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## World Veterinary Association Position on Veterinary Statutory Body

### BACKGROUND:

The primary roles of veterinarians include enhancing and ensuring animal health and welfare; and preventing, diagnosing, treating and controlling diseases. In addition, a wide range of services are required of veterinarians by the public surrounding the animal-human-environment interface. These activities provide for societal needs in food safety and security, biosecurity, prevention of zoonotic disease, preservation of biodiversity, and environmental protection, as well as other areas. Because of the critical importance of these activities, the public must be assured that veterinarians are well qualified. Veterinary Statutory Bodies serve this purpose by regulating veterinarians.

### POSITION

The World Veterinary Association holds that all veterinarians should be subject to the authority of the Veterinary Statutory Body, which is established under the law of the jurisdiction or territory within which they practice veterinary medicine.

### DISCUSSION

An autonomous Veterinary Statutory Body, which may be known by a variety of different names, such as council, college, association or board, is necessary to ensure delivery of quality veterinary services.

The duties of the Veterinary Statutory Body may be divided among different entities, such as one or more governmental or non-governmental bodies that provide a registration and licensing process and non-governmental bodies that establish ethical standards and represent the veterinary profession in consultation and communication with governments and other non-governmental bodies.

The duties of the Veterinary Statutory Body in a specific jurisdiction, include, but may not be limited to:

- Assuring the quality of veterinary medicine by determining capability, competency, professional conduct, and ethical behaviour of all persons practicing veterinary medicine. This is done through a mandatory registration and licensing process that verifies the entry level of education, training, and other conditions required to be registered to perform veterinary medicine. Mechanisms of verifying on-going competency, professional conduct, and ethical behaviour must exist for renewal of registration and/or licensure. The removal of registration or licensure, in justifiable cases, must be possible.

- Establishing standards for basic veterinary education as well as continuing professional development and education, and ensuring that mechanisms are in place to deliver such continuing professional development (CPD) programs.
- Setting standards for good veterinary practice and maintaining a process to ensure that these practice standards are being met.
- Setting and enforcing standards of professional and ethical conduct for all persons registered or licensed to perform veterinary medicine in the jurisdiction.
- Representing the veterinary profession in consultations and communications with governments and other local, national and international organizations setting policy or concerned with animal health and welfare.
- Representing the veterinary profession to collaborate with organizations related to animal or human health to promote One Health.
- In the public interest, supporting the growth and enhancement of the veterinary profession through appropriate investments and infrastructure development in areas such as animal health and welfare research, diagnostic capability, disease surveillance, global biosecurity, veterinary/animal health legislation development, extension services to producers and the public, private veterinary medical delivery as well as public veterinary practice capacity.

The WVA believes that to be effective the Veterinary Statutory Body must be supported by legislative authority from the jurisdiction in which it exists, it must function with independence, and it must include all those engaging in veterinary medicine within this jurisdiction. The Veterinary Statutory Body must have a legally defensible constitutional frame work based on professional self-governing, and democratic and transparent administrative procedures. It must also be financially secure, accessible and accountable.