

EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND THE
VETERINARIAN

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by

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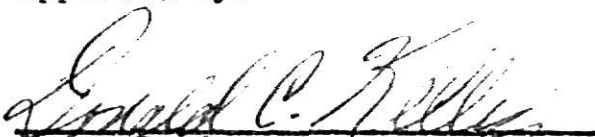
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PREFACE

The purpose of this report is to give the reader a very brief insight to the accomplishments of the veterinary profession to public health and to recognize the veterinarian as a qualified and appreciated member of the public health team.

It is intended to make emphasis of the increased utilization of the veterinarian in the field of epidemiology, that medical aspect of ecology which studies the interactions between populations and their environment, which result in disease.

The training and background in epidemiology is inherent to the herd or population basis of veterinary medicine and enables the veterinarian to assume an ever increasing role as an epidemiologist.

With these tools he can seek, in an orderly manner, rational concepts of causation for various diseases and conditions, and with this knowledge predict disease incidence, stress prevention and control of or eradicate specific diseases.

INTRODUCTION

Veterinary medicine as a health profession applies the principles of the biomedical sciences to health and disease in animals, contributes to numerous areas of human need through research and in its practice has important direct and indirect bearing on human health. In addition to the commonly recognized responsibilities of veterinary medicine, those of animal care, the profession shields the human populations from scores of animal diseases that affect people, and contributes significantly through research efforts and epidemiology to the conquest of such major human health threats as cancer and heart disease.

Veterinary interests in the zoonoses and in public health have developed slowly with man's accumulation of knowledge about diseases. The zoonoses are infections and infestations which are shared in nature by man and animals and transmitted between them naturally (Schwabe, 1969). There are more than a hundred of these zoonoses, many of which are of public health significance. Mustard (1945) mentioned that human health problems become public health problems when they can no longer be solved by the unassisted effort of the citizen and the uncoordinated resources of the community.

While the development of these interests rarely received important or widespread recognition, a number of individuals