

Mark Starr, DVM, MPVM, Dipl. ACVPM (Epidemiology)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mark Starr is a veterinarian whose career in public health spans more than three decades. He served as the Governor-appointed Deputy Director for Environmental Health in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) from 2012 to 2022 and he was the designated State Environmental Health Director for California. He also served as the Acting Deputy Director for Chronic Disease Prevention and as the Acting Deputy for Health Equity (two years each) during that time. Since his retirement in 2022 he has continued with CDPH as a part-time environmental health and One Health consultant.

Previously, Dr. Starr was the Director of Community Health, Clinics and Animal Services for Placer County for 5 years; he was with CDPH's Division of Communicable Disease Control for 12 years, including four years as Chief of the Division; and he was the Chief Epidemiologist for Sacramento County from 1990-1995.

Dr. Starr earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) degrees from the University of California, Davis and spent four years in private veterinary practice after graduation before entering public health. He is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and by the ACVPM's Epidemiology Specialty.

He has served in numerous leadership roles for various organizations in public health, veterinary medicine, and other areas at national, state and local levels for more than three decades. Currently, these include the Board of Directors for the One Health Commission (following 10 years on the Commission's Council of Advisors), immediate past chair of the Committee on Environmental Issues of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Board of Directors for the People and Pets Project (clinical One Health). He has also served on an institutional review board and on the board of a small charitable foundation.

As a part-time educator, Dr. Starr was Volunteer Clinical Professor for the Master of Public Health program at UC Davis for 16 years, and he previously taught courses in epidemiology and public health at California State University Sacramento and at Chapman University. He has given over 100 presentations at various public health, environmental health, and veterinary medicine meetings and conferences. He enjoys running, hiking, taking public transit, studying Spanish, and traveling.

