

# Enhancing capacities of Vietnam Veterinary Workforce to prevent and manage emergencies

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## 1. Background

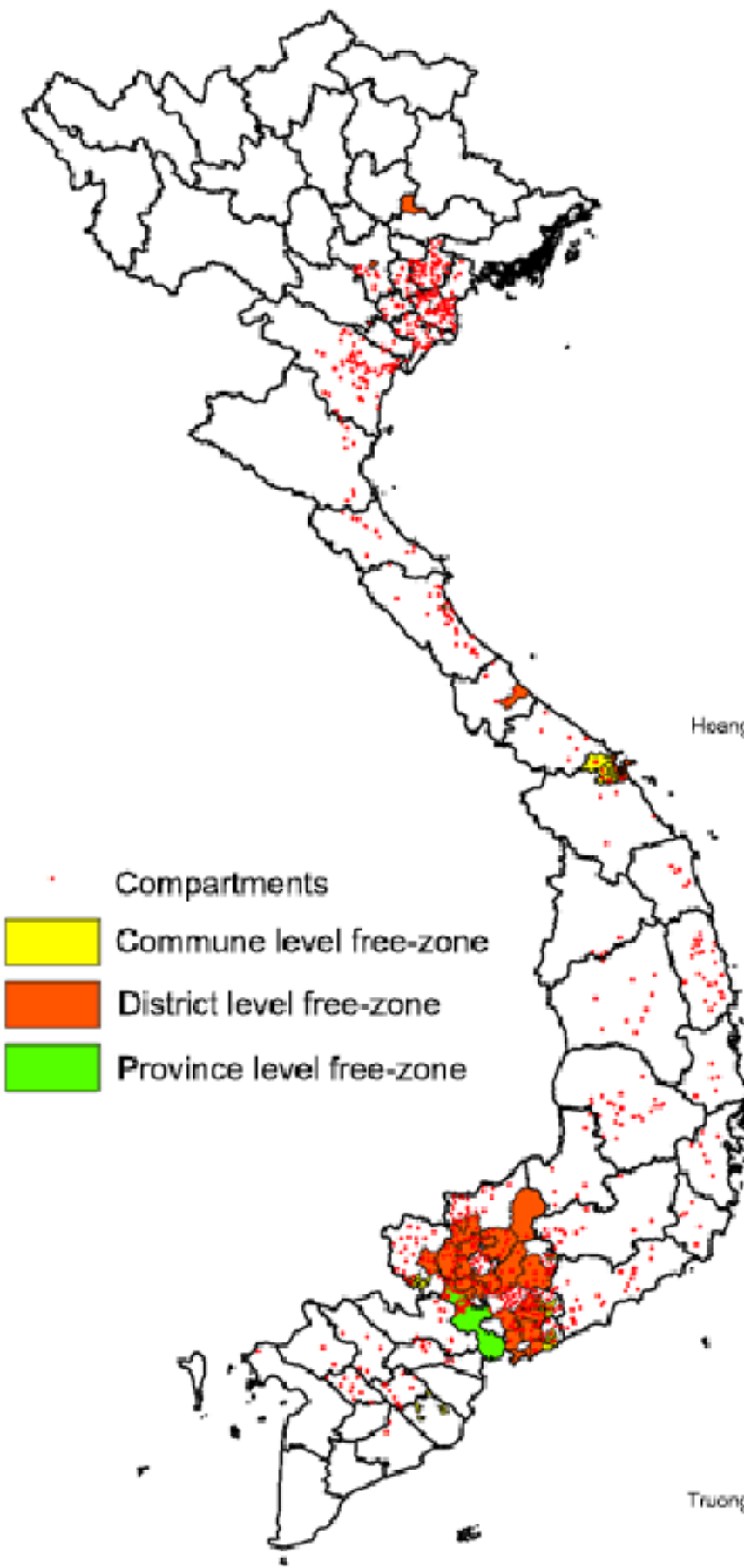
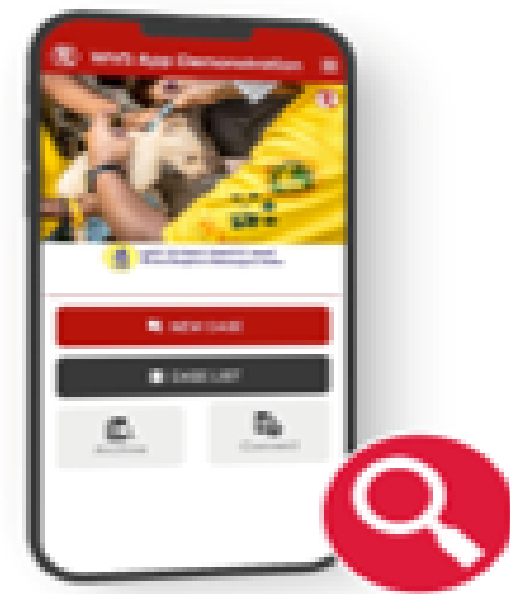
The Department of Animal Health is an organization under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, performing the function of advising and assisting the Minister in state management and organizing law enforcement in the field of veterinary medicine, including: disease prevention, Treating and fighting animal diseases; quarantine of animals and animal products; control animal slaughter, preliminary processing, and processing of animals and animal products; veterinary hygiene check; veterinary medicine management; practicing veterinary medicine nationwide; Animal food and animal product safety falls under the Ministry's state management scope; focal point to implement international cooperation on veterinary medicine according to the decentralization and authorization of the Minister.

## 2. Legal basics for terrestrial disease control & prevention

- Veterinary Law was approved by the National Assembly in 2015
- Circular No. 07 dated 31 May 2016 of MARD regulating terrestrial animal disease control & prevention
- Circular No. 24 dated 30 Dec. 2022 of MARD regulating free disease certification for farms & zones
- Decision No. 172/QĐ-TTg dated 23 Feb. 2019 of the Prime Minister on the National Plan for **HPAI control & prevention** during 2019 – 2025
- Decision No. 1632/QĐ-TTg dated 22 Oct. 2020 of the Prime Minister on the National Plan for **FMD control & prevention** during 2021 – 2025
- Decision No. 1814/QĐ-TTg dated 28 Oct. 2021 of the Prime Minister on the National Plan for **LSD control & prevention** during 2022 – 2030
- Decision No. 972/QĐ-TTg dated 07 Jul. 2020 of the Prime Minister on the National Plan for **ASF control & prevention** during 2020 – 2025
- Decision No. 2151/QĐ-TTg dated 21 Dec. 2021 of the Prime Minister on the National Plan for **Rabies control & prevention** during 2022 – 2030
- Decision No 889/QĐ-TTg dated 25 Jul. 2023 of the Prime Minister on the National Plan for strengthen management capacity, control animal diseases and ensure food safety of animal origin during 2023 – 2030

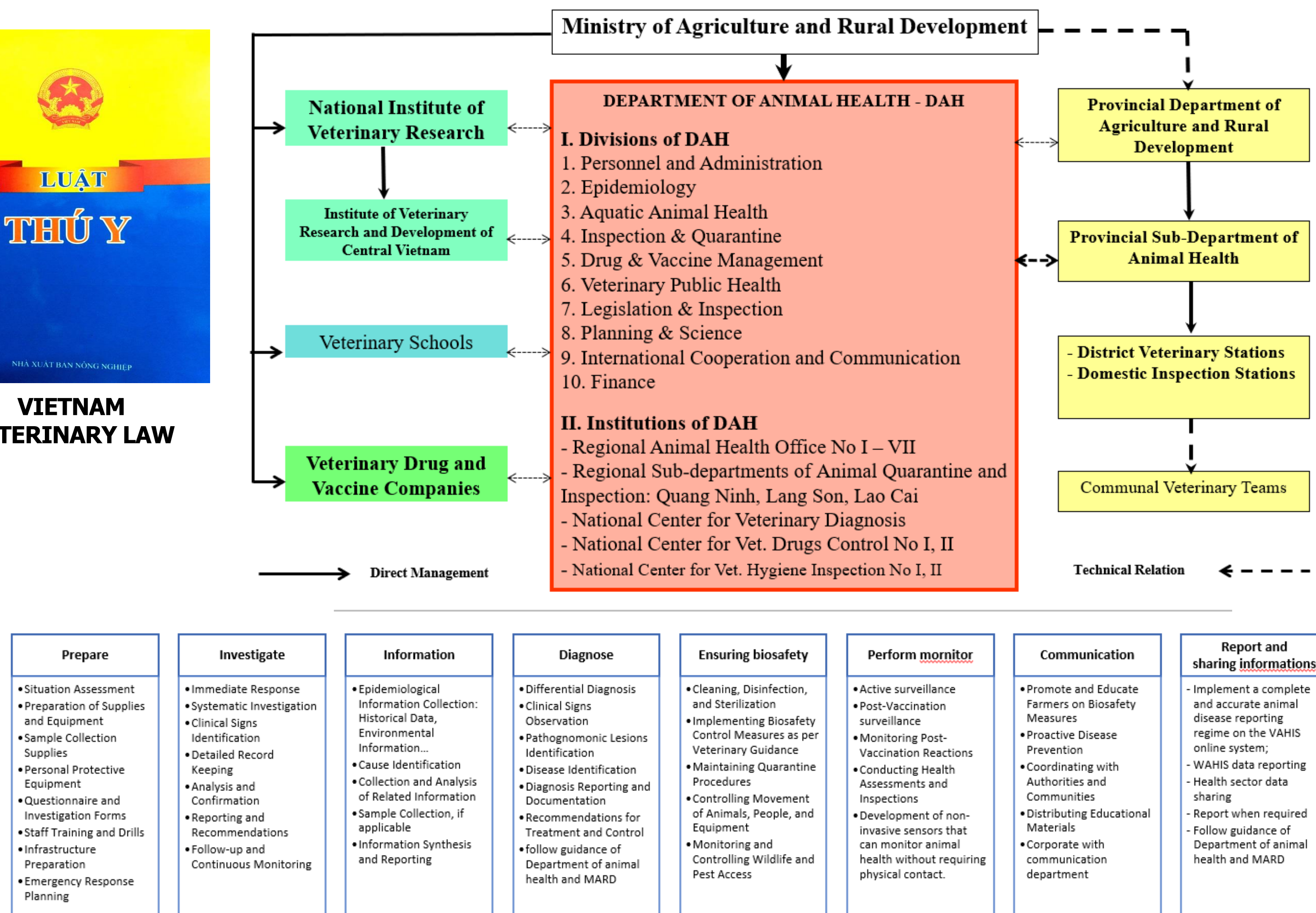
## 3. Results achieved and expected benefits from capacity enhancing

International cooperation to provides an all-in-one system for the management of rabies case investigations. Rabies officers are guided through each stage of investigation and reminded of actions that need to be completed. The app enables offline entry of data through easy-to-use forms available in multiple languages. The built-in structure is based on Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) protocols, making it possible for anyone to adopt this cost-effective and life-saving method. There are five stages to the rabies case investigation: Event notification; Rabies assessment; Quarantine; Laboratory results; and Reporting.



In 2024, the Department of Animal Health conducted 766 investigations on cases of stray dogs and cats with rabies or suspected rabies in 06 provinces (including: Lao Cai, Phu Tho, Quang Tri, Dong Thap, Gia Lai and Ben Tre); of which, 54 cases of dogs suspected of having rabies were sampled for testing and 28 positive samples were promptly detected (accounting for 51.85%). (photo 1)

From the beginning of 2024 to now, 883 pooled samples (equivalent to 4,415 single poultry samples) have been collected and tested at over 36 markets/collection points in 12 localities, of which 249 pooled samples were positive for Influenza A virus (accounting for 28.2%), 19 samples were positive for CGC A/H5N1 (accounting for 7.6%) and 1 sample was positive for CGC A/H5N6 (accounting for 0.4%). To date, Vietnam has not detected the A/H7N9 CGC virus (the strain of CGC virus that causes disease in humans in China). (photo 2)



### VIETNAM VETERINARY WORKFORCE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO PREVENT AND MANAGE EMERGENCIES

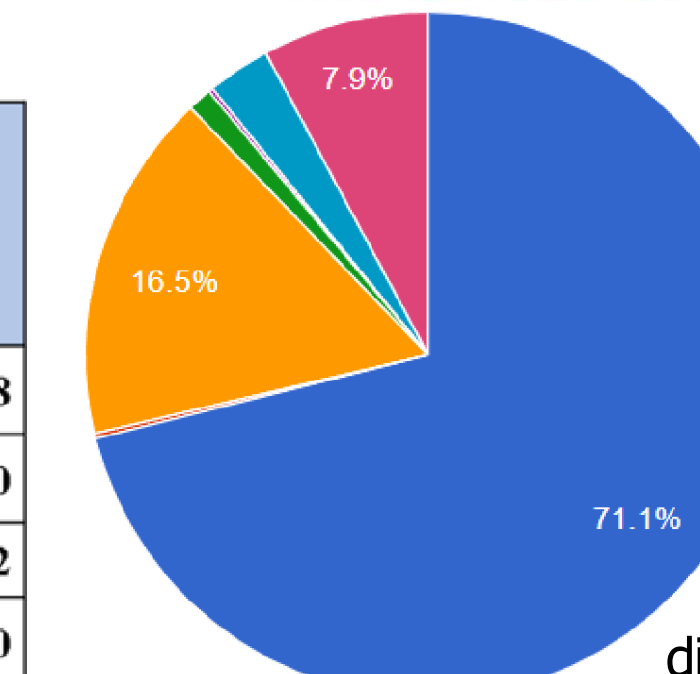


Chart: 2023 – 2024 diseases situations on terrestrial



## CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Challenges/gaps

- Many emerging diseases: These diseases are often highly contagious and difficult to control, requiring effective prevention and treatment measures
- Long land border: Vietnam shares a land border with 3 countries Laos, Cambodia and China with nearly 4,510 km of land border, creating conditions for the smuggling of livestock breeds and animal products
- Small-scale livestock farming: Most livestock farming activities in Vietnam are still small-scale and scattered
- Small-scale slaughterhouses: Many small-scale slaughterhouses are prone to the risk of spreading diseases and reducing quality
- Urban growth and climate change
- Fragmentation in the food supply and consumption network



### Way forward

- **Reporting Applications:** Develop an Automated Reporting System and Develop a Mobile App
- **Digital Transformation:** Digitize Records and Data, Develop an Integrated Disease Management System: Convert traditional records into electronic formats for easier management, tracking, and analysis.
- **Policy Improvement:** Update and Adjust Existing Policies, Develop Supportive Policies and Compensations
- **Document Improvement:** Review and Revise Legal Documents, Create Detailed Guidelines
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Professional Training, Advanced Skill Workshops
- **Establishing Disease-Free Zones:** Develop a Database of Disease-Free Zones, Invest in Infrastructure

