

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF VETERINARY PARA- PROFESSIONALS IN AFRICA

OPERATION AND REPRESENTATION OF VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS IN KENYA

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KENYA VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Kenya Veterinary Para-Professional Association (KVPA)

- The Kenya Veterinary Para-Professional Association (KVPA) is the leading association fronting the welfare of veterinary para-professionals in Kenya
- KVPA is a registered membership organization for all veterinary para-professionals (VPP's) in Kenya who have undergone a minimum of two years post-secondary education in Animal Health from recognized training institutions in Animal Health.



Objectives of the association

- To represent members and front their welfare issues as required under The Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act, Number 29 of 2011 (VSVP Act, 2011)
- To promote, safeguard and protect the health of animals, as defined under the above Act
- To offer capacity building to livestock farmers, and other animal keepers where necessary, for the sake of promoting animal health and new technologies as a source of livelihood and food security.

VPP training the community about animal welfare



Activities the association carries out

- Continuous professional development (CPD) activities having trained 1,818 VPP's over a span of two years.
- Participate in the in veterinary documents development and implementation
- Facilitation of information sharing within the association membership
- Promoting the harmonious working environment between veterinary surgeons and VPP's
- Animal welfare advocacy

YEAR	2014	2015
NUMBER TRAINED	543	1275



CPD Training

Categories of veterinary Para-professionals Kenya

- The VPP's in Kenya are categorized as

1. Veterinary technologist

a) Degree holders in Animal Health course duration 4 years

b) Diploma Holders in Animal Health course duration 3 years

- They are trained in the Kenyan Universities and their roles are mainly as stated in the VSVP Act, 2011.

2. Veterinary technicians

- They hold a 2 years certificate in animal's health and are trained in government training institutions such as the Animal Health and Industry Training Institutes and also universities.
- Their roles are as stated in the VSVP Act, 2011 second schedule

Training of veterinary para-professionals

- There are 4 government training institutes in animal health (3) and meat inspection (1) in Kenya which produces an average of 350 VPP's each year since late 1960's in Kenya.
- There are other institutions training in animal health mainly the universities which are either private or public. The number of those registered training institutions range from 7-10 which churns out about 400 VPP's as of recent past.
- There has been only one university in Kenya that has been training Veterinary Surgeons churning out an average of 50 veterinary surgeons a year from late 1950's when it was established. Most of them are absorbed by the civil service as trainers and research institutions thereby leaving only few in contact with farmers

Training of VPP's cont'd

- As stated above, the majority of the registered animal health providers are the VPP's who are in direct contact with farmers.
- VPP's are either in government employment (28%), private practice (70.5%) or employed by different organizations (1.5%) therefore having a close contact with farmers and in turn animals.



**Practical oriented training
of VPP's in Kenya**

History of VPP's in Kenya

Training and privatization of veterinary services

- The first VPP to be trained by the government training institute, was in the year 1965, were absorbed in to the government after graduation. They were trained by the Director of Veterinary Services and later they were absorbed after graduation in the government to assist in disease control.
- However this stopped in the year 1988 after the **privatization** of veterinary services among them, Artificial Insemination. The government could no longer employ despite the continuance in training of VPP's by the training institutions in Animal Health. There was no law regulating the VPP's then and this made their practice a challenge because of fear of prosecution

History of VPP's in Kenya cont'd

Welfares association

- This led to the first welfare association to be created in 1995 to champion for the welfare of VPP's in both in the civil service and the Private veterinary services. Those who were civil servants and championed for the creation of the welfare association were actually fired from their jobs.
- This awakening resulted to the creation of a new Act which the vet technicians sponsored themselves but on submission for enactment the animal health component was struck out, thus making it irrelevant to vet para-professional's recognition.

History of Veterinary Para-professionals in Kenya

cont'd

VPP,s Legal Recognition

- Later in the year 2011 the Veterinary Surgeons Act was repealed to include the Veterinary Para-professionals, some veterinary para-professionals participated in the process but not satisfactorily. This marked a new beginning for veterinary paraprofessional being recognized under the new VSVP Act, 2011. Currently the veterinary para-professionals are more aware of their roles though this is not without some limitations.
- The veterinary para-professionals are now required to register with the Kenya Veterinary Board and with their welfare association.
- This has greatly result to improvement of veterinary services in Kenya

Representation of veterinary para-professionals in Kenya

- Previously before the enactment of the Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary para-professionals Act, 2011 (VSVP Act, 2011) there existed the Veterinary surgeons Act which only recognized veterinary surgeons. Which made VPP'S feel left out
- After the enactment of the VSVP Act, 2011 the veterinary para-professional were now recognized and regulated under the Act.
- The VPP's are now represented by three Vet Para-professionals who are members in the Kenya Veterinary Board which is the veterinary statutory board in Kenya. They are elected by all VPP's who are in list of those registered and paid up members in the Kenya Veterinary Board

Veterinary VPP's clients in Kenya

- Veterinary pharmaceutical companies for sale of their veterinary oriented products
- Animal Welfare None Governmental Organizations
- Private practices as ambulatory services and artificial inseminators
- Training institutions as laboratory Technicians and lectures
- Veterinary pharmacies as dispensers
- Livestock research institutions
- Livestock farms



Ambulatory services by VPP's

Veterinary Para-professionals roles in Kenya

Vaccinations



Veterinary public health



Common mode of Transport



Services offered by a veterinary para-professional as per the VSVP Act, 2011

A-Services

The following may be performed by a Veterinary para-professional

- Implementation of parasite control programmes in animals;
- Meat inspection and other duties under the relevant legislation, if authorized therefore by the Director of Veterinary Services.
- Delegated duties pertaining to regulated animal diseases, including the various eradication schemes.
- Extension services (including training and education) to farmers and community members;

Services offered by veterinary para-professionals

Cont'd

- The collection, capturing and evaluation of data and the compiling of reports whilst assisting with epidemiological and research projects.
- The collection of samples, including blood smears, impression smears, skin scrapings, and wool scrapings, and faecal samples (excluding the collection of samples by biopsy);
- The examination and analysis of samples, including blood smears, skin and wool scrapings, urine analysis and faecal samples and elementary clinical chemistry;
- Basic post mortem examinations and the collection and submission of samples;
- Artificial insemination provided that the veterinary para- professional is registered as an inseminator with the Director of Veterinary Services.
- Any other function which may be assigned pursuant to this Act.

Services offered by a VPP's as per the VSVP Act, 2011 Cont'd

B-Procedures

- Closed castrations of cattle under 6 (six) months of age;
- closed castrations of sheep and goats under 3 (three) months of age;
- Open castrations of pigs up to thirty days of age;
- Dehorning of immature cattle, sheep and goats under 4 (four) months of age;
- Tail docking of sheep under 2 months of age by using the open method;
- Hoof trimming;
- under the responsibility or direction of a **veterinary surgeon** —
 - a) the lancing of abscesses;
 - b) the treatment of septic wounds; and
 - c) the administration of injections and medicines.
- Any other function which may be assigned pursuant to this Act.

Services offered by a VPP as per the VSVP Act, 2011 Cont'd

AI and vet ethical's sales by VPP

C- Execution of services

- Notwithstanding the provisions of Parts A and B of this Schedule a veterinary Para-professional shall perform the services referred to in Part A only during the course of delegated responsibility—
 - a) as an employee of the Government; or
 - b) as an employee of a registered veterinary surgeon.



Services offered by a veterinary para-professional as per the VSVP Act, 2011 Cont'd

- As per the above regulation it goes without saying that The Veterinary para-professionals are of great value in offering veterinary services in Kenya. Due to shortage of veterinary surgeons in Kenya the vet Para-professional assumes all the roles with assistance of the local district veterinary officers this is especially in the ASALs.
- However the VSVP Act 2011 denies the para-professionals to treat animal or even inseminate animals unless they are employed by the **government or by veterinary surgeons**.
- The VSVP Act, 2011 do not also specify the roles that different levels of veterinary para-professionals are supposed to assume given the different levels in education

Challenges Kenyan veterinary para-professionals undergo through

- Unfair veterinary regulations and lack of goodwill among leaders in the veterinary authorities.
- Lack of tailor made insurance policies to suite their line of work
- Poor employment terms due to lack of set standards as compared to veterinary surgeons example different risk allowances yet it is the same profession with the same risks
- Weak veterinary associations mainly due to lack of funds and lack goodwill among the Key players in the industry
- Lack of necessary veterinary infrastructure and equipment's to smoothen the activities of VPP's

Challenges Kenyan VPP's undergo through cont'd

- The lack of financial might, physical offices in the counties and enough veterinary laboratories, the VPP's are disadvantaged when it come to mobilizing for activities or even lobbying for regulations amendments and employment opportunities.
- Harsh conditions the VPP's encounter :-
 - a) Accidents which leave many physically challenged
 - b) Poor road access due to terrains in the remotes areas
 - c) Security of those para-professionals when offering veterinary services
- Upsurge of Quacks in the veterinary services

Possible solution to challenges

- Empowering the vet para-professional association to be able to carry their duties effectively
- Review the veterinary regulations set to accommodate the veterinary para-professionals well
- Veterinary policy to be developed and implemented
- Development of better risk allowances
- Provision of safety gadgets and equipments for veterinary para-professionals in practice
- Involvement of veterinary para-professionals in the policy reviews

Way Forward For Veterinary Para-professionals in Kenya

- The need for Kenya to create disease free zone means that the VPP's have to be empowered to reach even more farmers. It is a fact that in the livestock industry, farmers in the remote arid areas have shortage in veterinary services compared to high rainfall areas.
- The effective extension delivery of veterinary service to farmers more so in the marginalized areas is considered as a key factor influencing the sustainable productivity in livestock.
- Kenya is a typical example of the unequal ratio between the veterinary surgeons and the VPP's. And therefore there is need to empower the VPP's in Africa to ensure livestock productivity which will ultimately result to food security and self sustainability when it comes to livestock products.

Way Forward For Veterinary Para-professionals in Kenya cont'd

- However, the veterinary associations and veterinary boards have to play an active role in closing the gap that exist between the veterinary Doctors/surgeons and the veterinary para-professionals. Closing that gap will ensure that all categories of veterinary professionals work together to achieve each countries targets by eliminating competition and allowing consultations.



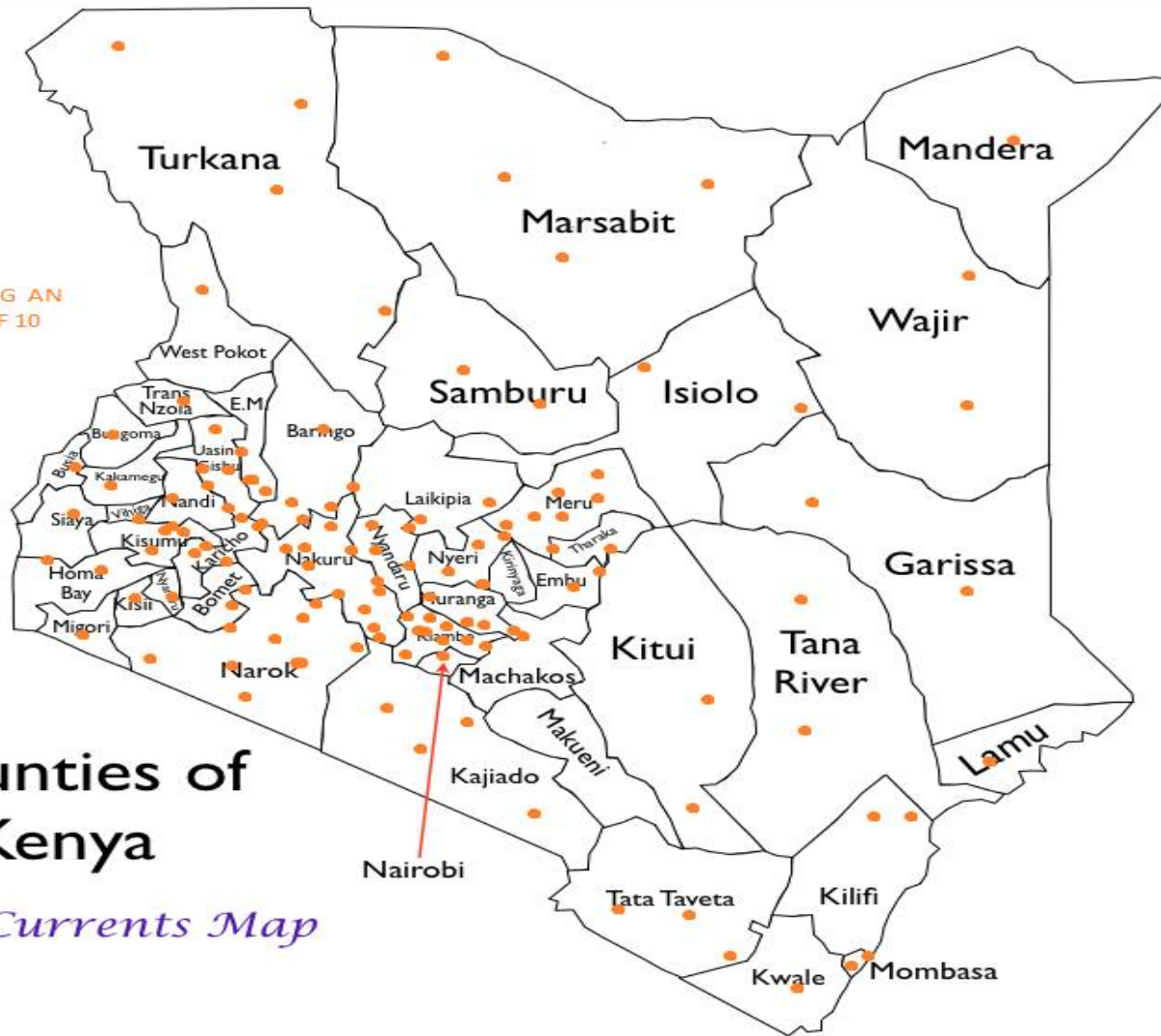
Way Forward For Veterinary Para-professionals in Kenya cont'd

- It is up to the development partners to help the veterinary para-professionals bodies in developing countries like Kenya to realize their potential and be able to plan better and make an impact.
- For example Kenya has a large number of VPP's who are in the private sector; the pharmaceutical industries and the largest percentage of farmers rely on the veterinary para-professionals for their services.
- Tapping that potential will be the ultimate game changer in terms of livestock productivity in countries like Kenya.

EACH DOT
REPRESENTING AN
AVERAGE OF 10
VPP's

Counties of Kenya

GeoCurrents Map



EACH DOT REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE OF 10 VPP's
Distribution of veterinary paraprofessionals in Kenya

THANK YOU!

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