

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAJURO ATOLL
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): MAJURO ATOLL, THE CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: [] Moderate Priority [] High Priority [X] Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

[] Type I Shortage: Private Practice
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- [] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

[] Type II Shortage: Private Practice - Rural Area
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- [] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

May cover

- [] Beef Cattle
[] Dairy Cattle
[] Swine
[] Poultry
[] Small Ruminant
[] Other: _____

[X] Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: RMI MINISTRY OF RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT Position Title: VETERINARIAN
Please select one or more specialty/disciplinary areas:

- [] Food Safety
[X] Public Health
[] Epidemiology
[] Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a country in “free association” with the United States, eligible for U.S. grant funding. There is no veterinarian providing medical care for animals in the country, and no way to obtain appropriate paperwork for animals to travel with their owners in and out of the country. The RMMI cannot have its status as a rabies free country without the services of a veterinarian in the country. The lack of a veterinarian has resulted in unchecked population explosions of both feral and owned cats and dogs. This crease serious health risks for the human population, as the dogs have formed packs that frequently attack children and adults walking on the side of the road. The only recourse is for the police to periodically gather the animals for destruction (usually they just club them in the head).

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The veterinarian would provide neuter and spay services, general veterinarian care of all animals, including treatment of skin diseases, removal of tumors, regular vaccinations of cats and dogs, deworming, certification of animal and emergency care services. The veterinarian will conduct animal care awareness workshops in the community.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

There has never been a veterinarian on Majuro. Apart from the efforts of private citizens, who have from time to time, organized for and covered the cost of airline tickets and on-island expenses for volunteer veterinarians to come to the island, there has been no effort or funds allocated for this essential health services. The U.S. Navy comes every four years with a team of veterinarians, but this is not adequate.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Without a veterinarian on Majuro, animals go without basic veterinarian services and care. Pet owners continue to be deprived of spay or neuter services, basic care for their animals, which further exacerbates the uncontrolled population of cats and dogs. Owners cannot keep up with the numerous litters, and the animals end up running in wild packs, scavenging for food, becoming more and more aggressive and feral, and/or starving to death. We would expect to see an increased number of biting incidents, the spread of diseases from animals to humans (ringworm, tapeworms, hookworms, flea and tick infestations) as well as worsening contamination of the water supply.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- ◆ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

- ◆ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Henry Capelle

Title: Chief of Agriculture

Organization: Ministry of Resources & Development

Email: kikurto@yahoo.com

Telephone Number: 692/625-3206
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information,

including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OIGM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
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