

Veterinary Legislation and Regulation Relevant to a VSB

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What is veterinary legislation?

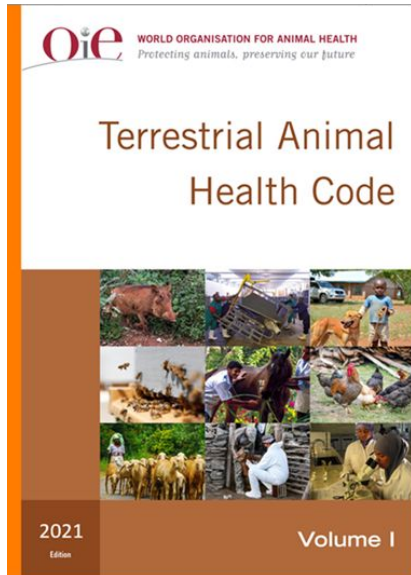


- Rules governing all areas of the **veterinary domain** in a country.
“All the activities that are directly or indirectly related to animals, their products and by-products which help to protect, maintain and improve animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.” (TAHC 3.4.2)
- Legal texts that convert veterinary policies into concrete actions and results:
 - Assign the roles, powers and responsibilities of the competent authority for animal health
 - Establish the rights, duties and prohibitions of individuals who own/conduct activities related to animals (and their products and by-products)
 - Create the basic system of implementation and controls

WOAH standards on veterinary legislation

Chapter 3.4 Veterinary legislation

- General: introduction and objective, definitions, principles, drafting (3.4.1 – 3.4.4)
- 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)





What is veterinary practice legislation?

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

1. Establishes the veterinary statutory body (VSB) as the competent authority for regulating veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals
2. Provides the definition of the officially recognised categories of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals
3. Describes the general structure and system of regulation of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals by the veterinary statutory body



What is a veterinary statutory body (VSB)?

Veterinary statutory body means an autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. (TAHC Glossary)

Autonomous = operates independently, without undue influence from political or commercial interests.

Regulatory body = has the authority to control veterinary practitioners

Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals = regulates all categories of practitioners

Independence of the VSB is ensured through transparent governance and funding arrangements including an elected, representative council or equivalent, and financial arrangements for the collection and management of registration fees.



Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB

1. Establish the VSB:

- Mandate, responsibilities
- Powers, competencies
- Structure and composition
- Operating rules and procedures
- Sources and uses of funding



Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB

2. Provide the definition of the officially recognised categories of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals in the country, including:

- Prerogatives
- Minimum educational/training requirements
- Basic competencies
- Supervision



Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB

3. Outline the basic system of controls:

- Recognition of qualifications (e.g. registration)
- Conditions to practice (e.g. licensing)
- Minimum initial and continuous educational requirements and competencies for the various professional categories of veterinarians and VPPs
- Adherence to codes of conduct
- Disciplinary action



Why have legislation around veterinary practice?

Sets standards for the qualifications and competencies of veterinary practitioners and enforces those standards **quality control**

Protects individual interests...

- Animals
- Owners
- Consumers
- Businesses
- Veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals

...and societal interests

- Public health
- Economy

As with all legislation, veterinary practice legislation promotes legal certainty, transparency, and accountability trust and confidence.



Differences between a VSB and veterinary/VPP association



Veterinary/VPP association:

- Professional body □ career development, advocacy role
- Primarily promotes the interests of its members
- **Voluntary membership**

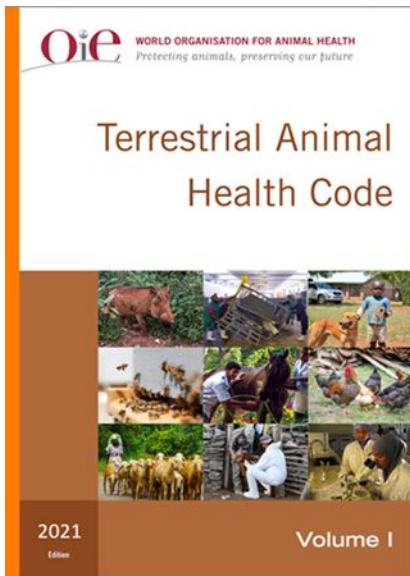
Veterinary Statutory Body:

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

Why cover veterinary paraprofessionals in veterinary practice legislation?

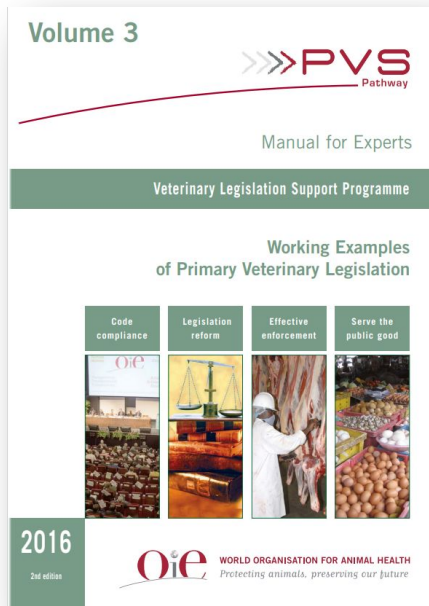
The WOAH guidelines recommend including veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) in veterinary practice legislation. (TAHC 3.4.6)

- Establishes the officially recognized categories of VPPs and their qualifications, prerogatives and competencies.
- Ensures all practice areas (professional and paraprofessional) are covered without gaps, overlaps or inconsistencies among the different categories of practitioners.
- Allows the VPP system to be tailored to national circumstances and needs.
- Facilitates VPP supervisory arrangements.



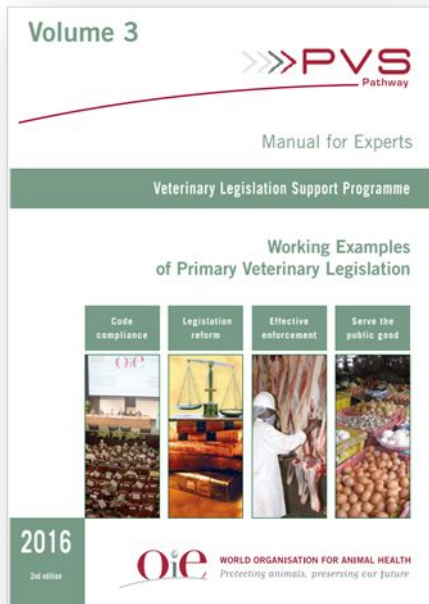
WOAH sample Veterinary Practice Act

The WOAHA has a sample Veterinary Practice Act for Member Countries to consult as a reference when drafting veterinary practice legislation.



- Contains the most common elements of a regulatory framework for veterinary practice.
- Includes drafting notes explaining certain provisions and presenting different options.
- Intended to be used as a guide, not as a template.
- Each country must tailor its legislation to national circumstances (content as well as form).
- WOAHA can support drafting of new practice and other veterinary legislation through its Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP).

WOAH sample Veterinary Practice Act



PART 1. VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS

Corresponds to Article 3.4.6 of Chapter 3.4., 'Veterinary Legislation',
of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

An Act on the regulation of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals

Preamble

Chapter 1. Preliminary

Article 1. Short title
Article 2. Definitions

Chapter 2. The [National] Veterinary Council

Article 3. Establishment of the [National] Veterinary Council
Article 4. Objectives of Council
Article 5. Powers and functions of the Council
Article 6. Constitution of the Council
Article 7. Qualifications of members of the Council
Article 8. Tenure of office of members of the Council
Article 9. Vacation of office and filling of vacancies
Article 10. President and vice-president of the Council
Article 11. Meetings of the Council
Article 12. Executive committee
Article 13. Other committees
Article 14. Allowances of members of the Council and committees
Article 15. Appointment of registrar and staff
Article 16. Funds of the Council
Article 17. Bookkeeping and auditing
Article 18. Reports by the Council

Chapter 3. Regulation of veterinary medicine

Article 19. Practice of veterinary medicine
Article 20. Non-application of Act

Chapter 4. Registration, licensure and authorisation

Article 21. Registration of veterinarians
Article 22. Grounds for refusing registration
Article 23. Modification of registration

Article 21 Registration of Vets
Article 27 Registration of VPPs
Article 31 Supervision of VPPs by vets

Article 24. Licensure and renewal of license
Article 25. Titles
Article 26. Reference to academic titles
Article 27. Registration of veterinary para-professionals
Article 28. Refusal to register
Article 29. Modification of registration
Article 30. Licensure and renewal of license
Article 31. Supervision of veterinary para-professionals
Article 32. Supervision in declared emergencies or other special circumstances
Article 33. Veterinary students
Article 34. Civil liability

Chapter 5. Veterinary oath

Article 35. Requirement for an oath

Chapter 6. Discipline

Article 36. Professional discipline
Article 37. Sanctions

Chapter 7. Professional code of conduct

Article 38. Development and adoption
Article 39. Application of the professional code of conduct

Chapter 8. Regulations

Article 40. Scope of regulations

Chapter 9. Penal provisions

Article 41. Penalties

Thank you

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