

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON VETERINARY EMERGENCIES**

**Paris, 25-27 February 2020**

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The second meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Emergencies (hereinafter the Group) was held at the OIE Headquarters, Paris, France, from 25-27 February 2020.

### **1. Opening**

Dr Keith Hamilton, Head of the Preparedness and Resilience Department welcomed the participants on behalf of the OIE Director General. Dr Hamilton explained that the Group had been convened to 1. To integrate emergency management into the existing framework for recommendations on veterinary graduate education (to inform day one and advanced core competencies) and post graduate education, and 2. Review the draft of the high-level OIE Guidelines on Animal Health and Welfare Simulation Exercises. He acknowledged that the Group was being supported through the OIE-FAO-INTERPOL “Building resilience against agro-crime and agro-terrorism” Project (hereinafter the Project), which is funded by Global Affairs Canada.

### **2. Appointment of chairperson and rapporteur**

The meeting was chaired by Dr Gary Vroegindewey, and Dr Molly Lee was designated as rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

Dr Vroegindewey introduced the agenda, which was adopted by the Group. The agenda and list of participants are attached as Appendices I and II, respectively.

### **4. Develop core competencies relating to emergency management for veterinary graduate education (to inform day one and advanced core competencies) and post graduate education**

Dr Vroegindewey informed the Group of the standard format of OIE guidelines and recommendations which need to be succinct, not prescriptive, and must be adaptable for all OIE Members.

Dr Etienne Bonbon provided an overview of the current OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians (‘Day 1 graduates’) to assure National Veterinary Services of quality (hereafter referred to “Day 1 Competencies”). He advised that the current recommendations were kept at a high level and designed to complement other OIE tools and mechanisms such as the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway and the twinning of Veterinary Education Establishments.

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE dialled into the meeting to give a high-level overview of the OIE Competence-Based Training Framework which would consist of different critical competency training packages, including a proposal for an emergency management package. The Group agreed that the ‘emergency and disaster management competency’ and its learning objectives, including the necessary required skills and knowledge, would complement this work. Dr Leboucq also highlighted that veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) can be included in the training packages, and the Group agreed that the emergency and disaster management competency and learning objectives could be adapted for VPPs as many of the tasks were already performed by VPPs in numerous OIE Members.

Dr Vroegindewey also presented some of the preliminary findings from a behavioural health survey undertaken by Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine which aimed to assess the scale and scope of behavioural health issues for veterinarians across a wide range of disaster and geographic locations. The Group agreed that the outputs of this survey strongly emphasised the need for behavioural health to be integrated into the education of veterinarians at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and that the topic should be considered in the work of the meeting.

In the current Day 1 Competencies, each competency includes a high-level description of the subject of the competency and is followed by specific learning objectives for the Day 1 veterinary graduate to meet to participate in Veterinary Services at the entry level.

The Group reviewed the Day 1 Competencies and agreed that the existing framework does not adequately address emergency management. The Group then divided into two, with each subgroup tasked to a) develop an additional competency on ‘emergency and disaster management’ with associated learning objectives, and b) determine which current competencies (within the existing framework) were relevant to emergency and disaster management, and if gaps were identified within those competencies to provide recommendations on amendments to these competencies to address emergency management. To facilitate the process, other resources were shared with the Group including the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) Competency Model, the latest draft of the FAO Good Emergency Management Practice: (GEMP) The Essentials Guide, and the draft “Official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases” chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

The outputs of the group discussions were incorporated into the existing Day 1 Competencies in two ways – 1. The addition of a new competency on ‘emergency and disaster management’, and 2. emergency and disaster management learning objectives were incorporated in the relevant existing competencies.

The Group developed a list of necessary skills required for the newly developed emergency and disaster management competency, matched them with each learning objective, and applied them to a matrix. The matrix described 1. different audiences for education - the Day 1 graduate, the private practitioner (5 years qualified approximately), the entry level Veterinary Authority veterinarian, and the emergency and disaster management veterinarian working in the Veterinary Authority, and 2. the different levels of competency (awareness, perform and master) required in each skill for each audience

Dr Fanny Ewann, INTERPOL also dialled into the meeting and collaborated with the Group in developing a draft security learning objective (under the newly developed emergency and disaster management competency) with associated skills.

The Group also proposed a competency for safety, health and wellbeing with associated learning objectives and recommended that the OIE consider including this into the Day 1 Competencies.

The Group agreed that the edited Day 1 Competencies and the additional proposed competencies, including that of the emergency and disaster management competency (including the skills matrix for this new competency) and the safety, health and wellbeing competency would require a final review electronically by the Group before submission to the OIE Senior Management and relevant OIE Specialist Commissions.

## **5. Review of draft OIE Guidelines on Animal Health and Welfare Simulation Exercises**

The Group was asked to review the draft OIE Guidelines on Animal Health and Welfare Simulation Exercises that were developed by the first meeting of the ad hoc Group. The Group was informed that the aim of this document was to provide OIE Members with a set of good practices for preparing, delivering, and learning from animal health and welfare simulation exercises. The guidance should also be adaptable to a range of settings and scalable, accounting for varying levels of capacities and resources of Veterinary Services. The Group reviewed and provided comment on the latest version which would be refined by the OIE Secretariat and shared with the Group for final comment and then presented to the OIE Senior Management and to the relevant OIE Commissions for information.

## 6. Conclusions

- The Group agreed that Emergency and disaster management was lacking from the existing Day 1 Competencies, and that all graduating veterinarians should have basic competencies to support their participation in the range of emergencies that Veterinary Services respond to.
- The Group also agreed that VPPs have an important role to play in supporting Veterinary Services in emergency and disaster management and should be equipped with the required competencies.
- The Group agreed that the work in developing core competencies should complement other OIE initiatives such as training and education frameworks and ongoing work of OIE partners, such as FAO.

The Group recommended that the OIE consider:

- Either, 1. integrating emergency and disaster management into the relevant existing Day 1 Competencies as described by the group or, 2. accepting to include a new standalone competency on emergency and disaster management, as proposed by the group, in the existing Day 1 Competencies Framework. The AHG favoured option 2.
- Conducting a similar review of the existing “OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals” and provide recommendations on how to adequately address emergency and disaster management in this framework.
- The OIE consider integrating ‘safety, health, and wellbeing’ into the existing Day 1 Competencies

Additional suggestions, included:

- The OIE Global Conference on Emergency Management should also highlight the role of VPPs in emergency and disaster management and include representation from VPPs
- The expansion of the OIE Collaborating Centre Network for Veterinary Emergencies to ensure the inclusion of a Collaborating Centre in each OIE Region. The Network should also continue to actively engage in research in emergency and disaster management.
- The OIE should consider engagement in broader emergency and disaster management frameworks, networks, and meetings.

## 6. Adoption of the report

The Group adopted the report prepared by the rapporteur assisted by the OIE secretariat.

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Appendix I

**MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON VETERINARY EMERGENCIES**

**OIE, Paris, 25-27 February 2020**

**Agenda**

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**Tuesday, 25 February 2020**

- 9:30 Welcome- Dr Keith Hamilton, Head of Preparedness and Resilience Department
- Introductions
- Appointment of chair and rapporteur
- Adoption of the agenda and terms of reference
- Review of current ‘OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians (‘Day 1 graduates’) to assure National Veterinary Services of quality’
- Discussion on other existing competency frameworks for emergency management
- Breakout groups
- 17:00 Adjourn
- 19:30 Dinner

**Wednesday, 26 February 2020**

- 9:00 Reconvene and group review emergency management core competencies and skills
- 17:00 Adjourn

**Thursday, 27 February 2020**

- 9:00 Review of draft OIE Guidelines for Animal Health and Welfare Simulation Exercises
- Adoption of the report
- 17:00 Closure of meeting
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Paris, 25-27 February 2020

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Participants

MEMBERS

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