



Assoc. Prof. Rowland Cobbold

School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Australia

Overview of key roles and tasks performed by VPPs

The OIE Sub-Regional Virtual Workshop on Veterinary Paraprofessional (VPP) Competencies and Trainings. 31 March – 1 April 2022



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

What is a Veterinarian, What is a VPP?

OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Glossary

■ Veterinarian:

- a person with appropriate education, registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

■ VPP:

- "a person who, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, is authorised by the *veterinary statutory body* to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of veterinary para-professional) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a *veterinarian*. The tasks for each category of veterinary paraprofessional should be defined by the *veterinary statutory body* depending on qualifications and training, and according to need"



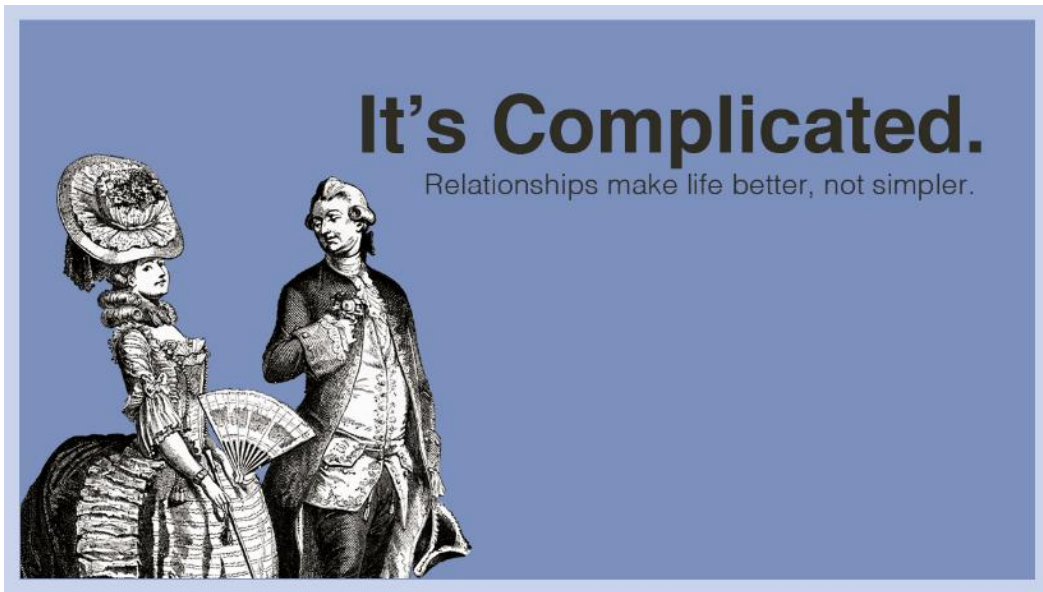
Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

But...it's complicated in real life

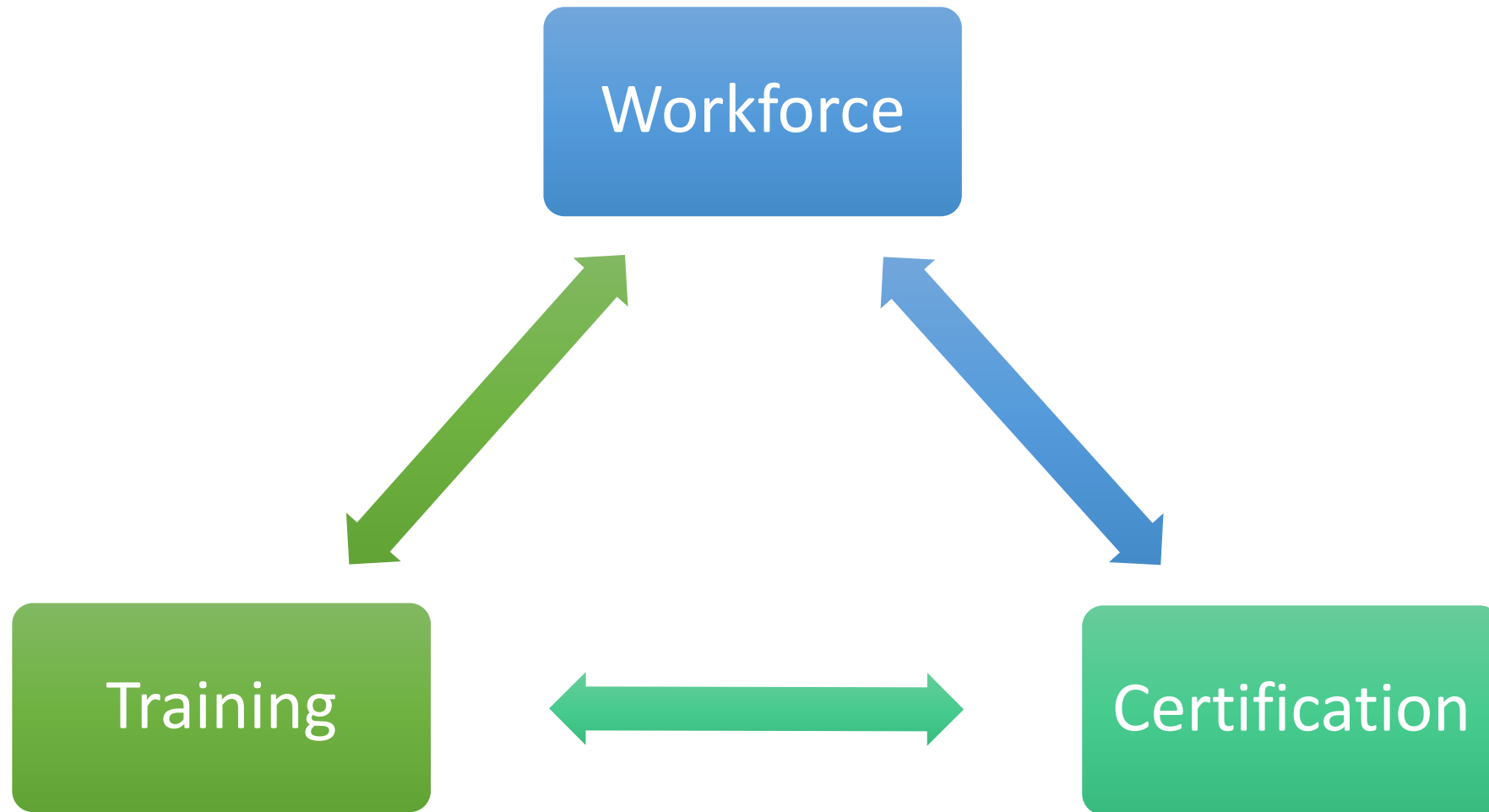
Variable applied definition – it varies with country, context, time, etc.



Historical perspectives

- Withdrawal of funding for public veterinary services
- Lack of vets graduating
- Limited incentives for rural practice
- → Vet void filled by VPP

Linkage Between Training, Workforce, Certification



Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW)

- Various names / definitions
- Usually educated/experienced farmers
- Number and other details unknown – not usually certified/registered
- Training, qualifications, roles, etc. vary widely
- Locally available, relatively cheap, culturally/regionally aware
- VSB registration variable:
 - official (7 countries), informal (6), none (6)
- Income sources are highly variable (depending on legal status),
 - Farmers (17 countries), State (9), NGO (8); private veterinarians (6)
- Note: Veterinary medicines can also be sold by pharmacists (12 / 16 countries) and illegal actors (18 / 19 countries)

Herve Petit & Margot Galière, Agronomes et Vétérinaires sans Frontiers. Bangkok 2016 OIE meeting



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Other Definitions



Not logged in [Talk](#) [Contributions](#) [Create account](#) [Log in](#)

Article [Talk](#) [Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#)

Paraveterinary worker

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Paraveterinary workers are those people who assist a [veterinary physician](#) in the performance of their duties, or carry out animal health procedures autonomously as part of a veterinary care system. The job role varies throughout the world, and common titles include **veterinary nurse**, **veterinary technician**, **veterinary assistant** and **veterinary technologist**, and variants with the prefix of 'animal health'.

The scope of practice varies between countries, with some countries allowing suitably qualified paraveterinary workers a scope of autonomous practice, including minor surgery, whilst others restrict their workers to simple assisting of the veterinarian.

[Contents](#) [\[hide\]](#)



Veterinary technicians of the **US Army** assist in an operation on a military working dog.

These terms mainly relate to:

- Industrialised countries
- Clinical practice



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

VPP Practical Roles

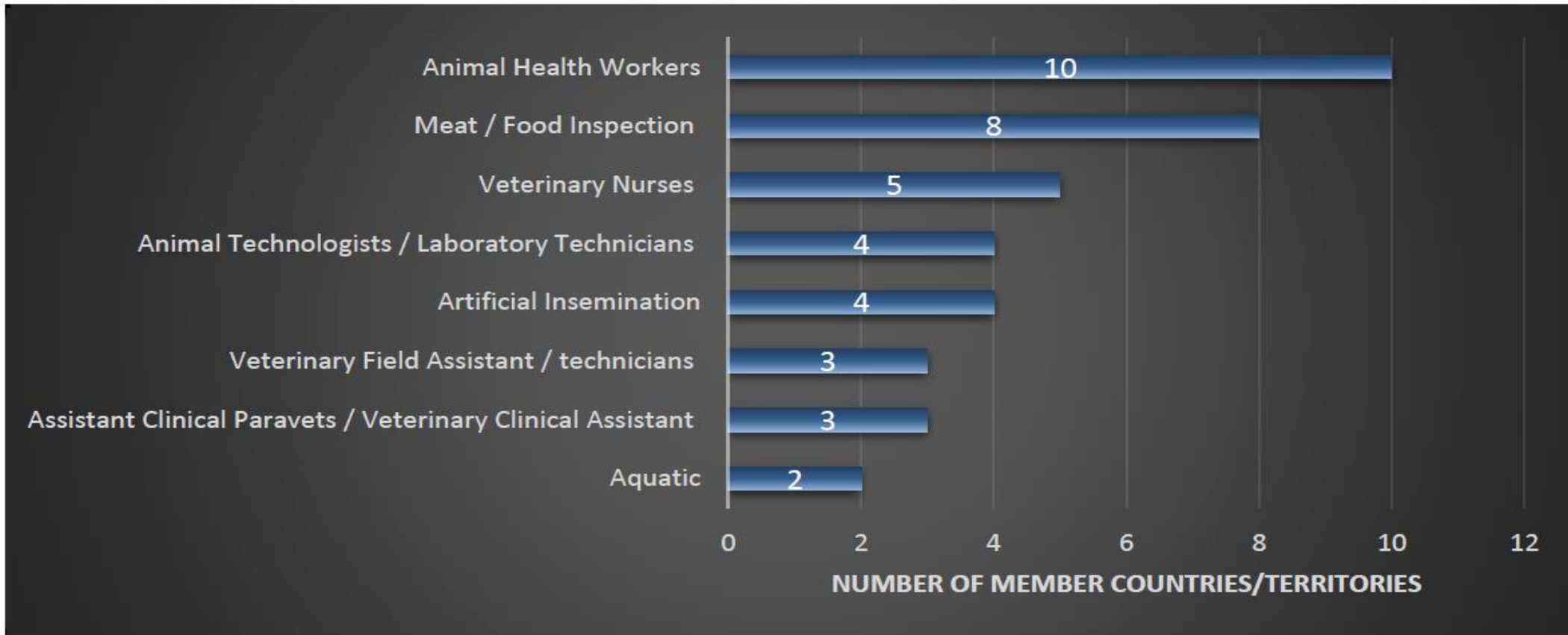


Figure 16: Major VPP types in Member Countries/Territories (n=18)

OIE Regional meeting, Tokyo.

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (P.R.), Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (R.O.), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

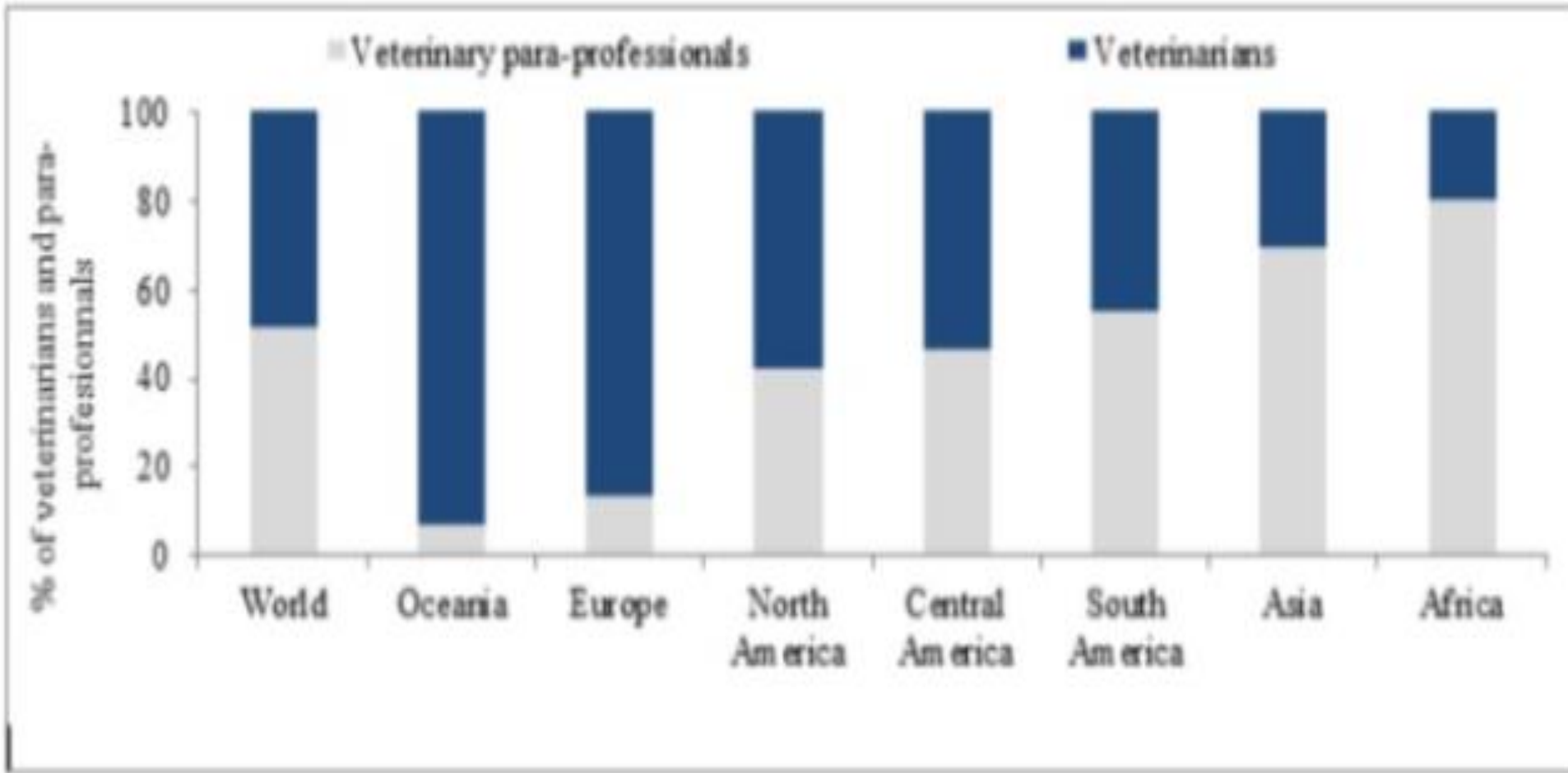


Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

VPP vs Veterinarian Regional Variation



OIE WAHIS data via S. Adediran, et al., Linking VPP with Veterinarians OIE Conference, Pretoria, South Africa. Oct 2015.

VPP Roles in Country's Veterinary Services

- Do VPPs participate in Veterinary Services?
 - Public sector (100%)
 - Private sector (96%)
- Areas most likely to work

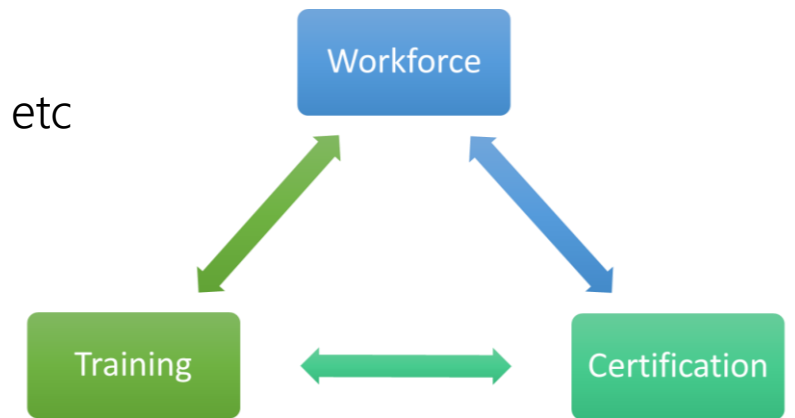
Table 1: Roles of Public vs. Private Veterinary Paraprofessionals by Category

<u>Category</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Animal disease control activities including surveillance and vaccination	96%	83%
Clinical care such as administering drugs, caring for wounds, castration, etc	71%	92%
Veterinary public health activities (e.g., slaughterhouse inspections)	79%	33%
Disease diagnosis at a laboratory including sample handling, testing, and protocols	79%	50%
Other	-	-

*Heather Simmons,
Institute for Infectious
Animal Diseases (IIAD).
Global Analysis of VPP
from WAHIS, PVS
Pathway, and VPP
Curricula (Bangkok OIE
meeting, 2016)*

Points for Discussion and Ongoing Resolution

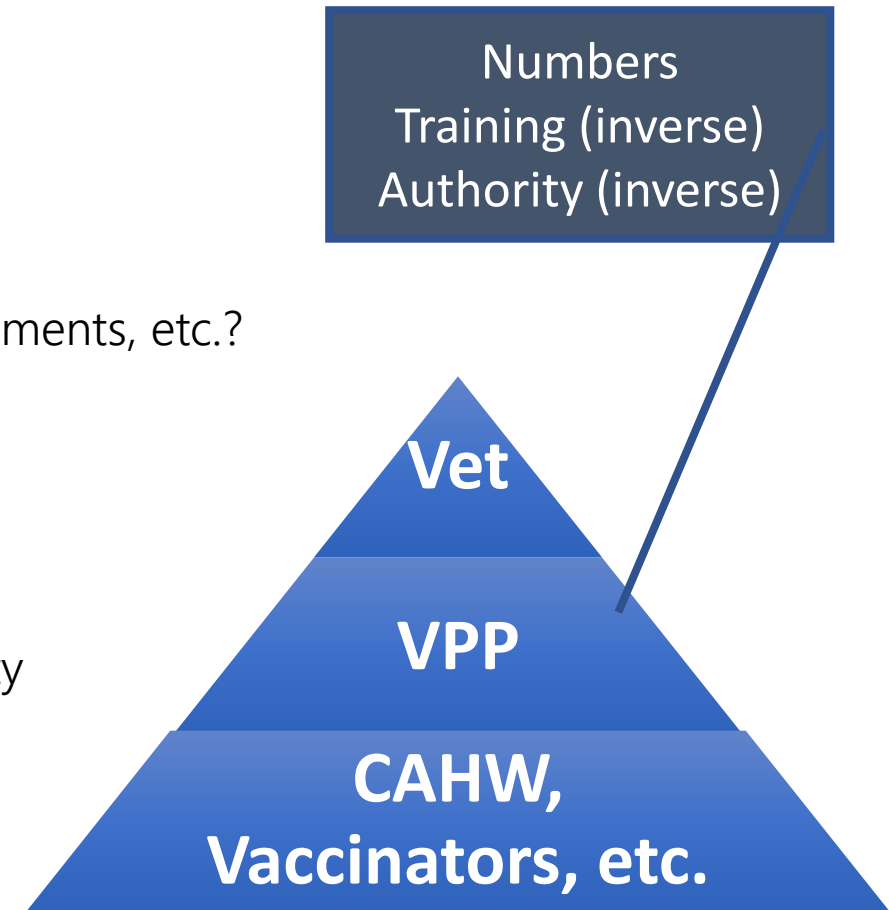
- Definitions: for the various terms for animal health professionals
 - Use OIE definition?
 - Roles of VSB: recognition, registration, management
 - Define "Acts of Veterinary Science": definition, roles, legal boundaries
 - Need effective relationships between vets and VPPs
- Linked to:
 - Workforce surveillance & rationalisation
 - Usable data on current capacity and needs: vets v VPPs v CAHW, etc
 - Across sectors: animal health, public health, lab, etc.
 - Education & Certification
- Defined roles, responsibilities, work rights



VPP Roles - Solutions

- Need to:
 - Clearly define VPP and their relationship with vets
 - Incentivise private vets for VPP supervision
 - Standardise education and competencies
- Other approaches:
 - Regionalisation: Start with ASEAN definition, registration requirements, etc.?
 - Goal oriented approach
 - Response to a specific problem or national emergency (ASF?)
 - Ebola example for medical assistants in Africa
 - Potential/opportunities
 - Enhancing female participation for workforce boosting & diversity
 - Emergency surge capacity and response

*14 countries in Africa and southern Asia
GALVmed & Benson Ameda (African Vet Tech Assoc
Bangkok, 2016 OIE meeting*



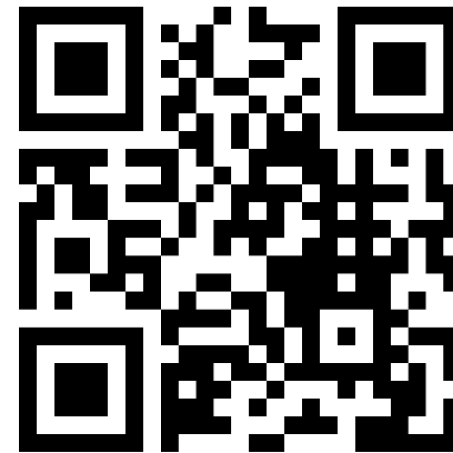
Go to www.menti.com and use the code 26 96 43 6

What are the tasks of VPPs in your country?

 Mentimeter

Go to
www.menti.com

Enter the code
26 96 43 6



Or use QR code





Thank you

- The OIE Sub-Regional Virtual Workshop on Veterinary Paraprofessional (VPP) Competencies and Trainings. 31 March – 1 April 2022



www.oie.int



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Related OIE Definitions

- **Veterinary Authority:**

- the **Governmental** Authority of a Member Country, **comprising veterinarians, other professionals and paraprofessionals**, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* in the whole territory.

i.e. a team approach

- **Competent Authority:**

- the *Veterinary Authority* **or other Governmental Authority** of a Member Country having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* and in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

i.e. may not be vet specific

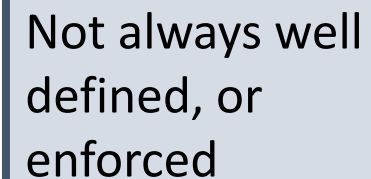
- **Official Veterinarian:**

- a *veterinarian* **authorised by the Veterinary Authority** of the country to perform **certain designated official tasks** associated with animal health or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in accordance with Chapters 5.1. and 5.2.

i.e. duties beyond regular "Veterinary Acts"

“Acts of Veterinary Science”

- Australian Veterinary Association:
 - the diagnostic confirmation of, treatment of, and provision of management advice for infectious disease, physiological dysfunction, psychological dysfunction and injury in animals;
 - performing invasive or surgical procedures on animals;
 - administering anaesthetics to animals;
 - the exercise of prescribing rights for veterinary chemicals, medicines or poisons which may be restricted by scheduling or registered label; and
 - the provision of veterinary certificates.
- What is **not** an act of veterinary science?
 - Routine husbandry/management procedures
 - Dentistry?
 - Reproductive technologies, e.g. AI?
 - Etc...



Not always well defined, or enforced

More OIE Definitions

- **Veterinary Services:**

- the **governmental and non-governmental** organisations that implement animal health and *welfare* measures and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code* in the territory. The Veterinary Services are **under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority**. **Private sector** organisations, *veterinarians*, *veterinary paraprofessionals* or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the *Veterinary Authority* to deliver the delegated functions.

- **Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)**

- An **autonomous** regulatory body for *veterinarians* and *veterinary paraprofessionals*.

- “Veterinary Nurse”?