

Inter-department Correspondence

*Re Veterinary Regulations  
for the College.*



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM

THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

April 1st, 1933

At Macdonald College

After lunch I went to a basketball game; at four o'clock I saw Professor Ness of the Department of Animal Husbandry, who said that he had no recollection of the bull condemned by Conklin ever being used but he could not say that the progeny of that bull had not been used.

The cows suffer from a genital disease which results in their slipping their calves, and of course, no milk. It means that we shall probably have to get rid of some valuable cows and at the same time buy grade cows in the fall to supply the milk for the College.

Inter-department Correspondence



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR;  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM  
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

April 5, 1933.

I discussed with Conklin the offer made to him by the Quebec Government and he told me he preferred to remain at the College and would remain there. I further discussed with him his relations to those Departments where there was live stock, The Department of Animal Husbandry and the Department of Poultry. I told Conklin that I would hold him responsible for advice as to the health of animals and birds; that he was to visit the herds and flock as often as he thought advisable and that in any instructions he felt called upon to give his word was to be supreme and the Departments would have to carry out his instructions. Apparently this has not always been done. The Professor of Poultry and the Professor of Animal Husbandry being quite satisfied to take Conklin's advice but evidently using their own judgment as to their action. Conklin says that he has advised year after year that the sickness in the poultry flock could never be eliminated unless the chickens were moved to a new run. He also told me that seven years ago he had advised that a certain bull in the herd be not used and gave as his advice that should any progeny result from the use of that bull they should not be used either. His advice was ignored, with the result that we are faced with a serious loss in the herd. I told Conklin I regarded him as holding a position equivalent to that of a divisional veterinary officer, whose business it was to cure sick animals if

(over)

he could and to give such advice as would lead to better health, and that his word was law when it came to the destruction of an animal. I asked that he prepare a set of regulations which would make his position and duties clear and told him I would order these into effect.

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

RAILWAY STATIONS, EXPRESS AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES:

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:

MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

April 26, 1933.

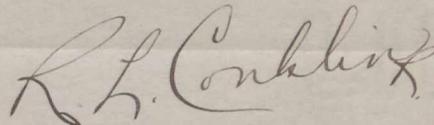
Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I received a telephonic communication from Mr. Ward some days ago stating that the Principal desired an outline of a programme dealing with disease prevention among the animals and fowls at Macdonald College. After very careful consideration of all phases of the problem, I am submitting the enclosed outline for your information and approval.

The success of any programme of this nature depends largely upon mutual understanding and co-operation between the individuals in charge of the many phases of the work, since it is obviously impossible for a health officer to carry out the routine work entailed.

Sincerely yours,



R.L. Conklin,  
Professor of Animal Pathology.

C/R+

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

RAILWAY STATIONS, EXPRESS AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES:

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:

MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Memo: Concerning Hygiene or Disease Prevention Among Domestic Animals.

There are reasons for the belief that problems associated with disease are eternal ones and that they will continue in spite of all human effort. This belief is undoubtedly fundamentally true, and it is for this reason essential that means be devised to maintain animal life to the advantage of man-made necessities. The principle involved in this work is based upon the maintenance of health and the prevention of disease which is actually hygiene.

The scope of hygiene includes three chief divisions:

1. Genetic hygiene which includes the consideration of the genetic make-up of the animal in its relation to its ability to exist and to reproduce under the conditions set up by man.
2. Environmental hygiene is affected by the various factors surrounding the animal.
3. Biologic hygiene, the relationship of animals to biologic forms that may affect their health. Included in this classification would be the micro-parasites that cause disease. The phase of hygiene would embrace preventative medicine.

The object of hygiene is to create conditions suitable for or compatible with the physical well-being of animals and to consider the possibility of compensating for the deviation

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The object of hygiene is to create conditions suitable for or compatible with the physical well-being of animals and to consider the possibility of compensating for the deviation

from the natural ecologic relations incidental to domestication and to exclude the biological causes of disease at a minimum cost.

Hygiene is both a science and an art. The science is based upon a wide range of subjects from the fundamental sciences (physics, chemistry, meteorology, etc.), to the biological sciences (physiology, genetics, bacteriology, immunology, entomology, parasitology and pathology). The art is intimately associated with clinical medicine and that form of applied psychology known as "human nature".

The task which we are faced with may be stated as follows:

1. To remove or reduce the hazards associated with the artificial conditions of environment.
2. To reduce morbidity to a state compatible with economic Animal Husbandry.

Owing to the nature of the problem as I see it, and have outlined it in the preceding paragraphs, it is extremely difficult to lay down a concise program to which each department might be requested to comply. Each individual and each species presents a different problem according to the many factors involved at the moment. It is possible to state a few general principles that should be observed.

#### General Principles

1. Housing conditions shall at all times be maintained in the

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#### General Principles

1. Housing conditions shall at all times be maintained in the

proper state of sanitation, with suitable ventilation and facilities for the prevention of the spread of disease. All buildings and equipment shall be subject to inspection.

2. Isolation quarters shall be provided for sick animals and for the housing of new additions of stock to the department.
3. New additions of stock shall be subject to inspection by a veterinarian at the time of purchase. A health certificate must accompany the animal upon arrival at the institution.
4. New additions of animals shall be kept in quarantine ( at the college farm ) until released by a veterinary certificate.
5. Accurate records should be kept concerning the health of all stock. Individuals used for experimental work of any description shall have a memo. concerning the nature of the experiment attached to their record.
6. Any suggestion affecting the management, the practices or the state of health of the stock held by the department shall be made in writing to the head of the department who is responsible for the burden.

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May 4, 1933.

Professor R. L. Conklin,  
Veterinary Department,  
Macdonald College P.Q.

Dear Professor Conklin,

I have your letter of April 26th, with an enclosure which is very interesting and instructive and appreciated, but it is not quite what I want.

I had come to the conclusion that there was not as complete an understanding between you and the various live stock departments, as to your duties and responsibilities and their relationship to you, as is desired. It was my wish that you draw up a set of instructions, or a memorandum, in which your relationship to the live stock departments would be clearly defined. For instance, under the section "General Principles", you say,

"Housing conditions shall at all times be maintained in the proper state of sanitation with suitable ventilation and facilities for the prevention of the spread of disease."

It seems to me you should add to this, something to the effect that this should be done to the satisfaction of the Veterinary Officer of the College.

You go on to say that

"All buildings and equipment shall be subject to inspection."

Why not say,

"All buildings and equipment shall be inspected by the Veterinary Officer at frequent and regular intervals."

Coming to No. 6, you say

"Any suggestion affecting the management, the practices or the state of health of stock held

May 5, 1933.

by the Department shall be made in writing to the Head of the Department, who is responsible for the burden."

Why not say,

"suggestions having to do with the health of animals are to be made in writing by the Veterinary Officer to the Head of the Department."

But I would go further, and say that

"orders by the Veterinary Officer to the Head of the Department in matters of health, etc. shall be made in writing and that it will be the responsibility of the Head of the Department to see that they are carried out, or to furnish the Veterinary Officer with such assistance as will enable him to carry them out."

Mr. Ward was in my office yesterday and I spoke to him about these things and asked him to get in touch with you and help you draw up a set of regulations which will be satisfactory to me.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

RAILWAY STATIONS, EXPRESS AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES:

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:

MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

May 11, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

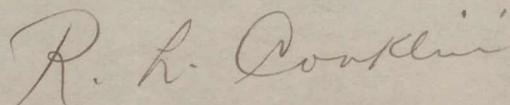
In reply to your letter of May 4th, containing some suggestions as to the modification of plan concerning sanitation and hygiene as related to the various departments maintaining animals, I wish to submit the enclosed memorandum embodying the changes which you suggest, together with one or two additions.

I have gone over this matter with Dr. Snell, the Acting Dean, and considered the advisability of this programme from the standpoint of administration. It is my aim to arrange a programme which will not interfere with the prerogative of the administration staff, including the Dean and the heads of departments, but at the same time to comply with your desire to obtain full cooperation of all concerned in the protection of the Institutional investment in animals.

I have not consulted Mr. Ward in this matter for the reasons which I have already made quite clear to Dr. Snell, the chief one of which is as follows: When individuals or departments find that authority is disseminated among numerous individuals the result is usually dissatisfaction and frequently incompetence or failure to carry out one's duty is covered up by passing the responsibility from one individual to another. I have considered the Dean as my immediate superior in Institutional matters, and through him I consider that I am responsible to the Principal. Hoping that this method of reporting upon this matter meets with your approval, and being always ready to accept your suggestions in the matter of administration,

I am,

Yours very truly,



R.L. Conklin,  
Professor of Animal Pathology.

C/R.

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

RAILWAY STATIONS, EXPRESS AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES:

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:

MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

MEMO: Concerning the relationship to be maintained between the College Veterinarian and Departments controlling live-stock.

1. The College Veterinarian will issue orders concerning matters of health to the Head of the Department concerned. It will be the responsibility of the Head of the Department to see that they are carried out, or to furnish the Veterinarian with such assistance as will enable him to carry them out.
2. The movement of animals that may affect the health situation (such as the introduction of new animals, inter-head transfers and exchanges) shall be made under the direction or approval of the College Veterinarian.
3. A list of the animals will be provided for the College Veterinarian and the list will be revised as changes occur.
4. All buildings and equipment shall be inspected by the College Veterinarian at frequent and regular intervals.
5. Housing conditions shall at all times be maintained in the proper state of sanitation with suitable ventilation and other facilities as necessary for the prevention of the spread of disease.
6. Suggestions having to do with the health of animals are to be made in writing by the College Veterinarian to the Head of the Department.
7. A summary of the activities of the College Veterinarian in his relationship to the various "outside departments" will be made to the office of the Dean at the close of each month.

23, August, 1933.

Professor J. F. Snell,  
Macdonald College P.O., P.Q.

Dear Professor Snell,

I have your letter of the 21st,  
together with copy of the regulations governing the  
veterinary supervision of livestock and poultry.

These regulations are satisfac-  
tory to me, and I hope they will result in the most  
cordial co-operation between the different animal  
departments and the director of veterinary services  
at the College.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

RAILWAY STATIONS AND EXPRESS:  
STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:  
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

August 21st, 1933.

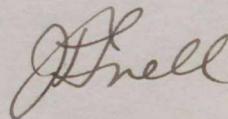
Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I am enclosing copy of the proposed regulations concerning veterinary supervision of animals on the Macdonald College property, also copy of a letter I have just addressed to those concerned. These regulations are in accord with the suggestions made by you last spring. The delay in completing them has been due to Dr. Conklin's occupation in other directions and to absences on his part and on mine. Dr. Conklin and I thought the regulations should apply to the animals of the Cartage, Horticulture and Agronomy Departments, as well as to those used for breeding and experimental purposes on the Stock Farm and in the Poultry Department. They will involve considerable work for Dr. Conklin's Department but he is willing to undertake the work and the responsibility.

I am also sending the memoranda submitted to you in my office on May 12th. I found that we had both the original and the carbon copies of these memoranda. Most of them refer to matters now disposed of but it appears to me that one copy of each might well be in your possession.

Yours faithfully,



Acting Dean.

JFS/Y

REGULATIONS GOVERNING VETERINARY SUPERVISION OF LIVE STOCK  
AND POULTRY.

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1. The College Veterinarian will issue written orders concerning matters of health to the Head of the Department concerned. It will be the responsibility of the Head of the Department to see that they are carried out or to furnish the Veterinarian with such assistance as will enable him to carry them out. The Head of the Department and his subordinates will so co-operate with the Veterinarian as to facilitate his work and economize his time.
  
2. The movements of animals that may affect the health situation shall be made under the direction or with the approval of the College Veterinarian.
  - (a) Isolation quarters shall be provided for sick animals and for the housing of newly acquired stock.
  - (b) New stock shall be subject to inspection by a veterinarian at the time of purchase. A health certificate must accompany the animal upon its arrival at the College.
  - (c) New stock shall be kept in quarantine at the College until released by a veterinary inspector.
  - (d) Accurate records shall be kept concerning the health of all stock.
  - (e) Individuals used for experimental work of any description must have a memorandum concerning the nature of the experiment attached to their records.
  - (f) The movement of any animal from the College to another farm to be later returned to the College, and the use of College animals for breeding purposes outside of our jurisdiction shall be under the supervision of the veterinarian.

3. A list of the animals shall be provided for the College Veterinarian and the list shall be revised as changes occur.
4. All the buildings and equipment shall be inspected by the College Veterinarian monthly.
5. Housing conditions shall at all times be maintained in the proper state of sanitation with suitable ventilation and other facilities necessary for the prevention of the spread of disease.
6. A summary of the activities of the College Veterinarian in his relation to the various "outside" departments will be made to the office of the Dean at the close of each month.

August 21st, 1933.

C O P Y

MACDONALD COLLEGE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

RAILWAY STATIONS AND EXPRESS:  
STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:  
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

This letter sent to:-

August 21st, 1933.

Prof. Ness  
" Maw  
" Bunting  
" Summerby  
" Conklin  
Mr. Ward

Dear Professor -

I am enclosing a copy of regulations governing veterinary supervision of live stock and poultry, which I have drawn up after consultation with the Principal. If you have any representations to make concerning these regulations as applying to animals used in your department, I shall be glad to receive these so that any necessary modifications may be made before the regulations are put in force, on September 1st.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Dean.

JFS/Y

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

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FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
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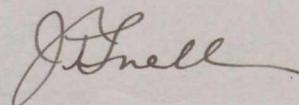
August 26th, 1933.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

In reference to the veterinary regulations, of which copy was sent to you a few days ago, I have had certain representations and questions from Professors Ness, Maw and Summerby asking for an understanding regarding Dr. Conklin's responsibilities and asking for interpretations of certain of the regulations. Dr. Conklin is absent today but I intend discussing these representations with him at the earliest opportunity and may wish to consult you in case an issue should arise between him and the heads of other departments.

Yours faithfully,



Acting Dean.

JFS/Y

*To be discussed at the table*

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

RAILWAY STATIONS AND EXPRESS:

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:

MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

September 8th, 1933.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

The conference on veterinary regulations with Professors Conklin, Ness and Maw, was held on September 2nd and I am enclosing a copy of the regulations then agreed upon. These differ in some details from those issued under date of August 21st.

The regulation regarding inspection of animals at time of purchase was eliminated as unnecessary in view of the requirement of quarantine at the College. The regulation regarding records was revised in the interests of clarity. Regulation 2 (f) was introduced to provide for the governmental accreditation of the dairy herd, which exists at present in reference to tuberculosis and may possibly be extended later to cover contagious abortion. Regulation 4 was altered because it was felt that a monthly inspection of all buildings, equipment and animals would impose too much work upon the Veterinarian, and as Professor Maw objected to inspection in his absence, the arrangements for monthly inspections by the Veterinarian and head of department together would be cumbersome. None of those concerned felt that a formal monthly inspection was necessary.

Our Ayrshires are not at present free of contagious abortion but I am assured by Dr. Conklin and Professor Ness that different bulls will, from henceforth, be used in the breeding of healthy and infected cows.

In reference to Professor Maw's letter to you dated August 28th, Dr. Conklin asks me to explain that at the time Professor Maw decided to leave some cockerels on the range at the College he did not feel that he had authority to forbid this but that he had sent to Professor Maw an objection in the form of a letter, dated May 29th, a copy of which I enclose.

I wish to report also that prior to the conference I went over the poultry ranges at the College and on Mr. Harrison's farm with Professor Maw. The stock in both places had every appearance of being in excellent condition of health. I found that part of the range at the College had been treated with lime and cultivated



REGULATIONS GOVERNING VETERINARY SUPERVISION OF LIVE STOCK  
AND POULTRY.

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2. The movements of animals that may affect the health situation shall be made with the approval of the College Veterinarian.
  - (a) Isolation quarters shall be provided for sick animals and for the housing of newly acquired stock.
  - (b) New stock shall be kept in quarantine at the College until released by a veterinary inspector.
  - (c) The Live Stock and Poultry Departments shall keep records of their observations of disease symptoms in places convenient for reference by the Veterinarian in his visits. The Veterinarian shall keep technical records of his diagnosis and treatments and shall furnish copies of such records to the heads of the Departments concerned.
  - (d) Individuals used for experimental work of any description must have a memorandum concerning the nature of the experiment attached to their records.
  - (e) The movement of any animal from the College to another farm to be later returned to the College, and the use of College animals for breeding purposes outside of ~~the~~ our jurisdiction shall be under the supervision of the Veterinarian.

(f) With the approval of the Veterinarian and the Dean, the heads of departments may participate in governmental projects for the prevention or elimination of disease. When such projects are undertaken, all the obligations involved shall be observed.

3. A list of the animals shall be provided for the College Veterinarian and the list shall be revised as changes occur.
4. All buildings, equipment and animals shall be subject to inspection by the College Veterinarian.
5. Housing conditions shall at all times be maintained in the proper state of sanitation with suitable ventilation and other facilities necessary for the prevention of the spread of disease.
6. A summary of the activities of the College Veterinarian in his relation to the various "outside" departments shall be made to the office of the Dean at the close of each month.

September 8th, 1933.