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DISEASE CONTROL THROUGH LEGISLATIVE LENSES

“Sub-regional training course on veterinary legislation for OIE subject matter focal points in southern Africa”

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Veterinary Legislation Support Programme



General Issues

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Introduction

- Disease control depends on many actions that need legislative support in order to achieve the desired results
- The actions range from those carried out by veterinary professionals (technically) to those that provide other forms of support required to control diseases.
- Support services include: laboratory services, administrative support, policy environment, political support, enforcements, information sources and dissemination, etc.



The Key Question is

What legislation can support the implementation of disease control?



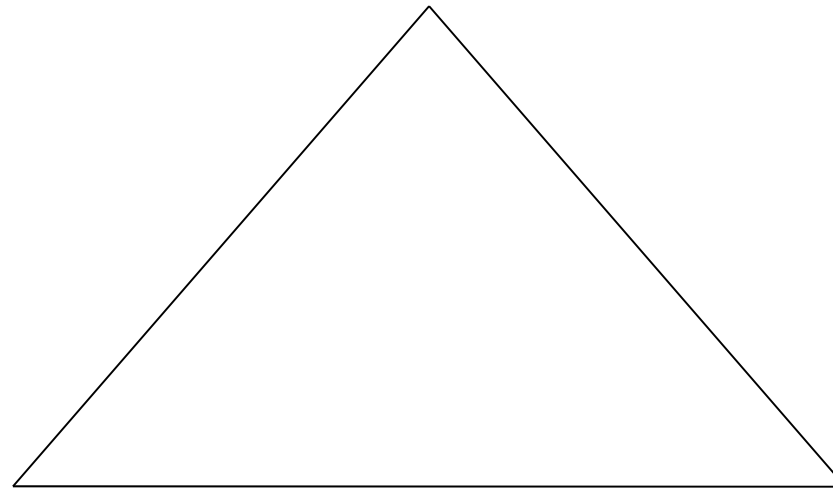
A good legislative environment will ensure that all levels of veterinary structure have legal instruments which allow them to take decisions and/or perform the work assigned to them



Introduction cont'd

Disease control is about breaking the transmission cycle of the disease

DISEASE AGENT



ENVIRONMENT

HOST



Elements of Veterinary Legislation for Disease Control.

- Provisions for:
 - emergency measures in accordance with established contingency plans;
 - measures for prevention, control or eradication;
 - surveillance measures
- Specification of mandatory control measures for certain diseases;



Elements....

- arrangements for the declaration of animal diseases (including suspected cases/ circumstances)
- immediate technical measures (including suspected conditions)
- measures for official disease surveillance;
- conditions for confirmation of diseases;
- precautionary measures



Conclusion

- Legislation is required to ensure the quality of inputs into the disease control process
- To ensure that the right processes take place to control disease
- To ensure sustainability of good health status of animals



Delegation of Powers

Dr. David M. Sherman



Reasons for Delegation of Powers

- Expand the human resource capacity of the government veterinary service to fulfill its various responsibilities in the veterinary domain
- Reduce the need to maintain large numbers of veterinarians full time on government payroll
- Provide supplemental income stream to private practitioners who might not otherwise remain in practice
- Increase the “eyes and ears” of the veterinary service to detect disease early and initiate control responses



Examples of Delegation of Powers

- Professional conduct – Veterinary Statutory Body
- Meat Inspection
- Animal Disease Control
 - Sampling
 - Testing
 - Vaccination
 - Stamping out
- Certification



Legislative Requirements for Delegation of Powers

- Veterinary legislation should provide the possibility for Competent Authorities to delegate specific tasks related to official activities, including specific tasks in the sector of animal health to individual professional veterinarians who are not civil servants.
- The specific tasks delegated, the body(ies) to which the tasks are delegated and the conditions of supervision by the Competent Authority should be defined.



Legislative Requirements for Delegation of Powers

- For this purpose, the veterinary legislation should:
 - Define the field of activities and the specific tasks covered by the delegation;
 - Provide for the control, supervision and, when appropriate, financing of the delegation;
 - Define the procedures for making delegation;
 - Define the competencies to be held by persons receiving delegation; and
 - Define the conditions of withdrawals of delegations.



Contingency Planning

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Contingency Planning

- Contingency planning for disease outbreaks is a management tool used to analyse the impact of potential disease outbreak so that adequate and appropriate arrangements are made in advance to respond in a timely, effective and appropriate way to minimise damage.
- A well-developed and consistently updated contingency plan is an essential element of an overall national preparedness capability.



Legislation and Contingency Plans

- Legislation is required to effect the provisions of the disease outbreak contingency plans.
- These relate to enhancing preparedness of a country to mounting response activity in the event of an outbreak



Financing Disease Control Including Compensation

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Financing

- Veterinary legislation should provide for the sources and conditions of financing required for the execution of all the activities of the competent authority, notably inspection, sampling and analysis and the procedures of authorization or approval in all domains covered by the veterinary legislation.



Financing disease control and eradication is one of the policy areas

We need to answer the following:

- What is to be financed?
- Who to do the financing?
- How to do the financing?
- When to do the financing?
- State why (give reasons for each of the choices)



What is financed?

- Ideally, it is the entire scope of veterinary services
- The scope can be derived from the ***46 critical competences*** identified by the OIE – which are required of any national veterinary service



Who funds?

- Individual Farmers
- Stakeholder organisations
 - Farmers, processors , transporters, traders & consumers)
- Governments
- NGOs
- International organisations (regional, global etc)
- Donors (bilateral, multilateral)



International support

- Eligibility criteria
 - Some diseases do not qualify to enter the list
 - Some countries do not qualify
 - PVS evaluation/analysis is important in this regard



Compensation Policy: Key questions

- Why Compensate ?
- What is compensated for (all diseases)?
- Who are to be compensated (eligibility)?
- The compensation rate? (how much)?
- What is the compensation mechanism?
(How is it done ?)
- Who funds it ?



Conclusion

- The why justifies the presence of the legislation.
- The details covering the what, how, who, and when are detailed in the legislation to operationalise the compensation policy



Animal Diseases Act, Control and Eradication: Animal Welfare

Dr. David M. Sherman



Oie

Reasons for Consideration of Animal Welfare

- It is the professional and moral responsibility of veterinarians to protect the health and well being of animals.
- International standards of animal welfare during rearing, transportation and slaughter may have to be met to enter certain markets with livestock and livestock products.
- Public support of disease control measures may depend on humane treatment of animals by veterinary authorities during stamping out efforts.



Legislative Requirements for Animal Welfare Relative to Disease Control

- With regard to disease control, veterinary authorities need a legal basis for destroying animals belonging to private citizens.
- Legislation should provide a basis for identifying euthanasia techniques considered as humane for use in stamping out efforts.
- Legislation should include general principles to ensure the protection of animals against cruelty, abuse, abandonment and avoidable suffering, in line with the OIE *Terrestrial Code*



Thank you for your attention ...questions..?



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