

Role Description

General information

Title:	Veterinary Officer			Classification:	PO2	
Division:	Biosecurity SA	Branch:	Animal Health		Business Unit:	Disease Surveillance
Type of Appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of Duty:	37.5	Location:	Struan	

Purpose

PIRSA's Animal Health program protects and facilitates market access and livestock productivity, public health and consumer confidence through the health, welfare, quality, safety and image of South Australian livestock and livestock products, and other animals. Global trade access for livestock and livestock products increasingly requires demonstrated minimum standards of animal health and welfare. The Animal Health group provides a system for animal disease early warning and early detection of exotic diseases; develops programmes for data collection to allow monitoring of animal health status and proof of disease freedom; and maintains capacity for emergency animal disease management.

This Veterinary Officer role contributes to delivering the agency's [priorities](#) including increasing productivity of our livestock industries and agribusinesses, securing production through biosecurity and efficient and sustainable use of resources, and maintaining market access by working with livestock industries to respond to evolving requirements of domestic and global markets and consumers. The Veterinary Officer, as part of a state-wide Animal Health team, will provide veterinary inputs to livestock disease preparedness, surveillance and control activities within a district or region. A key focus of the role is to ensure the promotion of good farm biosecurity practices, including providing input into the delivery of policy and processes for producer participation in animal health quality assurance systems and its contribution to disease surveillance, prevention, and control.

The Veterinary Officer will need to identify and relate to the needs of rural communities and possess a capacity to work collaboratively with veterinary practitioners as well as livestock producers, stock agents, industry groups, SA Health and other relevant stake holders.

Key Accountabilities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with private veterinarians and livestock industry representatives at the regional level to build their knowledge and capacity in animal health and disease surveillance, including preparedness to detect and respond to emergency animal diseases. • Maintain an in-depth knowledge of diseases of importance to livestock, and other species, in South Australia, with a particular emphasis on the investigation and diagnosis of diseases of national significance. • Provision of advice to private veterinarians, livestock industry representatives, including producers, and other PIRSA staff, on animal health and diseases, biosecurity, animal welfare, disease control, and emergency animal disease preparedness. • Understand and contribute to the work required for regional and national disease surveillance, disease control, and animal welfare programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and apply relevant PIRSA legislation and policies, including as a Livestock Inspector appointed under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>. • Build and maintain knowledge of emergency management, including participating including participating in emergency pest and disease, and disaster, preparedness, and response activities. • Work in collaboration with the Manager Disease Surveillance and other Animal Health staff on the development, documentation, and maintenance of animal health policies, procedures, and other relevant materials. • Represent the PIRSA position in national forums/committees. |
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Key Deliverables / Results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish networks and professional credibility within the South Australian livestock industry to promote disease surveillance and animal health programs, exchange surveillance data, and deliver extension on the importance of farm biosecurity, animal welfare, and emergency preparedness to market access, trade, and industry prosperity. • Conduct passive and targeted surveillance programs to monitor disease prevalence and trends, including investigation of incidents of unusual, new or emerging herd/flock diseases, and analysis, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specialist understanding of species-specific industry economics and demographics, endemic disease, biosecurity, animal welfare. • Develop and maintain relevant competencies for participation in emergency pest and disease, and disaster, preparedness, and response activities. This includes assisting in disaster responses including bushfires and livestock vehicle rollovers, including potential euthanasia of animals. • Ensure maintenance of appropriate livestock welfare standards by providing expert advice to RSPCA, |
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interpretation and reporting of laboratory results. • Apply defined disease control policies for major animal diseases and use disease control activities to develop enhanced passive surveillance, including undertaking specimen collection as required for laboratory testing. • Provide technical veterinary and regulatory advice on biosecurity matters to producers, industry, agribusiness, PIRSA, SA Health and other government departments.	producers and agribusiness on livestock health and husbandry, including supporting RSPCA in investigating and reporting incidents of alleged animal cruelty. • Prepare reports and publications when appropriate, contribute to policy and procedure reviews, enter information into national database systems, and undertake training relevant to the role.
Relationships	
• Role reports to the Manager Disease Surveillance • Works in collaboration with branch and section managers within PIRSA • Works closely with private veterinarians and livestock industry representatives in their region	• Develops and maintains strong networks within PIRSA and across key agencies • Works with other regional biosecurity staff to deliver required outcomes
Requirements	
• The role is located in a regional office, but the incumbent may be required to relocate anywhere in the State • Possession of a current driver's license and willingness to drive • Occasional inter / intrastate travel involving overnight absences will be required • Willingness to travel and work remotely • Occasional out of hours work will be required • You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations	Qualifications • Essential: Degree in Veterinary Science registrable with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of SA

Capabilities	
Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates sound knowledge across animal health and disease issues, with in-depth knowledge of endemic disease management, applies a sound understanding of knowledge in livestock diseases.	• Maintains up to date knowledge and skills of the relevant technical areas • Explains technical information accurately and clearly to non-technical people • Shows high levels of technical/professional competence and ability to manage complex tasks
Building Networks Maintains strong internal network and systematically builds external contacts to facilitate achieving objectives, for exchange of information and for mutual benefit.	• Builds a strong network of professional contacts and actively works to maintain this • Builds relationships of trust and cooperation with key livestock stakeholders, identifying leaders and those with influence • Forms collaborative working relationships with colleagues and private veterinarians, bringing in a diverse range of skills to a project

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Planning and Organizing Work Manages own and others time efficiently, plans resource availability and use, and acts autonomously within the scope of duties, so that work is completed on time and in line with objectives.	- Identifies capabilities and resources needed to achieve the outcomes - Can manage priorities, move projects forward, and deliver quality work without constant supervision - Recognizes and acts on opportunities to deal with potential problems
Communication Communicates effectively with a wide range of people and expresses ideas clearly and coherently, both verbally and in writing.	- Communicates ideas and information in a form well matched to, and well received by, staff and other stakeholders at all levels - Puts complex technical information in a form that is clearly understood and relevant to the audience - Can communicate clearly and professionally with a range of audiences, both verbally and in a range of writing styles

HRMS No:		ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate Approval:	Nathan Rhodes Executive Director			Date:	
Approved and Classified by People and Culture:	[Date] [Reference Number]				