The World Veterinary Association [WVA] is a global professional umbrella organization of private and non-private veterinarians. Its mission is to assure and promote animal health, public health and animal welfare and to pay attention and participate in environmental and eco-systems health.

Veterinary medicine requires high quality education as its foundation and a well-organized, life-long learning system. The role of veterinarians differs across various segments of the profession, with a main responsibility to perform duties required by society. Private practitioners perform a central role between animals, animal-owners and society. When the needs of society differ regionally, private practitioners have to accommodate.

Private practitioners also cooperate with Veterinary Services in disease surveillance and certification of animals and animal products for global trade. Diseases start at the animal-owner interface, which makes practitioners the first expert to investigate and diagnose animal diseases, estimating the threat to society and its animals. The most important link between practitioners and Veterinary Services is direct communication for timely notification of animal disease outbreaks with the potential to impact society. In some countries, private practitioners may be certified to perform duties under authority of the Veterinary Services or National Food and Consumers Product Safety Authority.

Private practitioners should be educated in accordance with Day One competencies, particularly regarding early detection of notifiable animal diseases and the appropriate response afterwards. They need to know about the organisation of Veterinary Services, communication skills, and certification of healthy animals for trade. Post-graduate courses on advanced skills needed for delivery of Veterinary Services can be offered to ensure on-going competence. This presentation will provide details, following WVA and OIE guidelines.

**Keywords:** World Veterinary Association – Veterinary Education – Private Practitioners – Veterinary Services.