



# **LESOTHO VETERINARY LEGISLATION**

## **OIE SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON VETERINARY LEGISLATION FOR OIE DELEGATES AND FOCAL POINTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

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**31/10/2011 – 02/11/2011**



# BACKGROUND

The earliest record of veterinary legislation is **PROCLAMATION 10 OF 1896 (STOCK DISEASES)**. Its purpose was to make provision for the prevention of diseases among stock in the then Basutoland. It enabled the then High Commissioner to make, amend or repeal disease control regulations in Basutoland or any part of the territory as and when necessary and to provide for penalties when the regulations were breached. The Proclamation covered the following aspects:

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO

- The prevention of the introduction and spread among stock in Basutoland of any disease specified in such regulations;
- The regulation and prevention of the importation into Basutoland of stock from any place outside Basutoland and of the movement of stock in Basutoland;
- The notification of outbreaks of any such disease;
- The inspection of stock and the payment by the owner or person in charge of any stock of fees for the inspection of such stock;

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (cont...)

- The detention, isolation, concentration, testing, inoculation, disinfection, dosing, branding and dipping or removal of stock and payment by the owner or person in charge for the said activities;
- The slaughter of stock with or without compensation to the owner thereof;
- The burial or destruction of carcasses and the payment by the owner or person in charge of all expenses connected therewith;

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (cont...)

- The fencing of any portion of the border of Basutoland for the prevention of the introduction or spread among stock in Basutoland of any disease specified in such regulations;
- For prescribing the circumstances in which compensation shall be paid by the Government in respect of loss of sheep caused by any dipping carried out by an inspector, and the amount of such compensation.

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (cont...)

- Proclamation 10 is complemented by other Proclamations (24 of 1896, 8 of 1903, 4 of 1921, 7 of 1921, 18 of 1922, 57 of 1922, 16 of 1923, 80 of 1925 and 57 of 1952) and High Commissioner's Notices (H.C.N) that deal with specific diseases or aspects of disease control. Examples of these are: Proclamations 10 and 24 of 1896 cover rinderpest, Proclamation 8 of 1903 deals with rabies, Proclamation 7 of 1921 deals with anthrax, Proclamation 45 of 1951 makes provision for the protection of fresh water fish while Proclamation 57 of 1952 deals with importation and exportation of livestock and livestock products.

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (cont...)

- Amendments have been made to these pieces of legislation along the years to deal with emerging disease situations within the country as well as the changing global animal health requirements. The result is several bits of legislation that make it difficult to refer to veterinary legislation in Lesotho as one coherent piece of legislation.

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (current situation)

- All Proclamations are now referred to as Acts since the country changed its name from Basutoland to Lesotho at independence.



# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (cont...)

- While the legislation covers a wide range of domesticated terrestrial animal species, there is inadequate provision for aquatic animals. There is also no provision for wildlife, animal welfare, animal traceability or food safety.

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (challenges)

- In its present form, the legislation has enabled Lesotho to deal with disease control challenges fairly well, possibly because of the willingness of stakeholders to comply. However, some aspects may not withstand serious challenge mainly because it is in serious need of updating to take care of present-day animal disease situations and developments in the field and practice of Law because of a lot of loopholes within the legislation itself.

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (challenges)

There have been challenges of enforcement as a result of:

- Ambiguities with regard to authority between various Government Ministries/Departments;
- Shortage of staff to effect implementation/enforcement. Attempts have been made to convince staff from different institutions to work together and train them in aspects of the legislation that affect all stakeholders;

# VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN LESOTHO (challenges)

Transfer of Departments from one Ministry to another. For example, the Department of Marketing has been transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Trade. Legislation governing the marketing of livestock products is implemented partly by Agriculture and partly by Trade, depending on which commodity is being dealt with at any given time.

Non-compliance by some stakeholders



# CONCLUSIONS

- Lesotho has a veterinary legislation but it needs to be reviewed and updated in order to include aspects such as wildlife, animal welfare, animal traceability, food safety, aquatic animal health and empowerment of veterinary authority , as well as a provision of penalties and sanctions for non compliance.

**THANK YOU**



**KHOTSO PULA NALA**