

Singapore's Update on VSB Establishment

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Background

- The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster under the National Parks Board (NParks), has been working closely with the Singapore Veterinary Association and industry stakeholders, **including veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs)**, to explore the establishment of a professional body since 2020

Veterinary Professional Engagements

- In early 2021, AVS and the Singapore Veterinary Association (SVA) ran a joint survey of the veterinary profession
- To assess the emerging trends and challenges faced by the veterinary sector in Singapore

Key Findings

- 1) Current framework to recognise qualifications of vets can be improved
- 2) Framework to recognise VPPs as well as specialised titles of both vets and VPPs should be developed

Veterinary Professional Engagements

From April to July 2021, AVS and SVA held a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on enhancing professional standards and practices in the veterinary sector

Veterinarians

1. Recognition of the profession (GP, specialists and VPPs)
2. Scope of veterinary activities (including diversity of work)
3. Continuing education & professional development
4. Professional conduct, standards & discipline

VPPs

1. Recognition of VPPs
2. Continuing education & professional development
3. Mental wellness

Users of vet services

1. Escalating fees
2. Separate and dedicated regulatory entity for the profession

To establish a professional body to govern the vet profession and set professional standards

Veterinary Professional Engagements

Between March and April 2022, AVS and SVA held a series of closed-door FGDs with selected representatives from the vet sector

Defining roles of vet authority (AVS), professional body (VSB) and professional association (SVA)

Clear registration framework for vets and VPPs

Regular review of the Code of Ethics for Veterinarians

Development of practice guidelines and standards

Formalisation of disciplinary proceedings

Upcoming Plans



- Committees, comprising members from private & government services:
 - Define scope of veterinary activities
 - Develop guidelines for Telemedicine and Therapeutics (complementary, alternative & novel)
 - Develop competency framework for vets and VPPs, including day one competencies
 - Review Code of Ethics for Veterinarians
 - Align with WOAH recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians

Thank you