by law for the quarantine of other livestock and fowl. The commission shall also order a cessation in the sale, movement, or exhibition of quarantined poultry or eggs and may seek an injunction to enforce an order concerning infected flocks.

(b) A quarantined flock shall be disposed of in a manner prescribed by the commission. If disposal involves movement to a state or federally inspected poultry processing establishment, the commission shall issue a certificate to accompany the flock. When the flock is disposed of and other measures necessary to the control and eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid are taken, the commission shall remove the quarantine.

(c) The owner of a quarantined flock is entitled to a retesting of the flock before its disposal.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1455, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 70, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 2, eff. April 19, 1991; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 14, Sec. 2.01, eff. Nov. 12, 1991.

Sec. 168.005. PUBLIC EXHIBITION.

A person may not enter poultry in public exhibition unless the stock originates from a flock or hatchery free of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid or has a negative pullorum-typhoid test after the 90th day before the day of the exhibition. Chickens or turkeys entered in public exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of purchase from the hatchery.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1456, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981.

Sec. 168.006. ASSISTANCE BY FLOCK OWNER.

The owner of a flock shall assist the laboratory and the commission in handling the poultry and shall pen and present the flock on request.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1456, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 2, eff. April 19, 1991; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 14, Sec. 2.01, eff. Nov. 12, 1991.

Sec. 168.007. NO FEE CHARGED.

Neither the laboratory nor the commission may charge a fee for testing or laboratory examination provided for under this chapter.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1456, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 2, eff. April 19, 1991; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 14, Sec. 2.01, eff. Nov. 12, 1991.

Sec. 168.008. PENALTY.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person refuses to:
 - (1) comply with an order of the commission or laboratory concerning an infected flock; or
 - (2) admit a person with a search warrant obtained as provided in Section 168.003 of this code.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person commits a separate offense for each day that the person refuses to comply with an order or admit a person with a search warrant.

Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 1456, ch. 388, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 836, Sec. 71, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 40, Sec. 2, eff. April 19, 1991; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 14, Sec. 2.01, eff. Nov. 12, 1991.