

In fiscal year 1966, 104,988,350 animals were slaughtered under Federal Meat Inspection. Veterinarians direct all slaughtering and administer the over-all meat inspection program, as well as the humane slaughter law, which requires that animals be rendered insensible before slaughter begins. During 1966, over 264,992 animals at slaughter were condemned by veterinarians as unfit for human consumption. In addition, over 9,765,514 animal carcasses were temporarily retained until diseased or affected portions were removed. (Federal Meat Inspection. A Statistical Summary for 1966. United States Department of Agriculture, Consumer and Marketing Service, February 1967, pages 2-12.)

*Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—U.S. Public Health Service*

In 1943 the U.S. Public Health Service organized a veterinary medical program and in 1947 established the veterinary officers' corps. Members presently occupy key positions in a variety of programs throughout the Service. Veterinarians are today employed by the Service in the fields of milk and food sanitation, laboratory animal medicine, comparative pathology and physiology, industrial health, epidemiology, infectious diseases, air pollution, radiological health, cancer and cardiovascular and kidney disease research.

*Food and Drug Administration*

Veterinarians in the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration are concerned with the protection of human health. They develop scientific methods for detecting worthless or harmful drugs and assure that foods, drugs, and cosmetics are wholesome, safe to use, made under sanitary conditions, and truthfully labeled. They determine the safety or danger of additives (such as antibiotics and other growth stimulating drugs) in feed consumed by food-producing animals to insure that meat, milk, or eggs are safe for human consumption. During 1967, the Bureau reviewed 1,200 new drug applications. The Bureau also processed 7,700 applications for the use of new drugs in the manufacture of medicated feeds.

*Department of Defense*

Veterinary officers in the Armed Forces work closely with the Medical Corps and other health services wherever prevention of diseases and the promotion of the well being and efficiency of the soldier, sailor and airman is at stake. In addition to food inspection, veterinary officers help in maintaining surveillance over post or base sanitation, and are called upon to assist in controlling epidemic disease outbreaks where knowledge of the cause, source, prevention, and procedures for disease eradication is essential. The military veterinarian is also an important member of the epidemiological team.

Military veterinarians assigned to the Walter Reed Institute of Research and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology are directly concerned with the identification, control and eradication of the major animal diseases transmissible to man. In support of these basic objectives, veterinarians are currently engaged in areas such as pathologic examinations, research in nutritional diseases, basic studies in immunopathology, development of new vaccines and improvement of existing ones, studies in the pathogenesis of "standard" and "new" diseases of laboratory animals, and development of better biological systems for viral isolation studies.

*Aero-space and bio-astronautics research programs* using experimental animals are conducted by Air Force biomedical teams. These studies on animals encompass hyperventilation, anoxia, overpressures, radiation, deceleration, acceleration, and related hazards, and stresses of space travel. Data derived from these studies are interpreted with a view to man. Some 60 Air Force veterinary officers with post-doctoral training in medical-scientific disciplines such as pathology, laboratory animal medicine, food technology, radiobiology, physiology and toxicology, serve as essential members of the biomedical research teams. These highly trained veterinary officers provide the Air Force Medical Services with a research capability and a reservoir of knowledge and skills in widely diversified areas.

Military veterinarians have made many contributions to the health and comfort of civilians. Perhaps the broadest service of the military veterinarian to the health of the public was the establishment and maintenance of minimum standards of sanitation in many thousands of food producing and processing establishments throughout the country. Such establishments had to comply with military standards of sanitation in order to qualify for government con-