



Update on the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman

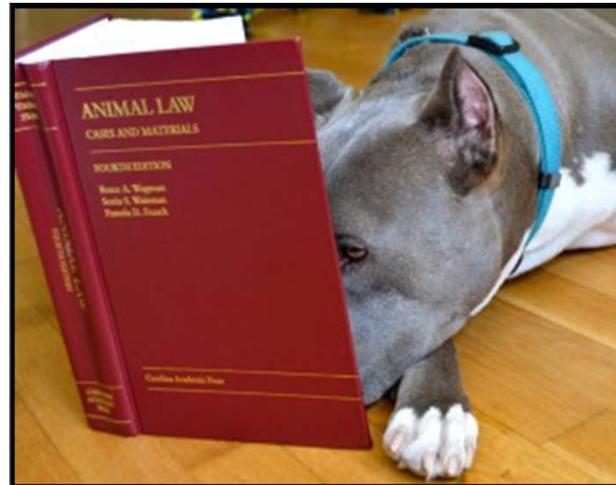
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Overview of Presentation

- Importance of veterinary legislation
- The VLSP in the context of the PVS Pathway
- History of the VLSP
- Structure of the VLSP
- Impact of the VLSP
- Veterinary legislation and the VLSP in the context of biological threat reduction



The Importance of Legislation

- “...**Legislation is the essential function of modern government**, it is the way that we direct and manage the complex social, economic and technological systems that constitute modern society. Legislation, therefore, is the way that we, as a people, act collectively to control and improve the world in which we live. **The quality of the legislation we enact determines whether we, as a society, will prosper or decline, and possibly whether we will survive or perish.**”

Edward L. Rubin - “Legislation as Policy-Making in Presidential and Parliamentary Systems” - the “Loophole”, March, 2013. http://www.opc.gov.au/CALC/docs/Loophole/Loophole_March13.pdf



The Importance of Veterinary Legislation

- Veterinary legislation provides the powers and authorities necessary for Veterinary Services to efficiently carry out their key functions to ensure public safety and promote the public good
- In the face of growing global demand for foods of animal origin, increasing world trade, shifting patterns of disease associated with climate change, expanding risk of bioterrorism and the emergence and re-emergence of diseases that can rapidly spread across international borders, ***the Veterinary Services must be supported by effective and modern legislation***





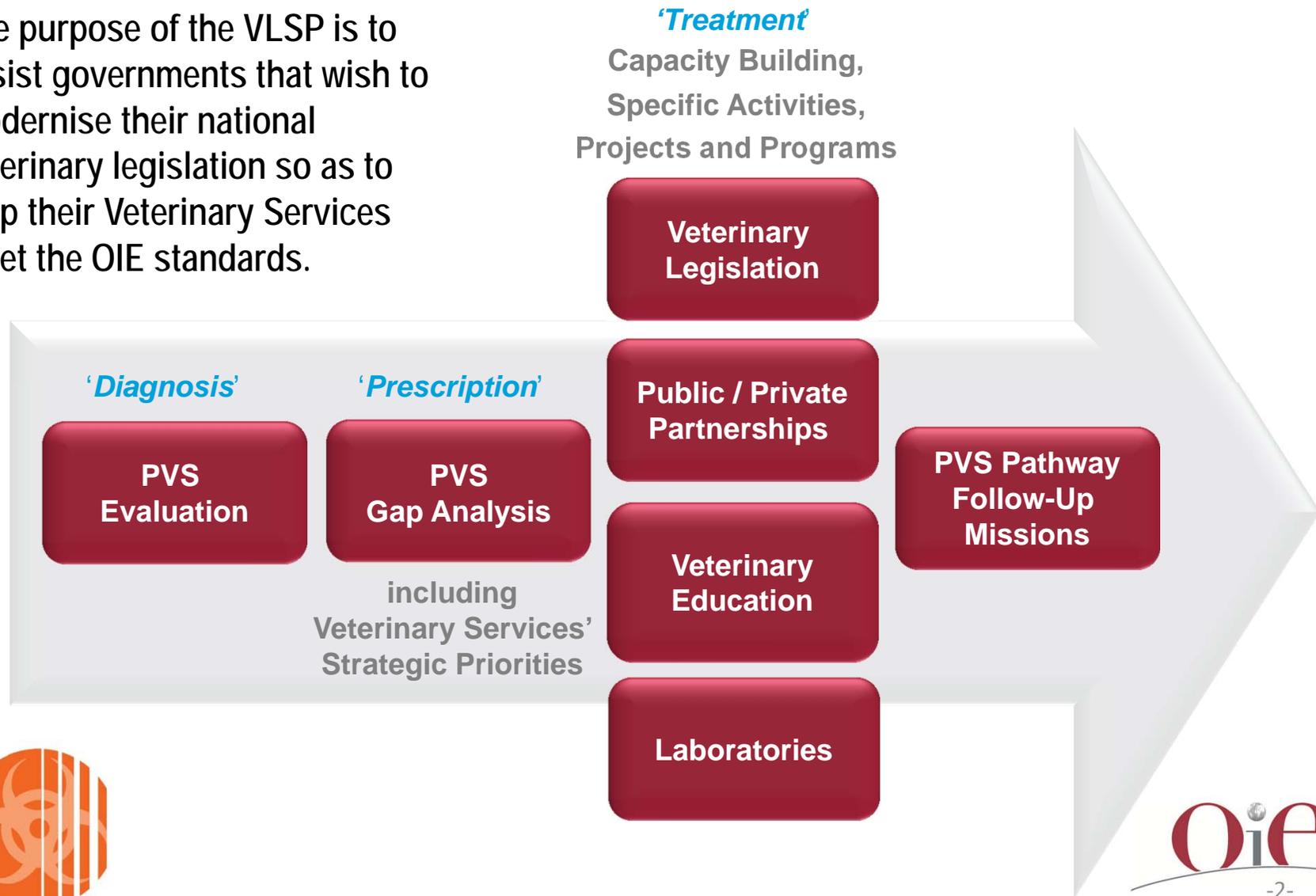
OIE PVS Pathway

is a **continuous process** aiming to **sustainably** improve compliance of Veterinary Services with **international standards and their sustainable efficiency**



Purpose and position of the VLSP In the PVS Pathway

The purpose of the VLSP is to assist governments that wish to modernise their national veterinary legislation so as to help their Veterinary Services meet the OIE standards.



Origins of the VLSP

From the outset, PVS Evaluation Missions revealed **deficiencies** in the veterinary legislation of many Member States:

- Veterinary legislation was often **outdated & inadequate** to meet current & future challenges and societal expectations
- Legal texts were **prepared in isolation** without consulting stakeholders
- Veterinarians & jurists didn't work together to create legal texts
- Defects were noted in both internal quality (legal drafting) & external quality (implementation & impact) of legal texts
- Lack of an overall strategic vision, with various regulatory powers seen as the property of competing ministries rather than as national provisions



Incomplete coverage of the veterinary domain



Further history of the VLSP

- The VLSP was inaugurated, with pilot missions, in 2008.
- In 2009, at Members' request, the OIE developed ***Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation***, identifying the essential elements that should be covered by legislation to meet the OIE standards.
- In December 2010, the ***OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation*** was held in Djerba, Tunisia.
- The Conference recommended that the OIE adopt the ***Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation as standards in the Terrestrial Code***.
- In 2011, OIE convened an ***Ad Hoc Group on Veterinary Legislation*** to develop a draft Terrestrial Code chapter on veterinary legislation.
- The ***draft chapter on veterinary legislation*** was unanimously adopted at the 80th OIE General Session in May 2012: ***It is now Chapter 3.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.***



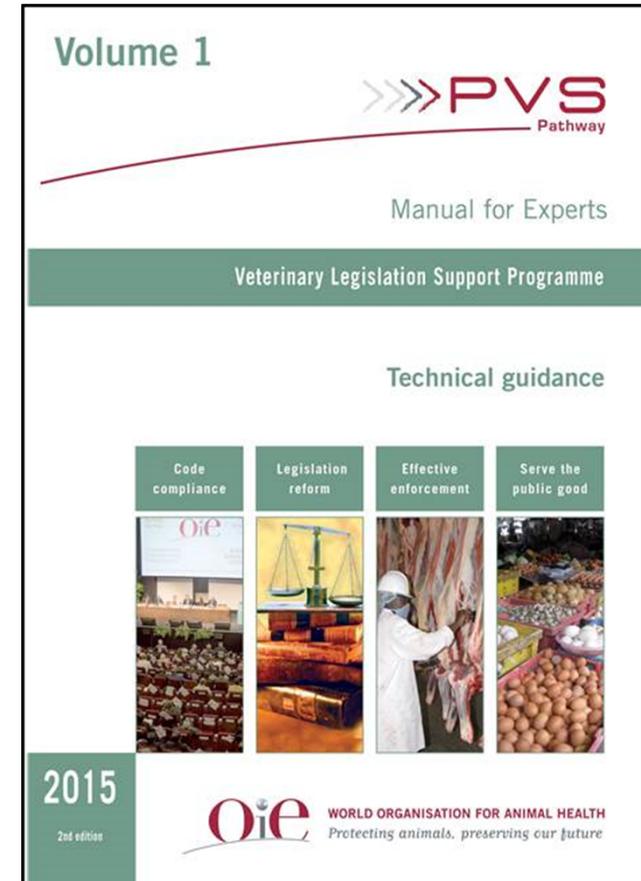
Overview of Chapter 3.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Code – Veterinary Legislation

- Chapter 3.4 now provides the framework for the OIE standards on veterinary legislation.
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- General matters
 - Introduction & objectives
 - Definitions
 - General principles
 - The drafting of veterinary legislation
-
- Specific matters
 - Competent authorities
 - Veterinarians & veterinary para-professionals
 - Laboratories in the veterinary domain
 - Health provisions relating to animal production
 - Animal diseases
 - Animal welfare
 - Veterinary medicines & biologicals
 - Human food production chain
 - Import & export procedures & veterinary certification



Structure of the VLSP

- The VLSP is a ‘treatment’ in the PVS Pathway
- Two key VLSP components
 - Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission
 - Veterinary Legislation Agreement
 - Preparatory Phase
 - Formal Agreement



Component One of the VLSP: Identification Missions

Objectives of the Identification Mission are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of veterinary legislation for modern, effective operation of the veterinary services;
- Review principles for developing high quality veterinary legislation;
- Review the current status of the Member's legislation relative to the OIE standards for veterinary legislation presented in Chapter 3.4.



Component Two of the VLSP: Legislative Agreement

Objectives of the Legislative Agreement are to:

- Establish specific objectives of legislative reform and modernization;
- Ensure that the human, financial and political resources are in place to facilitate the development and implementation of new legislation;
- Sharpen skills in legislative drafting;
- Develop specific new laws and regulations according to the Member's priority needs.



Impact of the VLSP – State of Play as of 15 June 2015

	OIE Members	Veterinary Legislation Identification mission requests received	Veterinary Legislation Identification missions implemented	Veterinary Legislation Identification mission reports received	Agreement requested*
Africa	54	40	24	24	6
Americas	29	7	6	6	2
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	6	6	6	2
Europe	53	5	3	3	1
Middle East	12	4	4	4	1
TOTAL	180	62	43	43	12



Impact of the VLSP - Outcomes

The VLSP has:

- Broadened awareness on the importance of legislative reform to address contemporary concerns and realities facing the VS;
- Brought together lawyers and veterinarians to work together on drafting of quality veterinary legislation;
- Expanded understanding of the breadth and scope of the veterinary domain – clarifying the areas where veterinarians must play an active role;
- Identified key areas where serious gaps in legislation and therefore, lack of authority, exist; and
- Promoted the creation of new legislation.



The VLSP and Biothreat Reduction

- The VLSP promotes the drafting & implementation of quality veterinary legislation that enables VS to reduce risks from animal & zoonotic biological threats.
- VS are empowered through law in key areas, e.g.:
 - Effective chain of command;
 - Mandatory reporting of listed diseases;
 - Disease surveillance – examination of records, sampling;
 - Disease control – movement control, stamping out;
 - Quality of laboratory performance;
 - Import controls – certification, border inspection;
 - Inspection of foods of animal origin – seizure, recall.



The VLSP and Biothreat Reduction – Opportunities

VLSP offers opportunities to promote effective biothreat reduction in countries that participate in the PVS Pathway:

- Identify gaps in existing legislation relative to effective biothreat detection and control;
- Promote better lines of communication and coordination between VS and law enforcement;
- Sensitize veterinarians to forensic aspects of investigating and controlling disease outbreaks that might be crimes.
- The VLSP could benefit from greater collaboration and training with Interpol and other relevant agencies to better realize these opportunities.





**Building cooperation for
efficient health and security
systems worldwide**

Thank you

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