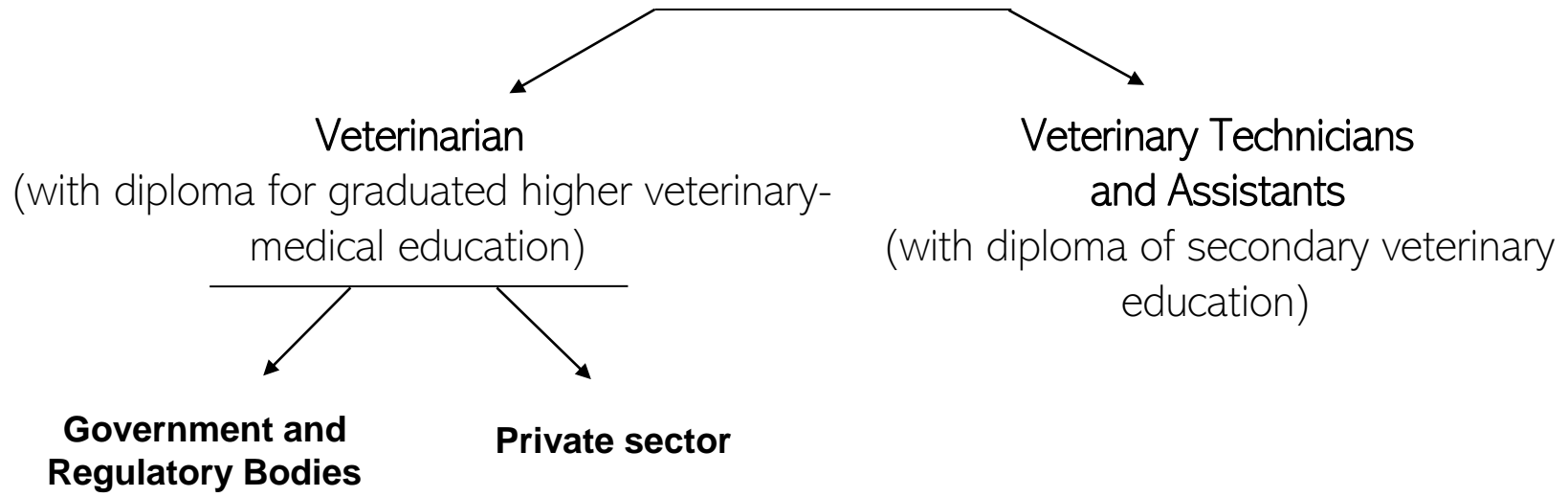




Veterinary network in Bulgaria

Please note that we do not have occupation Veterinary Para-Professional.

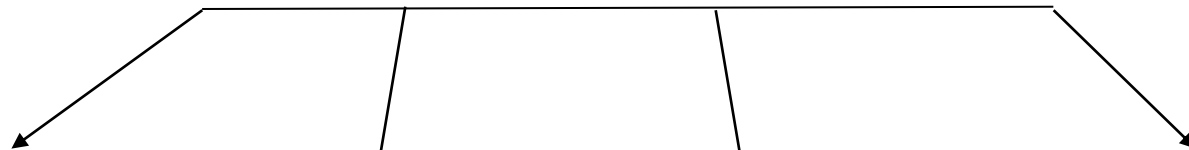
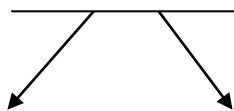
According to the National classification of professions in Bulgaria, are practiced:



Veterinary education in Bulgaria

Two (2) veterinary universities
(annually around 150 students graduate from all of them)

Four (4) high veterinary schools
(annually around 150 students graduate from all of them)



**Trakia University,
Stara Zagora
(with accreditation
of EAEVE)**



**University of Forestry,
Sofia**



**National
Vocational High
School of
Veterinary
Medicine "Prof. D-r
Dimitar Dimov"
Lovech**



**National
Professional School
of Veterinary
Medicine "Ivan
Pavlov"
Stara Zagora**



**Professional High
School of Veterinary
Medicine and Agriculture
"St. Georgi
Pobedonosets",
Kostinbrod**



**Professional High
School of Veterinary
Medicine "Prof. Dr. G.
Pavlov",
Dobrich**

Statute governing veterinarians and veterinary technicians

The legal framework: **Veterinary Practice Act** and **Act on the professional organization of veterinary doctors in Bulgaria**



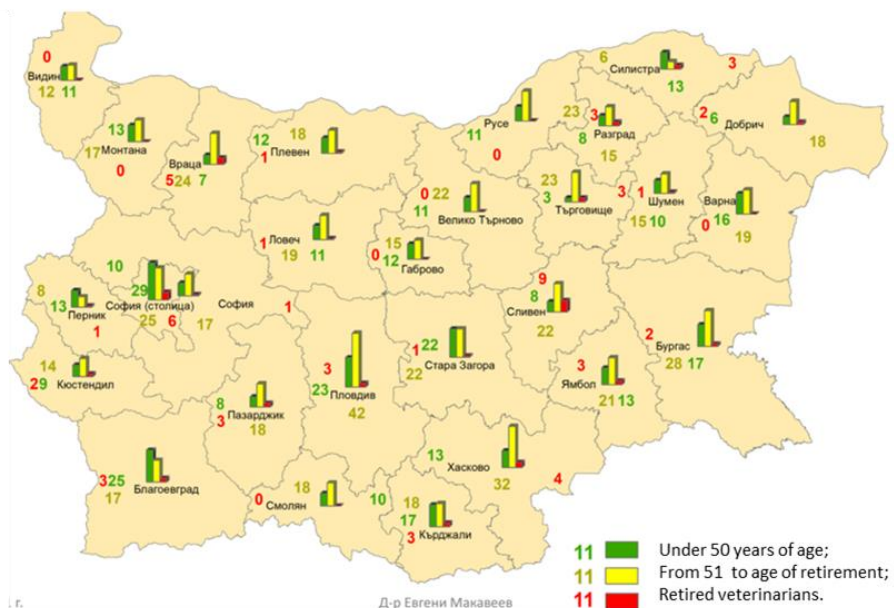
- **Veterinarians:** The acts mandates that private veterinarians must be registered with the Bulgarian Veterinary Union to practice. For registration are needed: copy of the diploma for graduated higher veterinary-medical education; criminal conviction certificate; for foreigners – permit for permanent residence in this country, with exception of nationals of EU Member States, or of other state – party to the EEA Agreement, and of Switzerland; document for recognizing the right to exercising the veterinary-medical profession in the Republic of Bulgaria – for persons, graduated veterinary-medical education abroad.
- **Veterinary Technicians:** Although the acts primarily focuses on veterinarians, veterinary technicians must also meet specific educational and professional standards, which are typically regulated by secondary legislation and professional bodies.



Veterinarians

State Veterinary Service

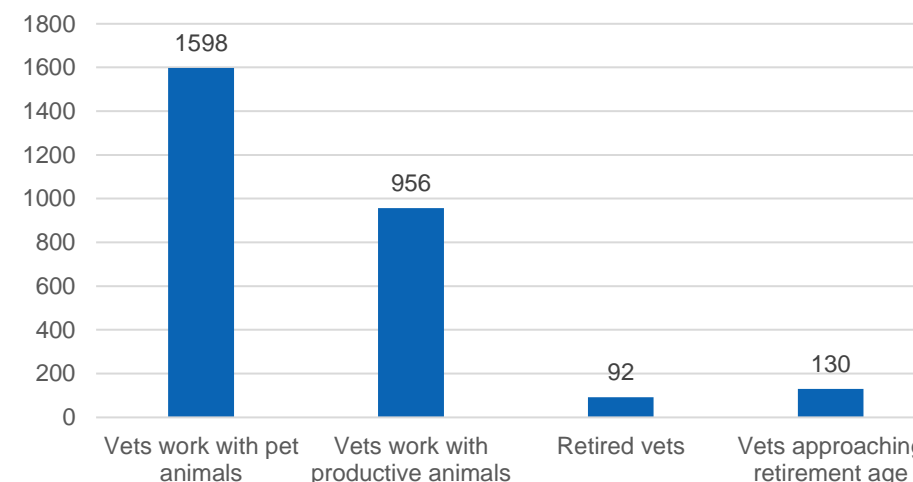
(Part of Government and Regulatory Bodies)
for 2021 - in total 969 veterinarians work for
BFSA



Private veterinarians

According to data from the Bulgarian
Veterinary Union for 2021 – in total 2554
veterinarians work for private sector.

Private veterinarians - in total 2 554 for 2021



NB! The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency delegate the rights according to Chapter III to Regulation (EC) 2017/625 to the private veterinarians the performance of the National program for the prevention, supervision, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses, in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is implementing by private veterinarians (№ 923 for 2023) , who are paid by the government budget for the activities performed.

Importance and roles of veterinary technicians in Bulgaria

Veterinary technicians - indispensable role in Bulgaria's veterinary healthcare system.

According to art. 40 of VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT, technicians shall perform purely technical tasks as follows:

1. manipulations, prescribed by the veterinary, under whose control they are working;
2. taking samples for laboratory testing;
3. ordinary and orthopedic activity;
4. disinfection, disinsection, deratisation, deodorization of sites and devastation of pasture terrains – after passing a specialized course;
5. primary and secondary examinations of animals without making a final diagnosis;
6. identification of animals and entering of information into the Integrated information system of BFSA.

The activities shall be carried out under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The veterinary technicians:

1. shall notify immediately the veterinary, under whose control they are working, or the respective RFSD in case of suspicion or occurrence of epizootics and/or in the event of a large-scale animal death;
2. shall observe and fulfill the instructions of the control authorities in the field of selection and reproduction when performing artificial insemination of agricultural animals.



Rural Areas:

In rural regions of Bulgaria, veterinary technicians are often the primary point of contact with the farmers. Their presence is crucial for managing the animal health of livestock, especially in the remote areas and play important role in rural economy.



Educational Outreach:

Veterinary technicians frequently engage in community education, teaching farmers and pet owners about proper animal care, nutrition, and disease prevention



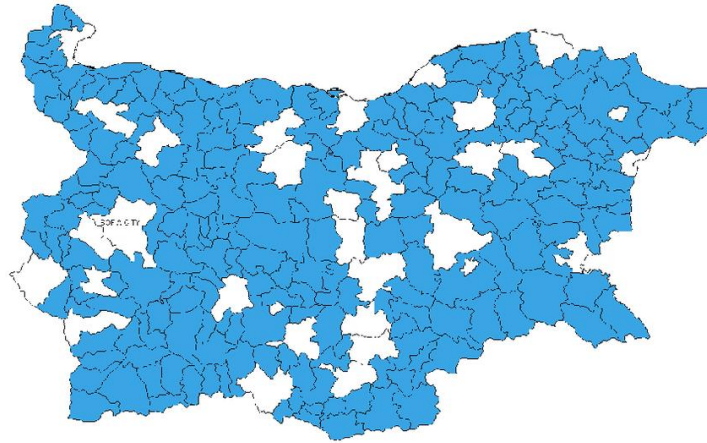
Support for Veterinarians:

With a limited number of veterinarians, especially in less populated areas, the veterinary technicians provide to veterinarians essential technical support and extending the reach of veterinary services.

National Workforce Distribution

Urban Areas

Higher Concentration: Veterinarians and vet technicians are more concentrated in urban areas such as Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, and Burgas, where there are more veterinary clinics, hospitals, and specialized animal care centers.



Rural Areas

Lower Density: There are fewer veterinarians and vet technicians in the rural areas compared to urban centers. However, their role is crucial in these regions for managing the animal health of livestock and providing veterinary care to animals.

Conclusion: There is a trend for veterinarians/vet technicians to increasingly choose sectors of small animals. As a result, in the future we will have a shortage of veterinarians dealing with food producing animals. Higher % of revenue from veterinary practice come from working with pets.

Challenges of veterinary workforce dealing with productive animals

- Low income;
- Unattractive and hard work in a highly dangerous environment without normal working conditions;
- Irregular working hours;
- Many colleagues suffer both trauma and injuries related to their work with productive animals, as well as permanent disabilities and disability, and not a small percentage also occurs with zoonoses;
- Lack of authority and prestige;
- Huge bureaucratic pressure - the activity is burdened with extremely many documents on paper, which duplicate with electronically entered data;
- Insufficient legislation regulating the veterinary activity.

The Educational pathways of Veterinary Technicians

Secondary Vocational Education

- High school diploma requirement
- Emphasis on science subjects such as biology and chemistry
- Relevant vocational training programs at the high school level - Specific Vocational training

The Curriculum

- Mandatory general subjects
- Basic veterinary sciences (anatomy, physiology, pharmacology)
- Advanced Vocational Training (Infectious diseases, Parasitic diseases, Internal non-communicable diseases)
- Practical Training - Practice in veterinary clinics and farms



Certification and Licensing of Veterinary Technicians



Completion of Vocational veterinary high school - Diploma of Secondary Education



Passing a national certification exam - matriculation exams



The Employment Sectors of Veterinary Technicians

- **Private Practices:** A significant portion of veterinary technicians work in private veterinary clinics and practices, assisting veterinarians in routine check-ups, surgeries, and emergency care.
- **Agricultural Sector:** Veterinary technicians working in agriculture are vital for maintaining the health of livestock. This includes work in large farms, dairy production, and poultry farms. They are particularly important in rural areas, supporting the agricultural economy and ensuring food safety through the health management of animals.
- **Animal Shelters and Rescue Organizations:** Another key area of employment is within animal shelters and rescue organizations, where veterinary technicians provide care for stray, abandoned, and rescued animals.
- **Government and Regulatory Bodies** Some veterinary technicians are employed by government agencies to support veterinary team ensuring animal health, public health, and food safety.



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION !

