



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

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Objectives: The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education (AHG) has developed recommendations for minimum competencies expected of veterinary graduates to assure delivery of National Veterinary Services (NVS). The AHG focused its initial efforts on overall competencies rather than competencies for particular animal species. This decision was made in part because of the paucity of existing information singling out specific competencies for aquatic vs. terrestrial species. As the AHG completes its work in 2011, recommendations may be incorporated regarding future OIE development of unique competencies required for the delivery of NVS to prevent, control, and eradicate aquatic animal diseases. These competencies can then be used by Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) worldwide to enhance core professional and post-graduate curricula in aquatic animal health.

Discussion: Existing AHG recommendations were developed, using stakeholder input and information gleaned from documents regarding the scope of NVS as defined by the OIE, veterinary school curricula, educational accreditation standards, and private practice accreditation programs. Aquatic animal species are not specifically singled out either in educational accreditation standards within the USA or EU, or in the EU day 1 competencies. This does not mean that education in aquatic animal health is not occurring, nor that competencies singling out aquatic animal species should not be included in minimum competencies expected for delivery of NVS. Indeed, the AHG recognizes the existence of several aquatic veterinary and paraveterinary education and training and specialty certification programs throughout the world.

Of particular interest to the OIE may be a program in development by the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association. This program will require demonstration of knowledge, skills, and experiences obtained through academic and continuing education programs to certify the competency of veterinarians in providing aquatic animal health care in support of delivery of high-quality National Veterinary Services.

Keywords: OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education – aquatic veterinary medical curricula – core aquatic veterinary competencies – continuing veterinary education and professional development