
A REVIEW OF LEGISLATION ON REGULATION OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONS IN AFRICA

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

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Summary

Legislation is essential for the effective regulation of the veterinary professions, including veterinarians and various categories of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs). This legislative review provides a comprehensive analysis of veterinary practice acts and other related legislation pertaining to the veterinary professions from World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) member-countries in the Africa region, assessing them against OIE standards regarding the regulation of the veterinary professions. The results demonstrate that while most countries in the region have legislation regulating the veterinary profession, most of this legislation does not address the regulation of VPPs. Significantly, of the 39 African countries identified as having a legal basis for the creation of a veterinary statutory body (VSB) that regulates the veterinary professions, only 12 of those countries (30%) have a legal basis for the VSB to regulate VPPs in addition to veterinarians. Accordingly, countries could benefit from putting greater emphasis on the recognition and regulation of VPPs when drafting future legislation.

Introduction¹

Veterinary legislation provides the powers and authorities necessary for Veterinary Services² to efficiently carry out its key functions, thus ensuring public safety and promoting the public good. In the face of growing global demand for foods of animal origin, increasing world trade, shifting disease patterns due to climate change, and emerging zoonotic diseases with the potential to rapidly spread across international borders, each country's VS should be supported by effective and modern legislation.

A key component of a well-functioning VS identified in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC)* is its human resources, comprised of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs), which the *TAHC* emphasizes must be subject to legal disciplinary provisions.³ The *TAHC* defines a VPP as a person who, for the purposes of the *TAHC*, is authorised by the veterinary statutory body (VSB), or autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and VPPs,⁴ to carry out certain delegated tasks in a territory under the responsibility and direction of a veterinarian.⁵ It further recommends that the VSB define the tasks for each category of VPP depending on qualifications, training, and country needs.⁶ Therefore, the legislative and regulatory framework of the VSB should also be considered when evaluating a country's VS.⁷

The composition of the veterinary workforce can vary considerably between countries and regions depending on a variety of influencing factors. Generally, in the Africa region, there is a high proportion of VPPs in the workforce relative to graduate veterinarians.⁸ This is due at least in part to an insufficient number of veterinary education establishments (VEEs) for training veterinarians and the costs involved in establishing new VEEs. Even in countries that produce veterinarians in adequate numbers, there may still be gaps in VS because veterinarians often are not willing or able to work in remote or insecure areas, do not believe they will earn sufficient income from subsistence farmers, or cannot travel long distances to provide service to livestock extensively managed under pastoral conditions. In these situations, VPPs and

¹ The authors would like to thank all World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) staff and representatives, particularly the regional and subregional representations in Africa who helped to facilitate the research and outreach that went into the development of this legislative review. Thanks also are due to the OIE Delegates from the Africa region for their time, cooperation and support in validating and sharing their country legislation. The authors would also like to thank those external to OIE, including translators and those from partner organizations who contributed advice on particular country contexts and legislation.

² The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* defines Veterinary Services as "the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the OIE *TAHC* and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* in its territory." OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Glossary. *Veterinary Services*.

³ OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2019), Article 3.2.5.

⁴ OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health* (2019), Glossary: *Veterinary Statutory Body*.

⁵ OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health* (2019), Glossary.

⁶ OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health* (2019), Glossary.

⁷ OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health* (2019), art. 3.2.2, 2.

⁸ On average there are seven times more VPPs than veterinarians in Africa according to the numbers reflected in the World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) data from 2018, the latest year that full data was available from all OIE member-countries. OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)⁹ are often found in greater numbers in both the public and private sectors. In some countries, up to 80% of animals are treated by categories of personnel who are not veterinarians.¹⁰ For this reason, veterinary legislation is essential to ensure a clear understanding of the relative roles and qualifications of veterinarians, VPPs and CAHWs and to ultimately improve the control of livestock diseases across Africa.¹¹ Yet, despite the preponderance of these workers in some countries, VPPs and CAHWs are often overlooked in legislation and are widely underregulated.

This review provides an analysis of veterinary practice acts and other related legislation pertaining to the regulation of veterinary professions from 50 OIE member-countries in the Africa region against the standards set by the OIE for the regulation of the veterinary professions. Specifically, this review compares the legal basis for the regulation of VPPs and CAHWs to that of veterinarians.

Methodology

This paper analyses both primary and secondary legislation in Africa. For the purposes of this paper, primary legislation includes the legal instruments issued by the legislative body of a member-country, and secondary legislation includes legal instruments issued by the executive body of a member-country under the authority of primary legislation.¹²

First, veterinary practice acts and other relevant existing legislation from OIE Members in Africa were gathered through internet searches and review of existing OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway reports, coupled with validation of the search results through an email survey of OIE delegates for each of the 54 Members in the region. Then the following essential elements deemed necessary for proper regulation of the veterinary professions were derived from review of the relevant sections of the OIE *TAHC*: (1) a definitions section, (2) definition of veterinarian, (3) definition of veterinary practice, and (4) definition of veterinary paraprofessional (VPP); (5) authority to create regulations and secondary legislation to implement the primary legislation and (6) recognition of VPPs in the legislation.¹³ Additional elements included a legal basis for setting: (7) the prerogatives of veterinarians; (8) the prerogatives of VPPs; (9) minimum initial educational requirements and competencies for veterinarians; (10) minimum initial educational requirements and competencies for VPPs; (11) continuing educational requirements; (12) conditions for recognition of the qualifications for veterinarians; and (13) conditions for recognition of the qualifications for VPPs.

Additional essential elements relate to the regulation of the veterinary profession by a veterinary statutory body (VSB) and include a legal basis for: (14) the creation of a VSB; (15) authority of the VSB to regulate both veterinarians and VPPs; (16) the registration of veterinarians and VPPs; and (17) power to take disciplinary action. The final essential elements include a legal basis for (18) defining the functions of the

⁹Selected by their community and in collaboration with private veterinary doctors, the veterinary public services and supporting bodies (projects and NGOs), Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) provide basic services and give husbandry advice to livestock keepers and oversee disseminating certain farming techniques and methods to optimize animal production and play an important role in epidemiological surveillance. "Community Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs): Guardians for quality, localised animal health services in the global south", Koen Van Troos, Margherita Gomasasca and Hervé Petit; Veterinaries Sans Frontiers (VSF) International, September 2018, <http://vsf-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Policy-Brief-n.5-web.pdf>. In the absence of veterinarians and VPPs, and that of a functional Veterinary Service, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) play a substantial role in providing a service and helping to ensure a healthy livestock population. "Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa", Johan Oosthuizen (2019), OIE Regional Commission for Africa, https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Publications_%26_Documentation/docs/pdf/TT/2019_AFR1_Oosthuizen_A.pdf.

a substantial role in providing a service and helping to ensure a healthy livestock population.

¹⁰ Report of the OIE Regional Conference on the Role of VPPs in Africa, 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Hammamet (Tunisia), 25 February - 1 March 2019, p. 76.

¹¹ Report of the OIE Regional Conference on the Role of VPPs in Africa, 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Hammamet (Tunisia), 25 February - 1 March 2019, p. 27.

¹² OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2019), glossary/definition.

¹³ This was interpreted to mean law mentions VPPs somewhere within the veterinary legislation, as opposed to the legislation does not mention VPPs at all.

VSB; (19) establishing a code of conduct, (20) requiring the supervision of VPPs by veterinarians; and (21) setting conditions for licensing/registration of veterinarians and VPPs¹⁴.

In addition to the above 21 elements that are typically found in a veterinary practice act, this review also examined other elements that are essential for the regulation of the veterinary profession but that may be found in legislation other than veterinary practice acts, including animal disease control or pharmacy acts. These additional elements include a legal basis for: (1) distinguishing between public and private veterinarians, (2) the delegation of official veterinary activities to private veterinarians or VPPs (i.e. sanitary mandates), (3) prescription of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) by veterinarians, (4) the requirements for the prescription of VMPs by VPPs, (5) the allowance of non-veterinarians to perform veterinary activities in the event of emergencies, such as epizootics, (6) the VSB to play a role in education (i.e. accreditation/approval of veterinary education establishments and/or qualifications).

The gathered legislation was then examined for identification of these essential elements according to the checklist in annex 1. A database of the results of the legislation review was developed in Excel, and the data analysed.

Results and discussion

Existence of legislation for regulating the veterinary profession

Fifty of the 54 Members in the OIE Africa region responded to the email survey resulting in the collection and review of 119 pieces of legislation: 52 pieces of primary legislation and 67 pieces of secondary legislation.¹⁵ Forty out of the 50 countries that responded (80%) have primary legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession. Of these 40 countries, 32 countries (80%) have a specific veterinary practice act.¹⁶ In the remaining eight countries (20%), the primary legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession is under a broader act. Eighteen out of the 40 countries with legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession (45%) have secondary legislation.

Age of relevant legislation

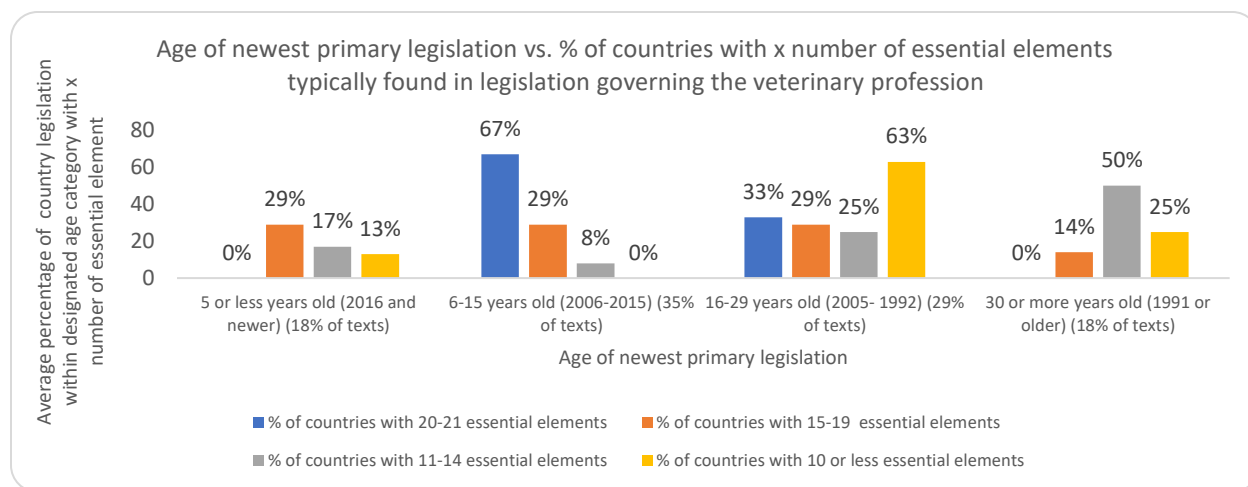


Figure 1: Comparison of the percentage of legislation that is five or less years old, six to 15 years old, 16 to 29 years old, and 30 or more years old and the corresponding number of essential elements per age category. This chart shows a clear correlation between more essential elements and newer legislation, as well as less essential elements and older legislation.

¹⁴ This element was examined to determine if there was a legal basis for the regulation of VPPs and/or veterinarians by *any* body, irrespective of whether the country has a legal basis for the VSB to register veterinarians and/or VPPs (or of whether there was a legal basis for a VSB at all).

¹⁵ The legislation collected is up to date as of December 2020.

¹⁶ For the purposes of this paper, the term “veterinary practice act” will be used to refer to the primary legislation specifically regulating the veterinary profession.

This review first took note of the age of relevant legislation. Overall, the majority of legislation is more than 15 years old (64%), with 29% and 18% dating to 1992 to 2005 (16-29 years old) and 1991 or older (30 or more years old) at the time of the review (*Figure 1*). In contrast, 36% of legislation is 15 years old or newer, with 18% being 5 or less years old and 35% being 6-15 years old at the time of the review (*Figure 1*).

Generally, the results show that countries with newer primary legislation tend to cover more essential elements than those with older primary legislation (*Figure 1*). Of the countries with 50-69% of essential elements, 62% are 30 or more years old, and, of countries with less than 50% of essential elements, 80% are either 16-29 years old or 30 or more years old (*Figure 1*). However, the results also show that having newer primary legislation does not guarantee the inclusion of more essential elements, as 20% of countries with less than 50% of essential elements have relevant legislation that is less than 15 years old (*Figure 1*). Thus, countries undertaking the amendment and/or drafting of primary legislation could benefit from reviewing essential elements for the regulation of the veterinary profession as they appear in section 3 of the *TAHC*, particularly Chapter 3.4 on veterinary legislation, in order to guarantee a comprehensive legal basis for the regulation of the veterinary professions.

Essential elements for the regulation of the veterinary profession typically found in veterinary practice acts

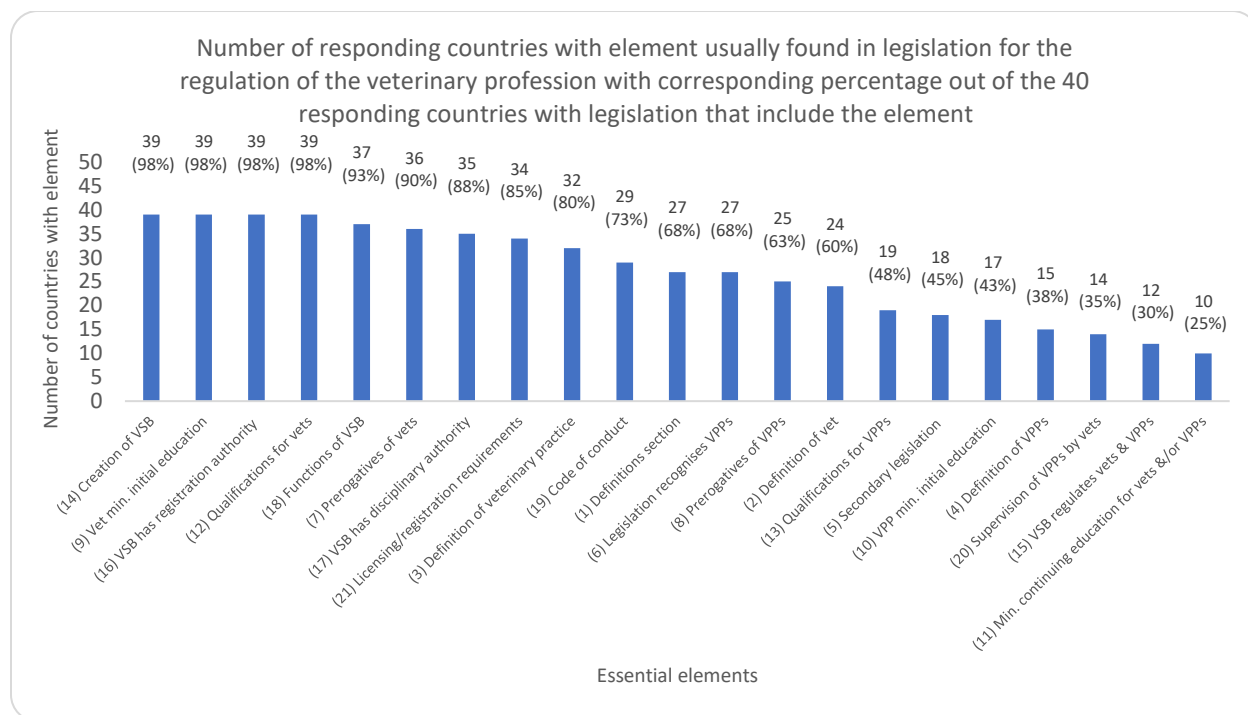


Figure 2: Comparison of the number of responding countries with the element in question of the elements usually found in legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession with the corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation. These elements are sorted in order of highest number of countries with the element to lowest number of countries with the element.

The graph in *Figure 2* compares the total number of countries with a legal basis for each essential element typically found in a country’s legislation for the veterinary profession with the corresponding percentage of countries out of the 40 countries with legislation for the veterinary profession with each essential element.¹⁷ Of the essential elements that are typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary profession, those with the lowest percentage in legislation all involve VPPs, including the minimum

¹⁷ These numbers reflect the number of countries that include the specified element in the legislation for the veterinary profession sent in accordance with the survey and may not necessarily reflect that the element is missing within the veterinary legislation.

continuing educational requirements for vets and/or VPPs (25% of countries), a VSB that regulates both vets and VPPs (30%), the supervision of VPPs by veterinarians (35%), a definition of VPPs (37.5%), VPP minimum educational requirements (25%), and qualifications of VPPs (48%) (Figure 2). The essential elements with the highest percentage of provisions in legislation are those involving VSBs and the regulation of veterinarians, including the creation of a VSB (98%), the minimum initial educational requirements of veterinarians (98%), authority of the VSB to register the category of workers that it has a legal basis to regulate (98%), and the qualifications of veterinarians (98%) (Figure 2).

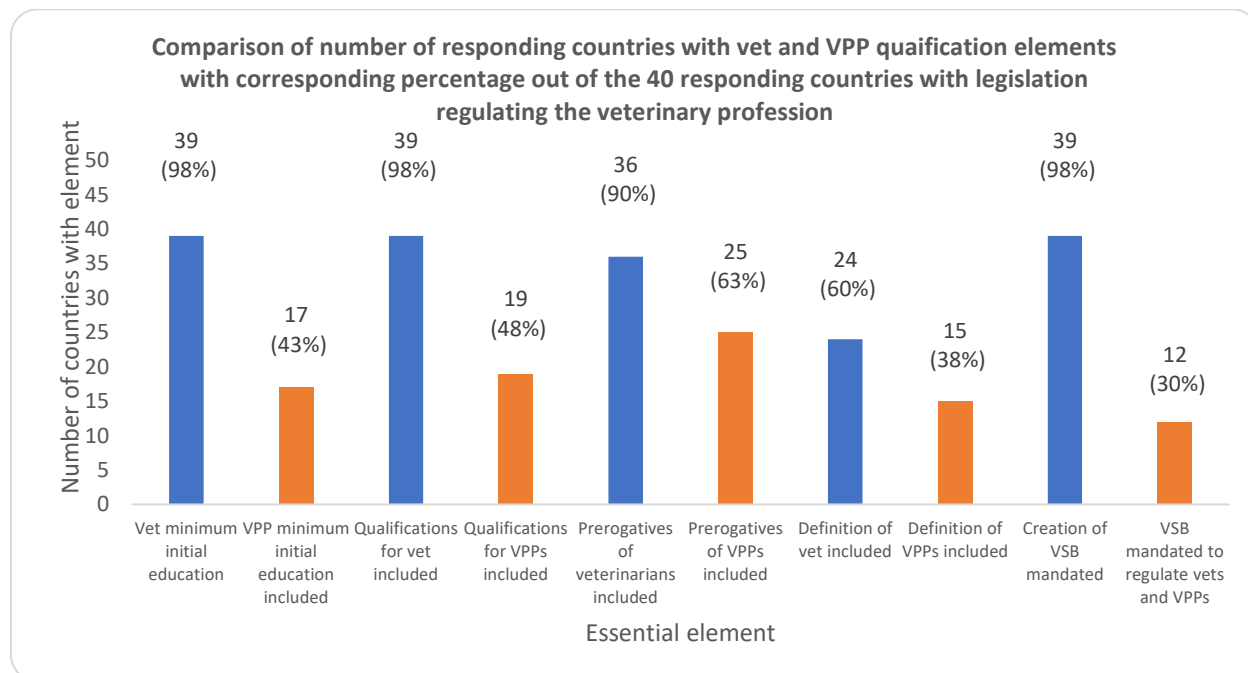


Figure 3: Comparison of the number of countries with a legal basis in the legislation for the veterinary profession reviewed for the minimum initial education requirements, qualifications, and prerogatives of veterinarians (blue) and VPPs (orange), as well as the number of countries with a legal basis for creation of a VSB and percentage of countries with a legal basis for the VSB to regulate both veterinarians and VPPs, with the corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation. Note that these percentages could be higher or lower depending on the interpretation of key terms, as these elements were analysed based on explicit distinction between veterinarian and VPPs.

These results demonstrate that the definition, recognition, and regulation of VPPs in legislation could use greater emphasis and inclusion in legislation in Africa, particularly compared to veterinarians. This is illustrated in Figure 3, which compares the percentage of countries that include a legal basis for the regulation of veterinarians to the percentage of countries that contain the same provisions for VPPs. Though 90% and 97.5% of countries include a legal basis for setting the prerogatives and conditions for recognition of qualifications of veterinarians, only 62.5% and 47.5% of countries include the same provisions for VPPs (Figure 3). The same gap applies to minimum educational requirements, with 97.5% and 42.5% of countries including a legal basis for this element for veterinarians and VPPs, respectively (Figure 3). More broadly, 22 out of the 50 countries that responded to the survey (44%) have no legal basis at all for the regulation of VPPs,¹⁸ including those that have no legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession. Of the 28 countries (60%) that address VPPs, nine (32%) mention VPPs only once or twice in passing. Thus, only 19 countries (38% of the 50 countries surveyed) fully cover VPPs in the legislation (i.e. include the majority of essential provisions for VPPs), two of which explicitly distinguish CAHWs from VPPs.

¹⁸ This was interpreted to mean law does not mention VPPs at all.

Definitions section and definitions for veterinarian, VPP, and veterinary practice

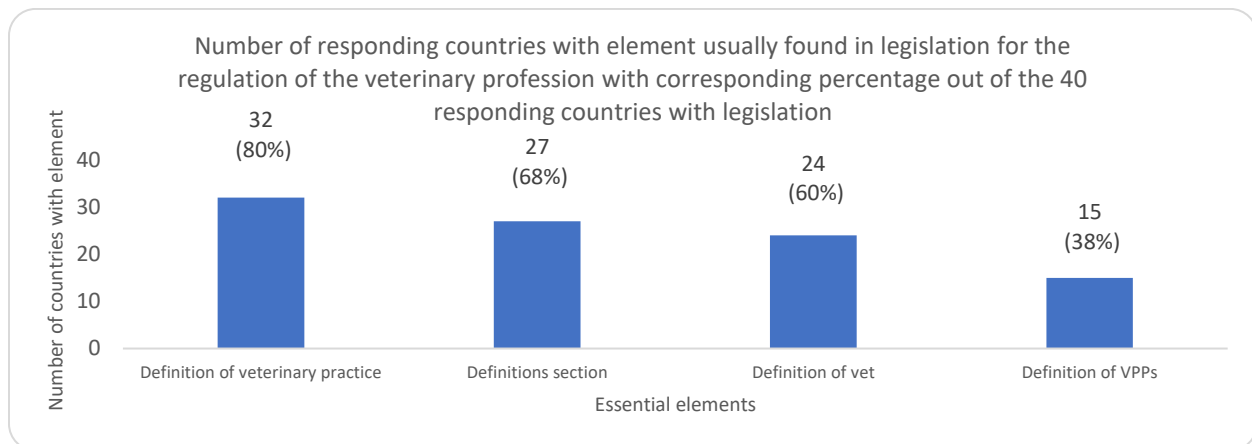


Figure 4: Comparison of the number of countries with a definitions section and with definition for the key terms identified for the purposes of this study (VPP, veterinarian, and veterinary practice) with the corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation.

Definitions are essential for virtually all essential elements, especially when reviewing whether there is a legal basis for the regulation of VPPs. This study found that countries were more likely to define veterinarian than VPP, with twenty-four countries (60%) including a definition for the term veterinarian or some form of the term¹⁹, and fifteen countries (38%) include a definition for the term VPP and/or categories of VPPs (Figure 4). Of these 15 countries, eight define the term “veterinary paraprofessional” or “paraprofessional”, and the rest use alternative terms, such as “other animal health professionals”, “animal health assistant”, or “para-veterinary personnel”. In contrast, 32 countries (80%) define veterinary practice (Figure 4). Finally, 24 of the 40 countries (60%) with legislation for the veterinary profession have a definitions section, which was analysed to mean a section that includes a comprehensive list of all important terms in the act (Figure 4).

The countries with a definitions section were more likely to define key terms, such as veterinarian and VPP, making the legislation as a whole very clear and easy to understand. In contrast, an ambiguous definition of veterinary practice made it difficult to distinguish whether certain elements apply to veterinarians, VPPs, or both, which has the effect of creating no legal distinction between the two professions. For example, 12 countries include a definition of veterinary practice and/or provisions for registration with the VSB that either does not explicitly authorise specific categories of professionals (including veterinarians) to practice veterinary medicine or does not prohibit VPPs from practicing veterinary medicine. Similarly, sometimes the definition of veterinary practice includes a list of tasks or prerogatives without specifying whether the list applies to veterinarians or VPPs.

Overall, the results indicate that it would be useful for countries to review their definitions sections, if any, to reduce legal ambiguity by verifying that the defined terms are indeed the ones used throughout the act, by ensuring that the legislation defines all essential terms that should not be open to interpretation, and by making sure that the definitions clarify which categories of veterinary professionals can practice veterinary medicine and the differences between the different categories of professionals.

Recognising and defining CAHWs

As with VPPs, a case can be made for the inclusion of CAHWs in legislation to ensure proper training and regulation of this cadre of veterinary workers due to their increasing presence and activity in Africa. This study found that only two of the 40 countries (5%) with legislation for the veterinary profession mention CAHWs in the legislation for the veterinary profession, though it is possible (though unverified in this

¹⁹ One country only defines “certifying veterinarian” without defining the individual term “veterinarian”, and another defines only “specialist veterinarian.”

study) that some countries may contain provisions for CAHWs in public service legislation. Further, countries could implicitly include CAHWs within the provisions relating to VPPs, thus reemphasizing the importance of definitions in providing legal clarity.

In contrast, according to a survey conducted by the Regional Core Group (RCG) for Africa in 2018²⁰, 81% of the responding countries in West/Central Africa reported that they use CAHWs in practice, followed by 58% in Southern Africa, 57% in East Africa and none in North Africa. Thus, because the majority of countries in West/Central, East, and Southern Africa reported that they use CAHWs but have no clear provisions that apply to these workers, it is essential that countries review whether they include provisions that either explicitly or implicitly provide for the regulation and use of CAHWs in order to adequately regulate the provision of veterinary services by all workers.

Elements relating to VSBs

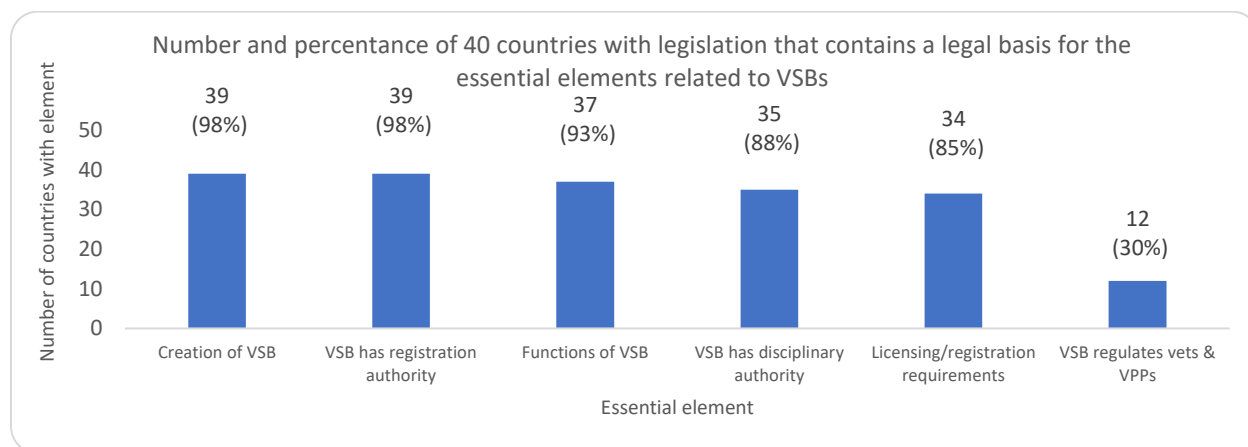


Figure 5: Comparison of the number of countries with essential elements related to VSBs contained in legislation for the veterinary profession, with the corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation.

Most countries with legislation for the veterinary profession include the essential elements that pertain to VSBs. Thirty-nine countries have an explicit legal basis for the creation of a veterinary statutory body (98%), 36 (92.3%) of which established a VSB in practice (*Figure 5*). Thirty-seven (93%) countries have a legal basis for listing the functions of the VSB, and 35 countries (90%) include a legal basis for the VSB to take disciplinary action (*Figure 5*). Thirty-four countries (85%) include a legal basis for listing the requirements for registration or licensing of veterinarians and/or VPPs with the VSB or other regulating body (*Figure 5*). All 39 countries with a legal basis for the creation of a VSB have provisions for the VSB to have authority to register the categories of professionals that it has a legal basis to regulate, including VSBs that register just veterinarians and VSBs that register veterinarians and VPPs (*Figure 5*). However, only 12 countries (30%) have a legal basis for the VSB to regulate VPPs in addition to veterinarians (*Figure 5*). Thus, because these results show that VPPs are largely left out of the extensive regulation of VSBs in the Africa region, countries should review their legislation regulating VSBs to ensure that VPPs are included.

²⁰ Questionnaire on the Technical Item 1 from the 2019 OIE Regional Commission for Africa, “Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa”: The Regional Core Group (RCG) for Africa, comprised of the four members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission and the regional members of the OIE Council, agreed on a simplified questionnaire, supplemented with the expert’s knowledge and expertise, to gather information on VPPs in Africa in accordance with the recommendation from the Regional Conference on the Role of Veterinary Para-professionals in Africa in October 2015 that OIE reconvene, as appropriate, regular regional fora on the role of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals in Africa. The results of this survey were presented at the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Hammamet, Tunisia, held on the 25th of February through the 1st of March 2019.

Essential elements for the regulation of the veterinary profession that are often found in legislation other than legislation regulating the veterinary profession

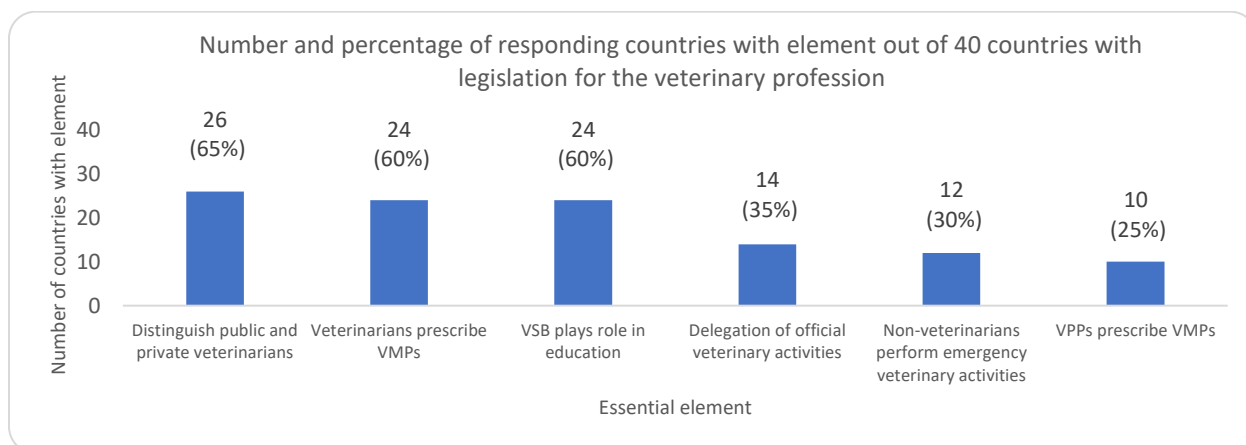


Figure 6: Comparison of the number of responding countries with the element in question of the elements that may likely be found in legislation other than legislation regulating the veterinary profession with the corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation. These elements are sorted in order of highest number of countries with the element to lowest number of countries with the element.

The above graph shows the total number of countries with a legal basis for each of the 6 essential elements that are likely not found in a country's legislation for the veterinary profession with the corresponding percentage of countries out of the 40 countries with legislation for the veterinary profession with each essential element.²¹ Of these essential elements that are likely not found in legislation regulating the veterinary profession, those with the lowest percentage of legal bases found in the legislation reviewed for this study include prescription of VMPs by VPPs (25%), performance of veterinary activities by non-veterinarians in the event of an emergency, such as zoonosis (30%), the delegation of official veterinary activities (35%) (Figure 6). The essential elements with the highest percentage of provisions in legislation are distinguishment in the law between public and private veterinarians (65%), prescription of VMPs by veterinarians (60%), and a legal basis for the VSB to play a role in education (such as accreditation/approval of veterinary education establishments and/or VPP training institutions (65%) (Figure 6).

Because these six elements might be found in legislation texts other than texts specifically regulating the veterinary profession, such as pharmacy or animal disease control acts that are outside of the scope of this study as originally designed, a follow up examination of other legislation pertaining to the veterinary domain could be useful for a better estimate of the number of countries with a legal basis for these elements. Nevertheless, in addition to clearly distinguishing between the role of veterinarians and VPPs in the distribution of VMPs, these results suggest that it could be beneficial for countries to review their legislation concerning the use of VMPs to ensure that there is adequate legislation governing prescription requirements to ensure that VMPs are not misused or overused, especially in the context of antimicrobial resistance.

Conclusion

In general, this study found that the responding African countries recognize the importance of regulating veterinarians, with 40 out of the 50 responding countries having legislation regulating the veterinary profession, including a veterinary practice act or equivalent. Further, 98% of responding countries include a legal basis for the creation of a VSB, with 92% of these countries establishing a VSB in practice (Figure 5). Finally, nearly all responding countries include a legal basis for the minimum educational requirements (98%), qualifications (98%), and prerogatives (90%) of veterinarians (Figure 2).

²¹ These numbers reflect the number of countries that include the specified element in the legislation for the veterinary profession sent in accordance with the survey and may not necessarily reflect that the element is missing within the veterinary legislation.

In contrast, the results show that VPPs are underregulated in Africa compared to veterinarians (*Figure 3*). Notably, most countries currently lack a legal basis for the national VSB to regulate VPPs (*Figure 5*). These workers could therefore use greater focus in future legislation review, particularly since VPPs comprise a significant proportion of the veterinary workforce in the region.

Nearly all countries could benefit from increased efforts to clarify, define, and consistently utilise essential terms in the legislation, in particular the term VPP, which would improve the clarity and impact of the legislation (*Figure 4*). In addition, because only 45% of countries have secondary legislation to implement their primary legislation, most countries could benefit from the creation of secondary legislation to ensure adequate regulation of the veterinary professions. Some of the other essential elements that could be found in legislation other than veterinary practice acts, such as requirements for prescription of veterinary medicines and sanitary mandates, should also be critically examined and emphasised in future legislation (*Figure 6*).

Finally, it is essential to regularly review legislation to ensure that it is clear, comprehensive, and consistent with international standards. Legal clarity is particularly important for ensuring an effective legal basis for addressing key issues, such as categories of recognised veterinary professionals and their qualifications for registration, prerogatives, code of conduct, continuing education requirements, and authority to prescribe VMPs, among others. Doing so would greatly facilitate implementation of the laws, while also enhancing the efficacy of legislation by guaranteeing that it is respectable by the public, effective in accomplishing its goals, and helpful for improving and maintaining the values of the society that it represents.

ANNEXE 1: VPP/PRACTICE ACTS LEGISLATION ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

General

Is there legislation regulating the veterinary profession?

Does the legislation include definitions for vet, VPP, vet practice, vet professional?

*Does the legislation describe the various categories of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals recognised in the country in accordance with its needs, notably in animal health and food safety, and for each category, prescribe its training qualifications tasks and, for VPPs, **extent of supervision**?*

Is the definition of veterinary practice or veterinary medicine written in such a way that it explicitly prohibits other veterinary personnel (e.g., VPPs) from carrying out activities that are explicitly given to vets (e.g., the diagnosis and treatment of animals)?

Qualifications and Education

Does the veterinary legislation require the definition of

the prerogatives of veterinarians?

the prerogatives of VPPs and the various categories of VPPs?

the minimum initial and continuous educational requirements and competencies for veterinarians?

the minimum initial and continuous educational requirements and competencies for VPPs?

the conditions for recognition of the qualifications for veterinarians?

the conditions for recognition of the qualifications for VPPs?

Does the legislation identify the exceptional situations, such as epizootics, under which persons other than veterinarians can undertake activities that are normally carried out by veterinarians?

Is there any legal basis for delegation of official veterinary activities to private veterinarians and/or VPPs through contracts e.g., sanitary mandates?

Veterinary Statutory Body

*Does the legislation provide a legal basis for the creation of a **veterinary statutory body (VSB)**?*

If so, is there a VSB?

Does the legislation describe the prerogatives, functioning, and responsibilities of the VSB?

If there is a VSB, what categories of personnel does the VSB regulate? (does it regulate VPPs?)

Does the legislation provide for a code of conduct?

If so, does the code of conduct apply to VPPs?

Does the legislation allow for the VSB take disciplinary action?

Is there a legal basis for the VSB play a role in education (i.e. in the planning of training/curricula and accrediting faculties/curricula/facilities)?

If not, does the legislation designate another body to be responsible?

Does the legislation provide for the VSB to register vets and VPPs?

Does the legislation provide for licensing and registration requirements of vets and VPPs?

If so, does legislation precise how long a license and registration is valid for vets and VPPs?

If so, does legislation precise how a license and registration is renewed?

Miscellaneous

Does the legislation allow or prohibit VPPs to write prescriptions?

Is there anything in the law regarding which categories of personnel are permitted to prescribe drugs?

Does the legislation permit VPPs to work in private practice and perform clinical work, diagnose, and treat animals independent of a veterinarian?

Does your country make use of CAHWs? (from 2018 survey)

Is there regulatory oversight of CAHWs? (Does legislation list CAHW qualifications?) (from 2018 survey)