

## **Workshop on the Roles of Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) on Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) in ASEAN**

### **Recommendations and Conclusions**

The Participants of the Workshop on the Roles of Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) on Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) in ASEAN

#### **Noted that:**

1. VPPs have key roles and tasks in the national Veterinary Services (VS) of ASEAN Member States (AMS) in contributing to animal health and welfare, public health (including food safety), as well as promoting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals in light of the concerns on the global threat of antimicrobial resistance.
2. Regulation of VPPs is needed to ensure effective training, competencies and outcomes in performing their activities.
3. The title of VPPs covers the very broad range of roles, including veterinary nurses. Key categories of VPP include those working in the sectors: animal health; veterinary public health; laboratory diagnosis.
4. VSB functions, according to the OIE standards, also include registration or licensing of VPPs, defining minimum standards of initial and continuing education of VPPs to be registered or licensed, setting standards of professional conduct and competence of VPPs, and ensuring that these standards are met.
5. The OIE Competency Guidelines for VPPs can be used to help VSBs, national VS, private sector employers and other stakeholders to define the competencies that they expect in the VPPs they register, license or hire, and the OIE Curricula Guidelines for VPPs can be used by educational institutions to develop the curricula necessary to deliver the desired competencies over the course of the formal training.

6. Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) contribute to the VS but are not considered as VPPs under the OIE definition.
7. The regulation of VPPs in Western Australia can be considered as model for harmonisation of VPP regulation in the AMS.
8. VPP qualification requirements depend on role. Training in a narrow range of skills is sufficient for some specified activities of VPPs, whilst others need broad animal and management skills.
9. All VPP qualifications must engage learners with the practical aspects of their tasks. Assessment of training needs to be authentic and competence based.
10. Regarding the roles of VSB in defining continuing education, a statutory framework, audit of curricula content and assessment, and compliance of providers and VPPs with accreditation standards should be considered.

### **Recommendations:**

1. The AMS to consider adopting and/or adapting the OIE definition on VPPs to the ASEAN context.
2. The AMS with no existing VSB should establish a VSB or equivalent body.
3. The OIE to support development of legislation for VSB in the AMS, if required.
4. The VSB should register VPPs **if they are carrying out regulated “veterinary roles and activities”**. VPPs carrying out activities outside this scope could be registered by other relevant government agencies or bodies.
5. The AMS that have not yet established veterinary legislation can bring VPPs into primary legislation along with veterinarians, whilst others

will have to modify existing legislation or manage VPPs by regulations under primary legislation.

6. Training of VPPs should be aligned with the ASEAN qualification framework and guided by the OIE Competency Guidelines and Curricular Guidelines for VPPs.
7. Title of VPPs needs disaggregation (e.g. meat inspector, veterinary nurse, artificial inseminator) to better reflect the roles and competencies required by the AMS.
8. Training and registration of VPPs needs to be aligned with the scope of their authority and the significance of their activities.
9. Some AMS request the OIE to support biosecurity management systems training, as well as stewardship of antimicrobial drugs, and to review VPP curricula.

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