

Botswana

OIE Regional Seminar on Veterinary Education in Southern Africa

Naura Springs Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania

02 to 04 September 2009

Background

- Veterinary practice started in 1902 with arrival of first veterinarian
- At independence in 1966 the had reached 12
- A board founded in 1973 in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1973
- Board was chaired by Director with four other members

Background continued

- Currently 113 veterinarians are registered with the board 86 of them in government
- The board fully funded by Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Council

- In accordance with the reviewed Veterinary Surgeons Act of 2009
- Passed by parley in February 2009 and yet to be implemented

Veterinary council membership

- Chairman- vet appointed by the Minister
- Director of Veterinary services
- 3 members of BVA
- 1 member appointed by the Minister
- 1 veterinary surgeon from DWNP
- 1 member from Attorney General
- 1 veterinary surgeon from the academia

Registration to practice vet medicine in Botswana

- Newly qualified veterinarians
 - ✓ Registration with RSA veterinary council
 - ✓ Registration with Zimbabwe veterinary council
 - ✓ Membership of Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
 - ✓ Exemption by the council

REGISTRATION CTD

- EXPERIENCED VETERINARIANS
- ✓ Registration as above
- ✓ Letter of good standing from previous council/board of service from country of origin

Funding of council

- Currently funded by Ministry
- New act proposes independent funding

Veterinary paraprofessionals

- Are currently not registered
- Training carried out in
 - ✓ Athi River, Kenya
 - ✓ Luyengo ,Swaziland
 - ✓ BCA, Botswana
 - ✓ MITC, Botswana
 - ✓ Technikons, RSA
 - ✓ Technical colleges, UK
 - ✓ Health Sciences Institutes, Botswana

Paraprofessionals ctd

- They acquire
 - ✓ Certificate
 - ✓ Ordinary Diploma
 - ✓ Higher National diploma
 - ✓ *Degree*
 - ✓ *Post graduate*

Veterinary paraprofessionals ctd

- New legislation requires that they be registered by same council
- Veterinary Surgeons Act of 2009

Training of veterinarians

- No vet school in Botswana
- Many trained in several countries
 - ✓ UK, USA
 - ✓ Kenya
 - ✓ Nigeria
 - ✓ RSA
 - ✓ Zimbabwe
 - ✓ Ireland
 - ✓ Australia
 - ✓ New Zealand
 - ✓ West Indies
 - ✓ Trinidad and Tobago

Veterinarian training ctd

- Training of new graduates done by Ministry of Education
- Currently consideration to introduce veterinary medicine at university
- Post graduate training going well

Challenges

- Flying veterinarians from neighbours
- Exotic veterinarians doing wild animals research
- External training sometimes not meeting expectations

Conclusions

- We enjoy a diverse veterinary community
- Implementation of new act slow
- Demand for veterinarians on the increase
- Some veterinarians residing in the country not registered and not practicing
- A lot of areas of cooperation

Thank you!!!

THANK YOU!!!