



The WOAHA Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

*Subregional Workforce Development
Workshop
Almaty, Kazakhstan
March 2023*



The Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP):





VLSP

- **2006-2007:** early PVS Evaluations revealed a lack of capacity in drafting and enforcing legislation (CCs IV-1 and IV-2)
- **2007-2008:** VLSP pilot missions
- **2008:** *WOAH Guidelines on veterinary legislation*
- **2012:** *Guidelines* become WOAHA standards as:

Chapter 3.4. “Veterinary Legislation”
of the WOAHA *Terrestrial Code*



- **2018-2020:** development of 2 specific areas of focus:
 - **biothreat reduction**
 - **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

Development and piloting of a *Tripartite* (FAO-WOAH-WHO)
One Health AMR Legal Assessment Tool



Includes adequate regulation of the use of antimicrobials (AMs) by VPPs:

- ✓ acts of veterinary medicine that VPPs may perform or not (i.e. **prescription and administration** to animals of AMs) or only under the supervision of a vet
- ✓ appropriate **qualifications, training, continuing education**



1. Identification mission

1 week

Analysis based on the Chapter 3.4. “Veterinary Legislation” (*WOAH Terrestrial Code*), to identify gaps in existing legislation with **recommendations to modernise** the country’s veterinary legislation.

2. Agreement

6-month Preparatory Phase,
1-year Agreement (renewable)

Support to **modernise legislation** according to the country’s priority needs and strategic objectives through the revision of existing legislation or the development of new legislation.



The VLSP is...

Also an opportunity for **awareness raising and skills transfer** on:

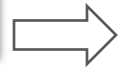
- Importance of **quality legislation** for effective operation of the VS
- Tips for **legal drafting** that results in quality legislation
- Promoting **collaboration** between technical (vet) and legal drafters (lawyers)





Summary

1- Identification mission



Questionnaire



RECOMMENDATIONS to modernize legislation

2- Agreement



VLSP Manual for Experts (Vol. 3: Examples of legislation)



SUPPORT to modernize legislation

VLSP methodology based on:

Chapter 3.4. “Veterinary Legislation” (WOAH *Terrestrial Code*)



Interested in knowing more about the WOAHP VLSP?



The Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)



Background

The overarching objective of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH – founded as OIE) is 'to improve animal health and welfare worldwide. In support of achieving that objective, WOAHP has created a set of tools and programmes to assist its Members with strengthening their Veterinary Services (VS). Taken together, this set of tools and programmes is known as the WOAHP PVS Pathway, where PVS refers to 'Performance of Veterinary Services'. By availing themselves of the various components of the PVS Pathway, Members can better implement the WOAHP international standards that they adopted.

The Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), established in 2008 to help Members recognise and address their needs for modern, comprehensive veterinary legislation, is one component of the PVS Pathway. Indeed, in many countries, veterinary legislation is outdated and inadequate to meet current and future challenges, such as the growing global demand for foods of animal origin, increased participation in world trade, shifting patterns of disease associated with climate change, emergence and re-emergence of diseases that can rapidly spread across international borders, the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and increased risks of bioterrorism.

Veterinary legislation is an essential element of a nation's infrastructure. It provides the powers and authorities necessary for VS to efficiently carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain¹ to ensure public safety and promote the public good. These functions include epidemiology-surveillance; early detection and reporting of animal and zoonotic diseases; rapid response to and prevention and control of animal disease and food safety emergencies; animal product food safety; the welfare of animals; and the relevant certification of animals and animal products for export.

Almost 70 Members have participated in the VLSP to date (2022).

¹ WOAHP defines the **veterinary domain** as 'all the activities that are directly or indirectly related to animals, their products and by-products, which help to protect, maintain and improve animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.'

Structure and objectives

The VLSP consists of **two stages**. The initial stage is the **Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission**, aimed at obtaining a detailed picture of the current state of the Member's veterinary legislation. The second stage is the **Veterinary Legislation Agreement** aimed at supporting the Member in correcting its deficiencies in veterinary legislation.

The **VETERINARY LEGISLATION IDENTIFICATION MISSION** objectives are to:

- raise awareness of the essential elements of legal drafting that result in **quality veterinary legislation** and of the importance of such quality for effective operation of the VS;
- **assess compliance of the Member's veterinary legislation with the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code - Chapter 3.4.** on veterinary legislation;
- ascertain the Member's available human, financial and organisational resources to produce high quality veterinary legislation;
- identify or support the preparation of **national priorities** in terms of veterinary legislation;
- develop **recommendations** to modernise the Member's veterinary legislation.

The **VETERINARY LEGISLATION AGREEMENT** objectives are to:

- establish specific objectives for legislation reform/modernisation according to the Member's priority needs and strategic objectives;
- raise awareness, strengthen relevant skills, and promote collaboration between technical and legal drafters, with the emphasis on strengthening the Member's capability to prepare and implement veterinary legislation of acceptable quality; and
- support the development of specific new laws and regulations according to the Member's priority needs and strategic objectives.

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See:

[VLSP Identification mission reports available online \(Link\)](#)





Veterinary Legislation and Regulation The Regulation of Veterinary Practice by Veterinarians and Veterinary Paraprofessionals

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WOAH SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND
VPPs IN CENTRAL ASIA
Almaty, Kazakhstan
March 28th - 30th 2023

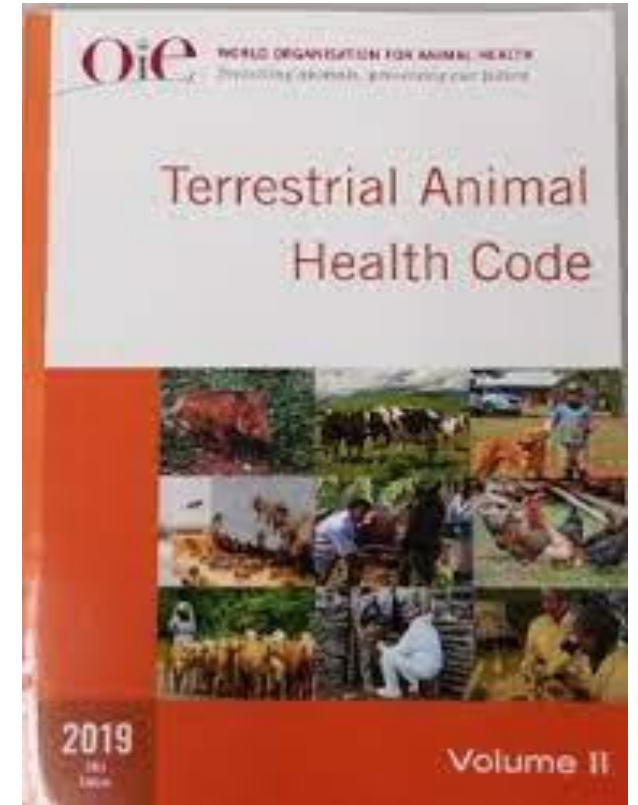
1. What is Veterinary Legislation?
2. WOAHA standards on veterinary legislation
3. What is veterinary practice legislation?
4. What is the difference between a Veterinary Association and a Veterinary Statutory Body?
5. Why cover veterinary paraprofessionals in veterinary practice legislation?

- **Laws and Rules governing the Veterinary Domain**
- “All the activities that are directly or indirectly related to animals, their products and by-products which help to protect, maintain and improve animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.” (TAHC 3.4.2)
- Legal texts that convert veterinary policies into concrete actions and results:
- Assigns the roles, powers and responsibilities of the Competent Authority for Animal Health and Veterinary Services.
- Establish the rights, duties and prohibitions of individuals who own or conduct activities related to animals, their products / by-products).
- Creates the basic system of implementation and controls according to defined standards.



Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 3.4:

- Competent authorities (3.4.5)
- Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (3.4.6)
- Laboratories in the veterinary domain (3.4.7)
- Health provisions relating to animal production (3.4.8)
- Animal diseases (3.4.9)
- Animal welfare (3.4.10)
- Veterinary medicinal products (3.4.11)
- Human food production chain (3.4.12)
- Import and export procedures and veterinary certification (3.4.13)
- General: purpose and objectives, definitions, structure and organization, drafting, alignment with international standards and obligations (3.4.1 – 3.4.4)



The purpose of veterinary practice legislation is to provide a basis for regulating **veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals** in the interests of animal health, livestock keepers and the public.

1. Establishes the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) as the Competent Authority for regulating veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.
2. Provides for the definition of the officially recognised categories of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.
3. Describe the general structure and system of regulation of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals by the veterinary statutory body



Veterinary/VPP Association / Chamber:

- Professional body → career development, advocacy role,
- Primarily promotes the interests of its members
- Organises Workshops / Seminars / Training Events
- **Voluntary membership**

Veterinary Statutory Body:

- Regulatory body → Standard setting, control, enforcement role
- Promotes societal interests along with member interests
- **Mandatory membership**



Why cover veterinary paraprofessionals in veterinary practice legislation?

WOAH guidelines recommend including veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) in veterinary practice legislation. (TAHC 3.4.6)

- To protect animals, the interests of livestock keepers – **FOOD SECURITY** and the interests of the public – Consumers of animal products – **FOOD SAFETY**
- To prevent veterinary paraprofessionals and other unauthorized practitioners from performing “Veterinary interventions” for which they have NOT been trained.
- Establishes officially recognized categories of VPPs, qualifications, prerogatives and Day One Competencies.
- Ensures coverage of all areas of Veterinary interest without gaps, overlaps or inconsistencies among the different categories of practitioners.
- Allows the Veterinary system to be tailored to national circumstances and needs.
- Ensures Safety and Quality of veterinary practice by VPPs through supervisory arrangements.



Thank you

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