

Multnomah County Vector* Control and Enforcement Advisory Committee

**Vectors are animals/insects that can transmit disease to humans*
Interest Form

Purpose:

Acquire diverse community perspectives and recommendations on the full range of Vector Control and Enforcement activities and liaison to general environmental health advisory committee.

Please call for information (Ben Duncan, 503-988-3663 x22439#)

We are happy to take your application information by mail or email. Send your completed application to:

Multnomah County Health Department
Vector Control and Enforcement Advisory Committee
c/o Ben Duncan
3653 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

Benjamin.e.duncan@multco.us

Name Debbie Porter

Address 21841 SE Morrison Ct

City/State/ZIP Code Gresham OR 97030

Home Phone 503 341 1464 Work Phone (NA, not a public phone)

e-mail: dporter55 @hotmail.com

Place of Employment: Oregon University System Chancellor's Office at Portland State University

1. The Multnomah County Vector Control and Enforcement Advisory Committee will provide a community perspective and recommendations to vector planning and response. What interests or activities of yours may pertain to vectors and enforcement of codes that relate to community livability?

I am interested in companion animal health , natural resources and public health. I have owned horses and house pets for many years and I am aware of the diseases that can be transmitted, as well as disease prevention.

Appointments will be staggered for one two and three year terms.

2. What is your preferred time commitment to this committee? *It may not be possible to assure your preference.

One Year _____ Two Years x_____ Three Years _____

3. How long have you lived in Multnomah County?

Less than a year_____ 1-5 Years_____ 5-10 Years_____ 10+ Years__x_____

4. What is your occupation? If retired, what was your former occupation?

I hold grant-funded position at a call center, the Oregon Adult Learner College Line. I have a small business tutoring middle school-age students in writing. I am attending Southern Oregon University; I am working on a Nonprofit Management Certificate in the business department and will be finished this summer.

5. Please describe your educational training or background:

I have worked at an equine veterinary clinic, for a pet store chain and for many small businesses and I am aware of the challenges of keeping communities safe from vector-transmitted diseases.

I have an associate degree from Mt. Hood Community College in Computer Applications (2005). For my bachelor of science degree from Oregon State University in General Agriculture (2008), I studied animal diseases, rangeland resources, public policy and ecological systems. I have attended community workshops about pasture management.

6. Are you a member of any groups or organizations? Please list and describe your involvement.

I belong to Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Alpha Zeta Agriculture Fraternity, The National Association of Professional Women and the Nonprofit Association of Oregon. My involvement is generally limited to online activities.

7. Have you had any previous experience with consensus committees or decision making?

Yes__x__ No_____ If so, please describe: As an executive board member of Phi Theta Kappa at Mt. Hood Community College, I served as Communication officer for two years in 2002-2004. The board regularly made decisions concerning events, expenditures and service projects for about 50 active members. We followed professional meeting procedures.

8. What perspectives or special skills do you feel you bring to the Advisory Committee?

I have lived in and around the Portland Area for many years, after growing up in rural eastern Washington, so I have a unique perspective on the region and its challenges. I have boarded horses at private boarding barns and have dealt with rodent and mosquito problems, as well as being aware of and taking measures to prevent lesser known diseases such as EPM and West Nile Virus.

I have knowledge of a variety of animals through veterinary and retail experience. I completed a 90 veterinary technician preparation course taught by local veterinarians and assisted with Horse Care community education courses at Mt. Hood Community College. As a veterinary assistant, I cared for and medicated animals, prepared and ordered medication and vaccines, served clients and assisted the veterinarians with clinic and farm calls. I prepared specimens for laboratory pickup and obtained education about disease prevention for clients. I assisted with client education about interstate health certificate regulations, import restrictions and vaccines required by other states and countries. I also assisted with AHSA drug testing at the Oregon State Fairgrounds.

I have written freelance articles for Capital Press, East County Gazette and have had reprints in Flying Changes and Professional Horseman. I worked at The Trophy, a horse-interest monthly magazine, as office manager and writer for two years. I currently write the monthly electronic newsletter for the Oregon Adult Learner College Line and maintain the program listserv.

My current position and my small business are all about education and helping people obtain information. I enjoy doing research and helping people find solutions.

9. What do you feel are the most important Environmental Health issues affecting Multnomah County?

The environmental health issues that I feel are most important are those of which the public may be least aware. Public agencies need to be vigilant to inform the public about how, for example, even small steps taken around the yard can help keep everyone safer from diseases that can be transmitted by animals.

For example, most homeowners or rentals may not know that mosquitoes can breed in small amounts of standing water, and that they can transmit diseases such as encephalitis and malaria. Metropolitan areas need to create awareness about rodent diseases that affect humans, too, and how transmission can be prevented. As recent outbreaks of bird and swine flu in other countries have shown, domestic and wild animals can transmit diseases that are detrimental to human health, and they can spread very quickly. Feral animals can spread dangerous diseases, too, as evidenced by the recent rabies outbreaks in southern Oregon.

I feel it is important to inform the public without causing alarm, but it is important to address health issues before they become huge problems that are less manageable.

10. Membership will entail participating in committee work, usually about 2 hours total per month. Are you able to make the time commitment necessary to participate at this level?
[x] Yes [] No

11. Please provide personal or professional references:

Joanne Link 503 669 7548 horse stable owner, personal reference
Stedman Bailey 503 725 5767 supervisor, Oregon Adult Learner College Line

Multnomah County Vector Control and Enforcement Mission Statement

The mission of Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control (MCVNC) is to promote community livability by managing vector-borne diseases through surveillance, suppression of vector populations and code enforcement to maintain and support those actions. MCVNC works in cooperation with surrounding communities and other contracting entities to address emerging vector-borne disease issues.