



Information Sheet – Urban Farming

If you are a veterinarian interested in offering services to the urban farmer in relation to chickens, goats, lamb, rabbits and pigs, here is what you need to know.

Animals raised for the purpose of production – eggs, milk, cheese or meat – in a more urban location, are defined as food animals, not pets.

Accreditation: A facility accreditation certificate is public information and noted on the Public Register.

Veterinarians choosing to provide veterinary services to clients involved in urban farming must work from an accredited food animal mobile. A veterinarian currently working in a companion animal facility can expand their services by applying for a food animal mobile. Dependent on the scope of veterinary services offered, the Accreditation Committee can grant exemptions from unnecessary equipment.

For information on applying for a food animal mobile, please visit the College website – Accreditation Process – Renewal, Changes, Closure at: [https://cvo.org/For-Licensed-Members/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process-\(1\).aspx](https://cvo.org/For-Licensed-Members/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process-(1).aspx)

Egg-laying Birds and Accreditation: The College has received questions about whether certain species of egg-laying birds that are kept for ornamental reasons (e.g., peacocks) or as a hobby (e.g., pigeon racing) would be considered food animals and whether a veterinarian treating these birds would require a food producing animal accreditation. The College has determined that if a veterinarian whose scope of practice focuses on avian species is presented with an egg-laying bird as described above, they should inquire with the bird’s owner whether the bird will be used for food production. If not, they may treat the bird from a companion animal facility and assure themselves that the bird will not be used for food production due to the risk to public health and safety. If they determine that the bird will be used for food production, then they should refer the client to a veterinarian with an accredited food producing animal facility.

As a comparison, consider rabbits. Veterinarians treat companion rabbits in companion animal facilities. If a commercial rabbit grower were seeking a veterinarian to treat rabbits on their farm that are being raised for food, the companion animal veterinarian would refer them to a veterinarian with an accredited food producing animal facility.

Professional Practice Standards: Every veterinarian, regardless of scope of practice, is expected to meet the established standards of practice of the profession.