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In Brazil, the history of veterinary medicine as a profession began with the graduation of the first group of veterinarians in 1917, but the profession was not regulated until 1933, when it was recognised as a profession by Presidential Decree. At that time, the role of the veterinarian in society was limited to animal health, food inspection and pet care, and it was regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture which had the power to oversee the standards of professional performance and related activities.

The Brazilian Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB), comprising a Federal Council and 27 Regional offices, was created in 1968, by the Law 5.517 which gave to the veterinary profession the right to regulate itself. Later that year, the practice of animal husbandry Zootechnist was included under the same regulations.

The governance of Veterinary Services in the world is intrinsically connected with the role and effective functioning of the national VSB and also with the quality of veterinary education. According to the OIE standards, the VSB requires an appropriate legal framework to give it authority, autonomy and independence in order to carry out its functions. In Brazil, the VSB interacts with Veterinary Schools and, with institutions in the official and private veterinary sector with the objective of assuring that the profile of veterinary professionals fits the needs of contemporary society, taking into account requirements for public health and food safety, animal health and welfare, and international trade.

To fulfil its mission, the National Veterinary Services need skilled professionals, and the required veterinary curriculum must be discussed. These professionals will strengthen the capacity of the system to deliver good quality services, with a positive impact on animal and human health and in the international trade of products of animal origin.

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