

# Veterinary legislation, governance and organisation

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Recent outbreaks of a succession of zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza H5N1 and H1N1, as well as transboundary animal diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease and African Swine Fever, have reinforced the need for strong Veterinary Services. Such services are crucial in the prevention, control and eradication of these diseases, as well as in working in an interdisciplinary way to support the contemporary 'One World /One Health' framework. Sound legislation, strong governance arrangements and effective organisational systems are essential to underpin Veterinary Services. Legislative principles need to be understood and customised in practical and applied legislation to meet the specific governmental and cultural characteristics of individual countries. Governance involves the exercise of powers including components such as leadership, strategic vision, decision making, accountability, transparency and integrity. Clear articulation and understanding of organisational function, form, and strategic directions are required to ensure the effective and efficient management of Veterinary Services. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has identified legislation and governance as critical areas for strengthening Veterinary Services. It is suggested universities and training institutions consider expanding training in these key areas.

