Role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) for Good Veterinary Governance.

OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals
Paris, France - 13 – 15 March 2013

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Good Veterinary Governance (GVG)

- entails that Veterinary Services (VS) around the world need to operate on scientifically-based principles and be technically independent and immune from political pressures from all sources
- core elements of GVG are linked to the universal acceptance of a veterinary profession
Definition of "profession" (such as veterinary profession)

- an identified group of professionals being in possession of specific professional qualifications, adherence to and upholding of ethical standards and meeting of identified and laid-down standards of professional behaviour and practice

- Thus the right of a veterinarian to render veterinary services is directly linked to being held accountable for his/her professional behavior and actions

- Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)
  means an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

- **Veterinarian**
  means a person registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

- Veterinary para-professional (VPP) means 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 para-professional should be defined by the veterinary statutory body depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.
Objectives and functions are described in 2012 TAHC Chapter 3.2 Article 3.2.12

In terms of the OIE TAHC standards, the establishment of a VSB in a country is considered to be crucial.
The VSB is an autonomous authority, its role and functions detailed in article 3.2.12 of the OIE TAHC

VSB AUTHORITY to

- regulate veterinarians and veterinary para-prof. through licensing or registration
- determine minimum standards of initial and continuing education
- determine standards of professional conduct / ethical behaviour
The most important function of a VSB is the authority regarding the licensing / registration / permission to practise of veterinarians.
VPP’s are regulated by the VSB and their relationship to veterinarians

authorised by the VETERINARY STATUTORY BODY to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of veterinary para-professional) in a territory

Veterinary para-professional (VPP)

and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a VETERINARIAN
VETERINARY STATUTORY BODY

VSB’s have been in existence in many countries for many years, with wide variations in legal basis; autonomy; objectives; authority; functions and responsibilities, composition; administrative procedures etc.

However, in quiet a number of countries there is no VSB at all.
Be it called a “Veterinary Council” or a “Veterinary Board” or by any other name, the establishment of a VSB in a given country depends on the political/administrative systems in place.

Hence it may be, for example, a national body or it may be a state or provincial body with an umbrella VSB at national/federal level, depending the particularities of the VS in the country.

Likewise it is the decision of the VS of a country to specify which category of veterinary para-professional shall be placed under the jurisdiction of the country’s VSB.

In most countries both private and public sector veterinarians are expected to be certified and registered by the national registration body
The capacity of the VSB relates to the implementation of its functions and objectives in conformity with OIE standards.

**VSB CAPACITY to**

- exercise and enforce control over all veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals
- provide and administer training programmes and Continuous Education (CE) courses
- conduct inquiries re prof. misconduct and initiate disciplinary measures
The veterinarian is a key role-player as king-pin in all aspects of responsible and prudent use of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) in animals.

The veterinarian’s right to dispense VMPs is an important aspect of providing access to veterinary professional animal health services, ensure VMP availability (at affordable costs and cold-chain maintenance where applicable) and appropriate use in rural areas.

VSBs have a significant responsibility to provide guidelines and codes for Good Veterinary Practice (GVP) for the use, prescription and dispensing of VMPs and ensuring compliance with respective legal, statutory, professional, ethical and societal requirements.
VETERINARY STATUTORY BODY – RESPONSIBILITY re PRUDENT & RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS IN ANIMALS

VSB role in the responsible use of VMPs and antimicrobial agents in animals

- Minimum standards of initial training
- Day 1 Competency
- CPD / CE Courses
- Responsible and prudent use of VMPs and antimicrobials
- Code of Ethics & Professional behaviour
- Rules for
  - Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship
  - Prescribing of VMP
  - Dispensing of VMP
VETERINARY STATUTORY BODY – RESPONSIBILITY re PRUDENT & RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS IN ANIMALS

VSBs should thus prescribe defined guidelines regarded as minimum standards to be complied with by veterinarians regarding:

- **Veterinarian-client-patient relationship**
- **Responsible use of antimicrobials e.g**
  - their use, storage, recording, prescription, dispensing and safe disposal;
  - the need for susceptibility testing and microbiological diagnosis prior to antimicrobial treatment
- **Prevention of illegal sales (particularly Internet sales)**
IN SUMMARY, a VSB can and should play a crucial role in the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals by:

- determining minimum standards of veterinary education to ensure “Day-1 competence” in all aspects of veterinary pharmacology;

- take the lead to formulate protocols and guidelines for quality management systems for veterinary practices and clinics, based on a Code Good Veterinary Practice (GVP);

- provide CPD / CE courses to veterinarians for appropriate antimicrobial agents use in animals;

- set standards for professional performance and ethical behavior;
define rules for prescribing and dispensing by veterinarians and ensure antimicrobial availability in rural areas as an important aspect for livestock development and poverty reduction;

give guidance in respect of responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials through all available communication means (publish leaflets, Internet info, press etc.) to veterinarians, policy makers, animal owners (pet owners, farmers, livestock owners etc)

be active in increasing awareness of antimicrobial resistance (AMR);

commit the veterinary profession to be “part of the solution” regarding AMR
The responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals – large or small – is a key aspect of professional veterinary service delivery!

THANK YOU