



# Towards a More Resilient Veterinary Workforce for Africa 2024

Continental Conference 26 – 28 November 2024 Nairobi, Kenya

*Animal health is our health. It's everyone's health*



**BMZ**

Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



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# Veterinary Legislation and Regulation – WOAHA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

Veterinary Professionals and Veterinary  
Paraprofessionals

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# *2015 Conference on the Role of VPPs in Africa*

PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND :

To the Veterinary Authorities of the OIE Member Countries:

**2. To facilitate and, where possible, harmonise the legislative framework for the establishment and management of Veterinary Statutory Bodies where these do not exist or do not comply with OIE standards, or to update it for a better recognition of the issues related to the tasks undertaken by veterinary para-professionals as an integral part of Veterinary Services;**

# *2015 Conference on the Role of VPPs in Africa*

PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND :

To the Veterinary Authorities of the OIE Member Countries:

**3. To support the **veterinary para-professionals to establish independent national, regional and/or sector-wide associations, able and competent to represent the profession(s) in the Veterinary Statutory Body or Bodies;****

# *2015 Conference on the Role of VPPs in Africa*

PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND :

To the Veterinary Authorities of the OIE Member Countries:

**4. To take into account their expectation that the National Veterinary Statutory Body will include veterinary para-professionals in their decision-making bodies, beyond the mere registration or listing of these para-professionals;**

# *2015 Conference on the Role of VPPs in Africa*

PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND :

To the Veterinary Authorities of the OIE Member Countries:

**7. To take necessary steps for the **enactment and enforcement of required legislation** that will ensure the implementation of these recommendations.**

# Scope of Presentation

## Part I:

# Veterinary Legislation

1. What is Veterinary Legislation?
2. Why is legislation important for the veterinary domain?
3. WOAHA standards on veterinary legislation
4. Why cover veterinary paraprofessionals in veterinary practice legislation?

# Scope of Presentation

## Part II: Veterinary Regulation

1. What is a VSB?
2. What is the difference between a Veterinary Association and a Veterinary Statutory Body?
3. Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB
4. Why have legislation around veterinary practice?
5. WOA sample Veterinary Practice Act





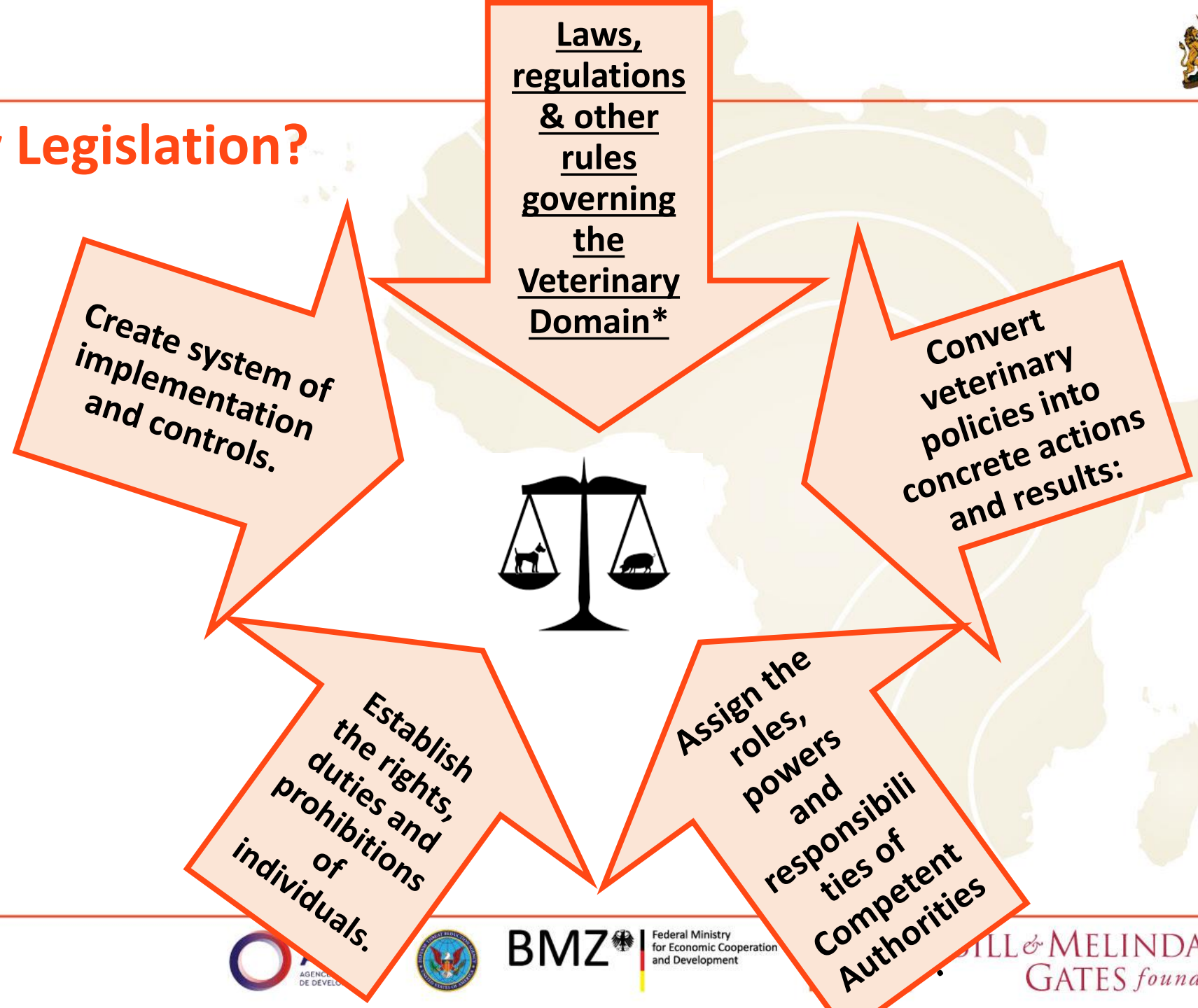
# Part I



## Veterinary Legislation

# What is Veterinary Legislation?

\*The **Veterinary Domain** encompasses *all the activities that are directly or indirectly related to animals, their products and by-products which help to protect, maintain and improve animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.* (WOAH Terrestrial Code 3.4.2)



# Why is legislation important for the veterinary domain?

Ensures **preparedness** for future challenges.

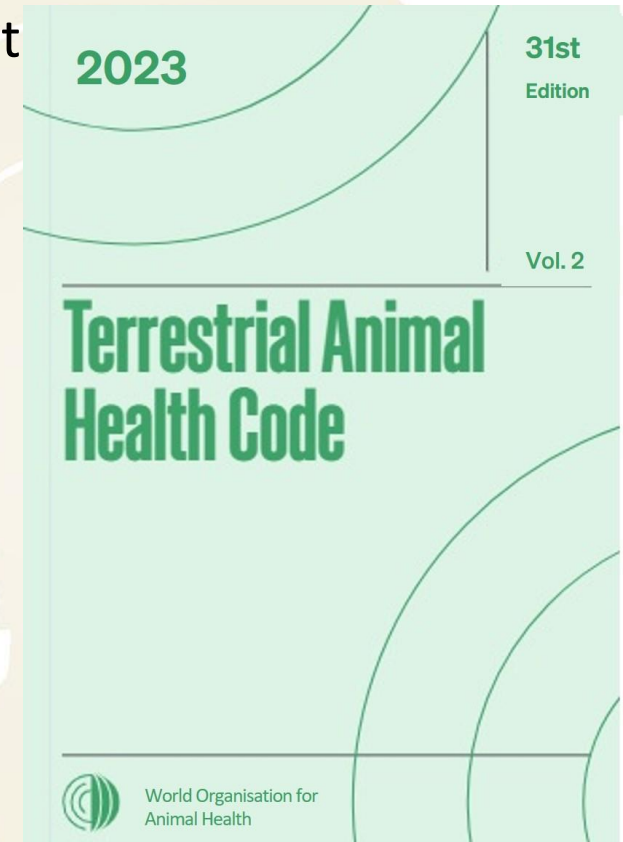
Enshrines **accountability** for all actors.

Clarifies **role** of all stakeholders.

Promotes **integrity** for the veterinary profession.

## Content of Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) Chapter 3.4 on veterinary legislation:

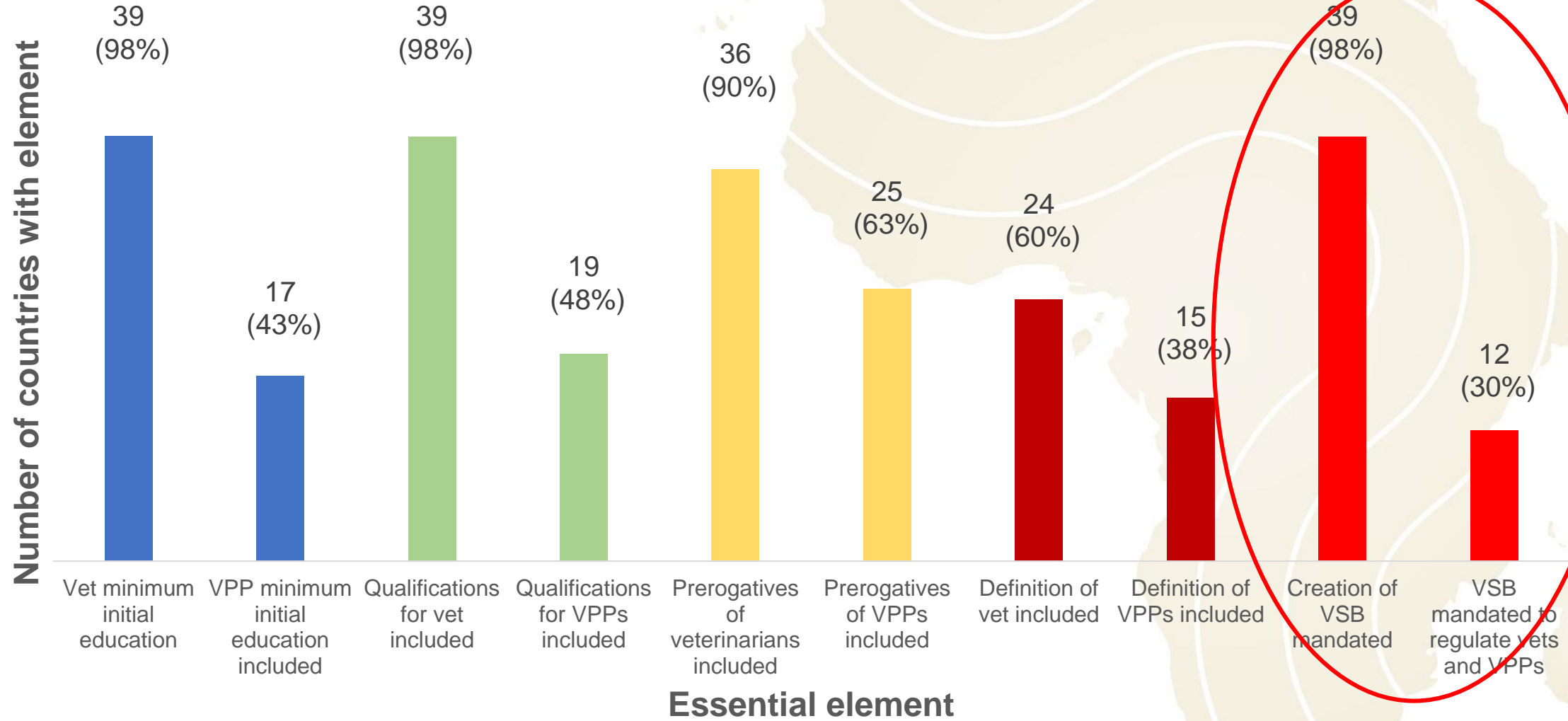
- General: purpose and objectives, definitions, structure and organization with international standards and obligations (3.4.1 – 3.4.4)
- Competent authorities (3.4.5)
- **Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (3.4.6)**
- Laboratories in the veterinary domain (3.4.7)
- Health provisions relating to animal production (3.4.8)
- Animal diseases (3.4.9)
- Animal welfare (3.4.10)
- Veterinary medicinal products (3.4.11)
- Human food production chain (3.4.12)
- Import and export procedures and veterinary certification (3.4.13)



## WOAH recommendations for Veterinary Legislation (TAHC article 3.4.6):

- Provide for the creation of a **Veterinary Statutory Body**
- Describe **VSB prerogatives, structure, functioning & system of VSB regulation** of veterinary professionals
- **Authorize VSB** to regulate
  - **Veterinarian & VPP categories (specializations), prerogatives, education** (initial and continuous)
  - Conditions for **recognition of qualifications** for practice veterinary medicine (incl. **supervision, where necessary**)
  - **conduct and competence** issues, including licensing & disciplinary requirements (code(s) of ethics)
  - Conditions for **persons other than veterinarians** to carry out veterinarian activities
- **If no VSB, address the above elements.**

## Review of Veterinary Practice Legislation in Africa (2021-22)



# Why cover veterinary paraprofessionals in veterinary practice legislation?

1. Establish **officially recognized** categories of VPPs
  - Day One Competencies / Curricula.
2. Ensure **safe, quality, and ethical veterinary practice**
  - **\*\*Supervisory and training requirements + code of practice.**
3. Ensure consistency in **VPP education**
  - **Initial and continuing education**
4. Promote **food security & safety**
  - **consistent and reliable service delivery**
5. Ensure regulation of **all areas of veterinary domain**
  - **“ONE HEALTH APPROACH”**



# Part II



## Veterinary Regulation



## What is a veterinary statutory body (VSB)?

**Veterinary statutory body** means an autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. (TAHC Glossary)

**Autonomous** = operates independently, without undue influence from political or commercial interests.

**Regulatory body** = has the authority to control veterinary practitioners

**Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals** = regulates all categories of practitioners

**Independence** of the VSB is ensured through transparent governance and funding arrangements including an elected, representative council or equivalent, and financial arrangements for the collection and management of registration fees.

# *What are the differences between a Veterinary Association and a VSB?*

## **Veterinary Statutory Body:**

- Regulatory body → Standard setting, control, enforcement role
- Promotes societal interests along with member interests
- Mandatory membership

## **Veterinary/VPP Association / Chamber:**

- Professional body → career development, advocacy role,
- Primarily promotes the interests of its members
- Voluntary membership

# Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB

## 1. Establish the VSB:

- Mandate, responsibilities
- Powers, competencies
- Structure and composition
- Operating rules and procedures
- Sources and uses of funding

# Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB

2. Provide for the definition of the officially recognised categories of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals in the country, including:
  - Prerogatives
  - Minimum educational/training requirements
  - Basic competencies
  - Supervision

# Veterinary practice legislation and the VSB

3. Outline the basic system of controls:
- Recognition of qualifications (e.g. registration)
  - Conditions to practice (e.g. licensing)
  - Minimum initial and continuous educational requirements and competencies for the various professional categories of veterinarians and VPPs
  - Adherence to codes of conduct
  - Disciplinary action

# Why have legislation around veterinary practice?

Sets standards for the qualifications and competencies of veterinary practitioners and enforces those standards → **quality control**

Protects individual interests...

- Animals
- Owners
- Consumers
- Businesses
- Veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals

...and societal interests

- Public health
- Economy

As with all legislation, veterinary practice legislation promotes legal certainty, transparency, and accountability → trust and confidence.

# WOAH sample Veterinary Practice Act

WOAH has a sample Veterinary Practice Act for Member Countries to consult as a reference when drafting veterinary practice legislation.

- Contains the most common elements of a regulatory framework for veterinary practice.
- Includes drafting notes explaining certain provisions and presenting different options.
- Intended to be used as a guide, not as a template.
- Each country must tailor its legislation to national circumstances (content as well as form).
- WOAH can support drafting of new practice and other veterinary legislation through its Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP).

# WOAH sample Veterinary Practice Act

## PART 1. VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS

Corresponds to Article 3.4.6 of Chapter 3.4., 'Veterinary Legislation',  
of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

### An Act on the regulation of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals

#### Preamble

#### Chapter 1. Preliminary

Article 1. Short title  
Article 2. Definitions

#### Chapter 2. The [National] Veterinary Council

Article 3. Establishment of the [National] Veterinary Council  
Article 4. Objectives of Council  
Article 5. Powers and functions of the Council  
Article 6. Constitution of the Council  
Article 7. Qualifications of members of the Council  
Article 8. Tenure of office of members of the Council  
Article 9. Vacation of office and filling of vacancies  
Article 10. President and vice-president of the Council  
Article 11. Meetings of the Council  
Article 12. Executive committee  
Article 13. Other committees  
Article 14. Allowances of members of the Council and committees  
Article 15. Appointment of registrar and staff  
Article 16. Funds of the Council  
Article 17. Bookkeeping and auditing  
Article 18. Reports by the Council

#### Chapter 3. Regulation of veterinary medicine

Article 19. Practice of veterinary medicine  
Article 20. Non-application of Act

#### Chapter 4. Registration, licensure and authorisation

Article 21. Registration of veterinarians  
Article 22. Grounds for refusing registration  
Article 23. Modification of registration

Article 21 Registration of Vets  
Article 27 Registration of VPPs  
Article 31 Supervision of VPPs by vets

Article 24. Licensure and renewal of license  
Article 25. Titles  
Article 26. Reference to academic titles  
Article 27. Registration of veterinary para-professionals  
Article 28. Refusal to register  
Article 29. Modification of registration  
Article 30. Licensure and renewal of license  
Article 31. Supervision of veterinary para-professionals  
Article 32. Supervision in declared emergencies or other special circumstances  
Article 33. Veterinary students  
Article 34. Civil liability

#### Chapter 5. Veterinary oath

Article 35. Requirement for an oath

#### Chapter 6. Discipline

Article 36. Professional discipline  
Article 37. Sanctions

#### Chapter 7. Professional code of conduct

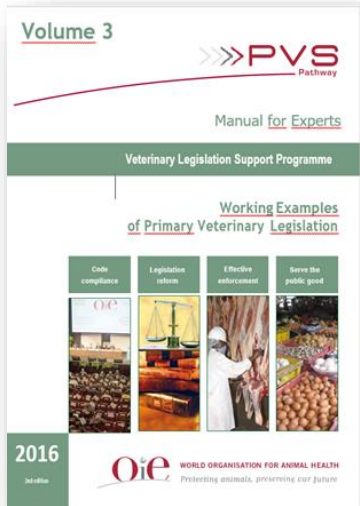
Article 38. Development and adoption  
Article 39. Application of the professional code of conduct

#### Chapter 8. Regulations

Article 40. Scope of regulations

#### Chapter 9. Penal provisions

Article 41. Penalties





# Thank you for your attention!



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