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Disease Surveillance Delegation of Powers Disease Prevention

Objectives

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Implementation

(Practical considerations)

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Veterinary Legislation Support Programme



Objectives

Objectives should be based on:

1. Public interest - the benefits to be derived by civil society, and then :

2. Technical requirements -

- to satisfy national needs, and for:
- compliance with international standards to facilitate international Trade – (Refer to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code)



Disease Surveillance

1. To determine the **presence or absence of disease or infection** - for the purpose of planning and implementing appropriate *sanitary measures* to reduce mortality, morbidity and spread and to reduce the risk of human infections in the case of *Zoonoses*.
2. **Fundamental principles** – Compliance with Quality of the *Veterinary Services* – (**Chapter 3 TAHC**)
3. To support compliance with **NOTIFICATION** obligations (**Chapter 1 TAHC**), in practical terms it means.....
 - a) Collection, transmission, and utilisation of epidemiological data related to OIE *listed diseases*;
 - b) *Early Detection System* to allow rapid responses.



Delegation of Powers

The *Veterinary Authority* may be designated as the « *Competent Authority* » having a legally mandated authority :

- to protect Animal Health and Human Health from the risks of *diseases* and other potentially adverse consequences associated with animal production and the consumption of products of animal origin.

The CVO is legally authorised to **delegate** responsibility to *official veterinarians* of the VA (often designated as **INSPECTORS**), according to defined standards (Regulations) which protect the public from misuse of these powers.

- The public has the right to know the limitations of such Powers.



Delegation of Powers

1. Distinct chain of command (as short as possible) defined in order to allow decisions to be made quickly – esp. in cases of emergency (Animal health or veterinary public health crises);
2. Powers and responsibilities must be clearly defined to ensure consistent and effective actions being undertaken in the field;
3. In cases where multiple Competent Authorities exist, each with different responsibilities, there is a need to define those of each element, individually. .eg. Ministry of Health sharing Food Safety regulation with Ministry of Ag.

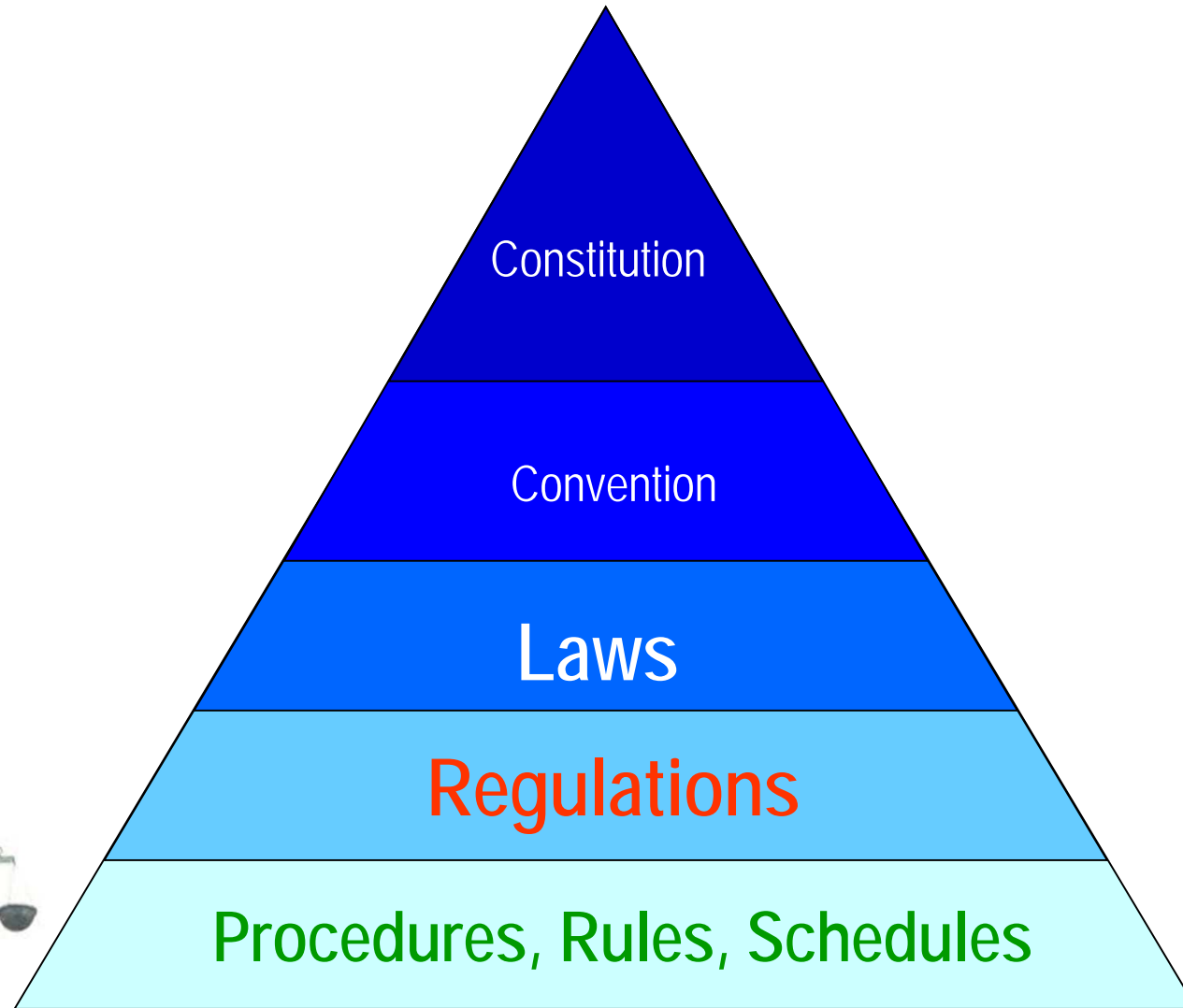


Disease prevention

- The VA has the capacity, supported by appropriate legislation, to exercise control over all Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health matters, within its territory, & for the purposes of Import and Export; (TAHC, Art 3.2.7)
- Specific rules relating to each *listed disease* are available (must be flexible);
- Support mechanisms, in the case of shared responsibilities with stakeholders in the case of joint programmes are defined; (must be flexible);
- VA is authorised to have direct control for defined disease prevention programmes (Rules, procedures, schedules);
- VA authorised to declare compulsory programmes for certain disease prevention programmes, when necessary, (Rules, procedures, schedules).



The hierarchy of normative acts



The Act

- 1 Sets out the **Objectives** or provides a statement of scope of the Legislation, e.g.:
 - **Animal health & Food Security;**
 - **Food Safety;**
 - **Public Health (zoonoses)**
& Security (stray dogs);
 - **Animal Welfare.**



The Act –

2. provides Authority and defines Powers & Functions

- Provides the Minister with authority to make Regulations & (Procedures, Rules or Schedules);
- Designates the “*Veterinary Authority*” as the “*Competent Authority*”;
- Makes provision for the Appointment of a Chief Veterinary Officer;
- Makes provision for the Delegation of powers and the performance of functions to *official veterinarians* within the *Veterinary Authority* and, sometimes to private *veterinarians* or *veterinary para-professionals*.



Regulations

- If enacted by Parliament, lengthy procedure for amendment, therefore need to be carefully drafted in order to remain relevant for up to 20 years (Authority to make Regulations may be invested in the Minister, in which case much more flexibility);
- Define the scope of Powers and Functions necessary to achieve an adequate level of control, provide transparency – public interest;
- Make provision for prescription of Procedures which define precisely how the Regulations can be enforced – e.g. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Inspection rules, etc.....



Procedures, Rules, Schedules

- Detailed instructions to be followed by *official veterinarians* or others to whom specific powers and defined functions have been officially delegated;
- Also affects the behaviour of general public;
- Can be extracted from the TAHC, if appropriate;
- Can be amended or modified or cancelled easily, depending on changing circumstances;
- Must be published in the National Gazette as soon as possible after being prescribed.



Disease Surveillance , Delegation of powers, Disease prevention – essential powers

Power of entry (Regulation);

Authority to:

- inspect: premises, animals, commodities and collect & test samples, (procedures)
- gain access to information – documents, etc.... (procedures);
- Impose sanitary measures, e.g. retain, (quarantine) animals & goods;



Implementation – practical considerations – Disease surveillance

- Although reporting of *listed diseases* is mandatory by Law in most countries - In practice it is difficult to ensure that all *cases* or *outbreaks* of OIE *listed diseases* are reported.
- Passive disease surveillance systems can be very useful sources of information but – MUST have good laboratory diagnostic service to confirm clinical suspicion of diseases being reported;
- Abattoirs provide a useful source of information, albeit biased by age and species of food animals



Disease Surveillance – Quality Assurance of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories

Legislation should define the roles, responsibilities, and quality requirements, including:

- Reference laboratories for control of veterinary diagnostic network and maintenance of reference methods;
- Designation of Official Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories / Reference Laboratories;
- Licensing of Private Laboratories to perform official analyses;
- QA Standards for Laboratory diagnostic tests;
- QA Standards for laboratory reagents;



Delegation of Powers & functions

- In many countries the *Veterinary Authority* does not have sufficient resources allocated to cover all of its territory with *official veterinarians*; It is therefore difficult for the VA to perform all of its functions uniformly across its territory;
- In such countries it is common to see the VA entering into a contract with Private sector *veterinarians* or *veterinary para-professionals*;
- In UK, such a scheme is known as the “Official Veterinarian” (OV) scheme. In France, it is known as the “Sanitary Mandate” (Mandat Sanitaire) scheme.



Delegation of Powers - implementation

- The *Veterinary Services* consists of the Public sector or “State Veterinary Service” sometimes designated as the “*Veterinary Authority*”;

The VS also includes the Private Sector.

- The Chief Veterinary Officer has authority and powers invested in him to perform all of the functions of the *Veterinary Authority*;
- In order to achieve this, in practice, the CVO must delegate some of his authority and powers to specifically designated *official veterinarians* of the VA and under defined conditions to (licensed) Private Sector individuals.....



Commonly delegated functions (& powers)

- Reporting of suspected *cases* or *outbreaks* of (OIE) *listed diseases*;
- Outbreak investigation and submission of Laboratory samples or specimens;
- Performance of Testing for “controlled animal diseases”, e.g. Tuberculosis / Brucellosis;
- Health examination of animals for issuance of movement permits or Export (by VA);
- Ante / post mortem meat inspection services;
- Vaccination services for “controlled animal diseases” etc.....



Implementation – practical considerations – Disease Prevention

- List of Notifiable diseases, which must be reported to the VA;
- Definition of Roles of different actors, e.g. Private sector and Public sector – routine clinical services – versus – “Controlled animal diseases”, e.g. Diseases for which the state accepts responsibility for their prevention and control;
- The VA must have the human, financial and technical resources to exercise powers and perform core functions. Need: Training and financial resources,



Disease prevention – practical considerations

Inspectorate functions – (Remember SPS principles)

- Border controls (import and export);
- Domestic production, processing, marketing;
- Sampling, testing and application of sanitary measures as necessary;

Extension services

- Public awareness of regulatory controls;
- Public awareness of avoidance of infection with Zoonotic diseases.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- Define indicators, monitor and evaluate –
- modify / adapt systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency



Thank you for your attention !

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