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## **VETERINARY SERVICE IN THE YEARS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR**

The military successes of the Armed Forces during the Second World War was fully contributed by the rear services of the Red Army. A worthy place among them was occupied by the military veterinary service. Its importance during the war was determined by the needs of the army in large number of horses and other military animals.

From the first days of the Great Patriotic War, the main tasks of the military veterinary service was: preventive, anti-epizootic and medical evacuation of the horse composition, as well as veterinary and sanitary supervision of benign meat and other animal products coming into the army. Besides horses at veterinary security and maintenance were large and small cattle, thousands of military dogs, and animals abandoned by the population, evacuated from the areas of combat operations.

The main medical work throughout the war was assigned to veterinary surgeons. The proportion of surgical diseases increased every year, and amounted to 50-70% of the total incidence. For the first time in the history of Russian veterinary military field surgery has been allocated in the isolated clinical industry. During the period of World War II were re-developed treatment sections of lesions of the withers, joints, thoracic, abdomen and hooves; methods and ways of imposing immobilization bandages and others. There were also many surgical methods of treatment, including such wounds which once considered hopeless, and horses with such injuries in most cases were destroyed. Also, military veterinary service was faced with anextreme disadvantage diseases common to humans and animals, such as anthrax, glanders, tuberculosis, brucellosis, foot and mouth disease, etc.

A major role in providing army meat and other animal products played veterinary and sanitary supervision. It provides ante-mortem inspection of animals and veterinary-sanitary examination of meat and meat products, control of their transportation and storage. Distinctly organized veterinary-sanitary supervision contributed to the prevention the personnel from infectious diseases transmitted from animals through food, as well as from the mass outbreaks of food poisoning and intoxications.

In general, during the war years military veterinary service has successfully coped with the tasks of providing all the necessary products for the combat troops of the army.