

Singapore's Comments on September 2020 Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Note: The parts 'double underline' and '~~strikethrough~~' were amendments drafted by the Code Commission and the parts highlighted yellow were amendments proposed at the Sep 2020 meeting and the parts in green are Singapore's proposed changes.

Annex	Topics	Comments/ Rationale
7	<p>Draft Chapter 3.X</p> <p>Introduction to Recommendations on Veterinary Services</p> <p>Article 3.X.1.</p> <p>Veterinary Services are critical to global and national health security, food security and food safety, agricultural and rural development, poverty alleviation, safe <u>national and international trade, wildlife and ecosystem health</u> and environmental protection; as such they are considered a global public good. To achieve these goals, Veterinary Services require good governance, including effective policy and management, personnel and resources, veterinary professionals and interaction with stakeholders <u>in a One Health approach</u>.</p>	<p>"One Health" has been explained by OIE that human health and animal health are bound to the health of the ecosystems in which animals and humans exist in. This is also explained in the 2014 article. <i>[Evans BR, Leighton FA. A history of One Health. Rev Sci Tech. 2014 Aug;33(2):413-20]</i></p> <p>Recognising the important interface between animal health and ecosystem health, in 2015, the OIE and CITES agree that veterinary services play a role in influencing activities related to protection of endanger animal species and impact of biodiversity loss on disease occurrences.</p>
5	<p>Draft Chapter 3.1.</p> <p>Quality of Veterinary Services</p> <p>Article 3.1.6.</p> <p>Stakeholders</p> <p>A range of individuals or organisations have an interest or concern in the activities of the Veterinary Services, for example livestock farmers, processors, traders, feed manufacturers, <u>wildlife managers, ecologists, researchers,</u> private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the general public.</p>	<p>Against a backdrop of COVID-19, the veterinary community needs to do more to ensure ecosystem health to mitigate the effects of climate change, and prevent future outbreaks of novel zoonotic disease. This represents another frontier of veterinary services.</p> <p>In the UNEP report 2020 titled "Preventing the Next Pandemic; zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission", it is recognized that maintaining higher levels of native biodiversity has been associated with reduced transmission of some zoonotic diseases and the need to bring in experience from veterinary services. The article</p>

		<p>“Safeguarding Animal, Human and Ecosystem Health: One Health at the World Bank” also highlights the need for veterinary medicine, as part of One Health, to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment.</p> <p><i>[United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute (2020). Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission. Nairobi. Kenya]</i></p> <p><i>[https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/safeguarding-animal-human-human-and-ecosystem-health-one-health-at-the-world-bank]</i></p> <p>Veterinary schools have also started including “ecosystem health” in their veterinary curriculums.</p> <p><i>[National Research Council. 2013. Workforce Needs in Veterinary Medicine. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press]</i></p> <p>We suggest to include the texts (highlighted in green) to recognize the veterinarians’ role in complementing and adding to ecosystem health assessments through an interdisciplinary, One Health Approach.</p>
17	<p>Chapter 7.7 Dog population management</p> <p>4. <u>Civil Society</u></p> <p>The responsibilities of civil society stakeholders will depend on their involvement with the DPM measures implemented.</p> <p>a) Dog owners</p> <p>When a person takes on the ownership of a dog, there</p>	<p>The chapter should also consider responsibilities which dog shelters, rehoming centres or dog holding facilities should abide with (e.g. providing for the health and welfare of the dog and mitigating negative impacts on public health and the environment).</p>

	<p>should be an immediate acceptance of responsibility for that dog, and for any offspring it may produce, for the duration of its life or until a subsequent owner is found. The owner responsibilities should include providing for the health and welfare of the dog and mitigating negative impacts on public health and the environment, in accordance with Article 7.7.17.</p> <p>b) Dog breeders and sellers</p> <p>Dog breeders and sellers have the same responsibilities as dog owners and in addition should comply with the recommendations in accordance with Article 7.7.15.</p>	
--	--	--