

### **33. - BACKFLOW AT A VETERINARY OFFICE**

DATE OF BACKFLOW INCIDENT: June 1983

LOCATION OF BACKFLOW INCIDENT: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

SOURCE(S) OF INFORMATION:

- American Water Works Association, Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection > Control, AWWA Manual M14, Second Edition, 1990

#### **CASE HISTORY**

On June 23, 1983, the City of Calgary, Alberta, received complaints from several homes about poor tasting water flowing from their taps. The City had its waterworks division collect water samples and forward them to a laboratory for analysis. Analyses showed high plate counts in some samples and detectable traces of *Escherichia coli* in one sample. As a result, the City had its water works division immediately begin flushing water mains in the area and dispatched plumbing inspectors to find out if a cross-connection was responsible for the detection of *Escherichia coli*. After water mains in the area were flushed for several hours, the City collected new water samples. Analyses of these samples showed lower plate counts, but *Escherichia coli* was still detectable in the samples. After a 32-hour investigation of premises within the area, plumbing inspectors found several cross-connections at a veterinary office.

The City ordered the installation of backflow-prevention assemblies at the veterinary office. Analyses of water samples collected after installation of the assemblies showed no evidence of water contamination.