



European Veterinary Code of Conduct



Veterinarians: caring for animals *and* people



2019 edition



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Introduction

We are proud to present in this document the revised European Veterinary Code of Conduct. Society is increasingly evolving, as is the veterinary profession. Therefore, in 2019 a revision of the 2012 Code was needed. This new Code goes hand in hand with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) VETFutures Europe project¹ in which the challenges facing our profession now and in the coming decades were identified and an action plan developed to address them.



The Code of Conduct and Veterinary Act aim to serve as guidance for the veterinary profession throughout Europe so veterinarians can meet the future needs of society and work towards continually improving the quality of services.

Standards for the practice of veterinary medicine are based on science and ethics, and are objectively justifiable and proportional to the goal to be achieved. Such standards are necessary for the health and welfare of animals, public health and to ensure public trust in the veterinary profession. I truly wish that this Code will serve all those with an interest in the health and welfare of animals and people.

Rens van Dobbenburgh

FVE President

¹ FVE (2018) VETFutures: Shaping the future of the veterinary profession





European Veterinary Code of Conduct

Preamble

The role of the veterinarian in society

The veterinary profession is a liberal and regulated profession. Veterinarians have relevant professional qualifications, and practise in a responsible and professionally independent capacity. They provide intellectual and advisory services to benefit their clients and the public.²

Veterinarians play an essential role in protecting animal health, animal welfare, public health and the environment by providing a wide range of services. A veterinarian has a variety of legal, moral and ethical obligations towards animals and their owners, clients, colleagues, the veterinary team, society and Competent Authorities. On occasion, these obligations may conflict with each other and present veterinarians

with a dilemma. In such situations, it is veterinarians' responsibility to balance their obligations, having regard first to animal health and welfare and to public health.

The purpose of a professional Code of Conduct

The European Veterinary Code of Conduct is a set of standards specifying veterinary ethics and principles of professional conduct that all veterinarians should follow. It aims to ensure:

- Veterinarians provide high quality services for the benefit of animal health, animal welfare, public health and the environment;
- Their clients and society can have confidence in the services veterinarians provide.

One Health

FVE endorses and supports the One Health concept and framework for collaboration.

One Health is based on the recognition that humans, animals and the environment are linked together. The One Health approach aims to unite veterinarians, physicians and other science, health and environmental professionals in a collaborative effort.

Veterinarians act as One Health professionals. They should hold the knowledge, skills, professional competencies and attitudes

necessary to successfully contribute to the One Health system. They should think globally and facilitate a transdisciplinary approach to improve the health of animals, the health of humans and to protect the environment.

Veterinarians should also communicate and collaborate effectively with other health professionals, the public and the private sector. They should be able to identify health needs, population health threats, public health issues and be able to apply the principles of epidemiology and surveillance. In addition, veterinarians should be able to apply the principles of crisis and risk communication.

² Article 38, Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU; European Court of Justice judgment case C-267/99, *Adam/Administration de l'enregistrement et des domaines de Luxembourg*

Preamble



Veterinarians' work requires a high level of legal, technical and scientific knowledge. Veterinary degrees are based on knowledge, skills and minimum training requirements.³ To obtain a licence to practise, veterinarians need to fulfil additional requirements (e.g. registration with a Competent Authority and professional insurance coverage).

The Code gives an overview of the principles at the core of the profession, namely professional independence, confidentiality, honesty, integrity and dignity.

The Code does not exclude countries or national professional associations from stipulating more detailed rules aimed at greater protection in their national law or national Code of Conduct. In accordance with Directive 2006/123/EC⁴ on services in the internal market (Article 15 freedom of establishment and Article 16 free movement of services) such detailed rules should respect the following conditions:

- Non-discrimination: the requirement may be neither directly (nationality or location of registered office) nor indirectly (residence or place of principal establishment) discriminatory;
- Necessity: the requirement must be justified

for reasons of public policy, public security, public health or the protection of the environment;

- Proportionality: the requirement must be suitable for attaining the objective pursued and must not go beyond what is necessary to attain that objective.

Veterinarians are subject to the Code of Conduct drawn up by the licensing authority in their country. Contravention can lead to disciplinary procedures and sanctions.

Clients must have confidence that the appropriate Competent Authority will treat alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct seriously, and, if proven, will take action proportionate to the seriousness of the offence.

Many European veterinarians provide services or work in other European countries. With this Code, FVE aims to ensure greater convergence of professional rules at European level. Two of the Code's aims are to:

- Facilitate international movement of service providers;
- Lead to enhanced trust and confidence in services offered by providers from other countries.

³ Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU

⁴ Directive EC/2006/123

Preamble



THE EUROPEAN VETERINARY CODE OF CONDUCT

According to this preamble, the members of FVE agree on a European Veterinary Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct contains principles that shall be recognised as a consensus on core values between all members of FVE. The Code should be implemented within national Codes of Conduct. The European Veterinary Code of Conduct will not be legally binding unless national legislation makes it so. As the circumstances in which it may be implemented will vary widely, FVE does not accept responsibility and is not liable for any use made of this Code as a matter of private law.

DEFINITIONS

Client

A person, company or other entity (such as the government) that purchases goods or services provided by a veterinarian, his/her staff or his/her veterinary team.

Competent Authority

Any person or authority that has a supervisory or regulatory role in a country in relation to the provision of veterinary services. They can include administrative authorities such as courts, professional bodies, professional associations or other professional organisations.

Home country

The country where a veterinarian acquired his/her right to practise.

Host country

Any other country where a veterinarian carries out cross-border activities and practises veterinary medicine.

Member State

A country that is a member of the European Union.

Regulated profession

A professional activity that requires specific professional qualification.

Service

Any self-employed economic activity, normally provided for remuneration, as referred to in Article 50 of the Directive on services in the internal market (2006/123/EC). A veterinarian providing a service can be either self-employed or employed by a company.

Veterinarian

A person registered or licensed by the relevant veterinary statutory body of a country to practise veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary statutory body

An autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.⁵

⁵ Article 3.2.12 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Core values of the European Veterinary Code of Conduct

These values shall be recognised as a consensus on core values between all members of FVE and be implemented within national Codes of Conduct.

1.1 General principles

Competence and professionalism

Veterinarians shall act in good conscience and to the best of their professional knowledge.

Veterinarians shall maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills relating to veterinary science. Clients have the right to expect that veterinarians will keep their knowledge in their field of practice up-to-date and work within their competency level.

Independence and impartiality

Veterinarians shall exercise good and independent judgement after considering all relevant circumstances, without acting in their own personal interest or bowing to external influence. Clients have the right to receive impartial, independent and objective advice.

Honesty and integrity

Veterinarians shall act with courtesy, honesty and integrity in their relationships with clients and others, including professional colleagues. They will not engage in any activity or behaviour that would be likely to bring the profession into disrepute or undermine public confidence. Clients have the right to expect to be treated with courtesy and respect.

Professional confidentiality

Veterinarians shall treat all dealings with clients confidentially except in specified circumstances where disclosure might be required, e.g. in the interest of public health or animal health and welfare, or by law. Then, where possible, disclosure should occur with informed consent.

Accountability and insurance

Veterinarians shall ensure that their clients can be adequately compensated in the event of adverse effects resulting from errors or omissions made while providing a service. For that purpose, veterinarians should carry insurance or another form of guarantee. Clients have the right to expect adequate compensation in the event of a justified claim.

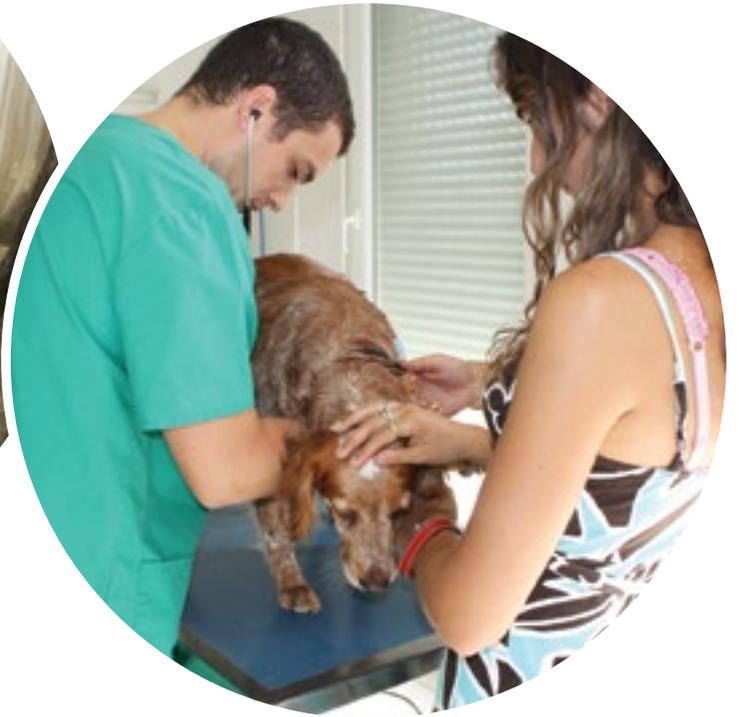
1.2 Veterinarians and animals

Veterinarians shall respect animals as sentient beings. Veterinarians shall have knowledge of animal health and welfare science, ethics and law. Veterinarians shall ensure/restore the welfare of the animals under their care in whichever section of the veterinary profession they work, bearing in mind the five freedoms and promoting positive welfare. Animals should experience both a good life and a humane death without unnecessary suffering.

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should use the least stressful techniques necessary for sound diagnosis and treatment;

Core values



2. Beyond first aid, veterinarians should only undertake veterinary services where they possess adequate knowledge and skills. If they do not, veterinarians should refer the case to a more experienced colleague;
3. Veterinarians should attempt to relieve animals' pain and suffering. If their condition is untreatable, the option of euthanasia should be discussed with the animal's owner;
4. Euthanasia must be practised with as little pain, distress and fear as possible;
5. In urgent cases where there are no available means to prevent excessive suffering of the animal(s), veterinarians should consider euthanasia even without the owner's permission. When taking such a decision veterinarians should consider all possible treatments to the best of their knowledge assuming full responsibility;
6. When a veterinarian is presented with an injured animal whose clinical signs cannot be attributed to the history the owner provides and which could possibly relate to animal abuse or neglect, the veterinarian should report their suspicions;
7. When veterinarians become aware of animal welfare legislation breaches, they should immediately bring this to the attention of the

owner of the animal(s) and do everything within their power to solve the problem. Where applicable, veterinarians should report breaches to the relevant Competent Authority.

1.3 Veterinarians and clients

Veterinarians shall respect the needs and requirements their clients express as long as they comply with the principles and applications of this Code and/or with the laws of the Member State.

No veterinarian shall discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, religion, politics, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

All veterinarians owe a duty to their clients to carry out work and services conscientiously, competently and professionally, and with independence, impartiality and integrity, using due care, skill and diligence.

Veterinarians shall, as far as reasonably possible, ensure informed consent is obtained from clients before treatments or procedures are carried out.

Veterinarians may inform the public about their services. Such communication must be accurate, truthful, transparent and correct. Commercial communications by veterinarians shall comply

with the national law and shall not compromise the veterinarian's independence, dignity, integrity or professional confidentiality.

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should give sound professional advice in language clients can understand. They should inform clients before and while providing services of the animal's condition, proposed treatment, fees and likely outcomes (working diagnosis, treatment options, possible complications and prognosis);
2. Veterinarians should give information about emergency services systems where necessary;
3. Veterinarians should respect the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of providing veterinary services and ensure that information about clients is not disclosed to others unless required by law. Where disclosure is necessary it should be done with the informed consent of the individual and any relevant party, if possible;
4. Veterinarians should respond promptly, fully and courteously to complaints and criticism. If any dispute of a professional nature or breach of a rule of professional conduct arises between clients and veterinarians, they should resolve it locally or through the Competent Authority.

1.4 Veterinarians and the veterinary profession

Veterinarians shall consider themselves members of the European veterinary profession, observe the relevant legislation, and adhere to this Code of Conduct.

Veterinarians shall respect the legitimate rights and interests of their colleagues and act fairly. Veterinarians shall co-operate with colleagues, taking into account differences and obligations that may exist between countries, national laws

and the organisation of the veterinary profession in different Member States.

Veterinarians shall acknowledge the professional aspirations and contributions of their colleagues.

Veterinarians shall ensure the integrity of any veterinary certification⁶ they are responsible for. They shall not sign a certificate or any other relevant statutory certification unless the signatory is the certifier or:

- The certificate has been prepared under the signatory's direct supervision and/or authority; or
- The certificate is based on an official recognised certificate that has been signed by another authorised veterinarian.

Veterinarians shall keep their knowledge, skills and competences up-to-date through continuing professional development.

All veterinarians shall ensure the conduct of their teams conforms to this Code of Conduct, so everybody has confidence in being protected against incompetence, and false or misleading behaviour or statements.

Veterinarians shall communicate with colleagues and staff to ensure effective co-ordination while taking care of animals. Veterinarians shall be aware of their responsibility around their colleagues' education, qualification and continuing professional development, including staff members, apprentices and trainees.

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should not unfairly criticise or attempt to discredit other veterinarians;
2. If any professional dispute or a breach of a rule occurs, veterinarians should resolve the dispute locally or through the Competent Authority;

⁶ FVE (2018) 10 principles of veterinary certification

Core values

3. Veterinarians should avoid any conflict of interest with colleagues or clients;
4. Veterinarians should provide only services they are entitled to deliver;
5. Veterinarians, when unable to provide a service, should help their client find another veterinarian who is capable of providing the service concerned;
6. Veterinarians should acknowledge the contribution made to the profession by organisations representing the veterinary profession at national and European level.

1.5 Veterinarians and the veterinary team

Veterinarians shall observe the relevant legislation related to the health and safety of employees, employees and business owners.

Veterinarians shall work together in a trustful way and with others in the veterinary team and business to co-ordinate the care of animals and delivery of services.

Veterinarians shall ensure their team respects this Code of Conduct in order to establish and maintain mutual trust.

Veterinarians shall be aware of and comply with national legislation related to workers' health and safety. In addition, they shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their team.

Veterinarians shall respect colleagues inside and outside their practice, and support their staff, apprentices and trainees. Veterinarians shall treat their team fairly and reasonably, ensuring they receive proper compensation in line with national standards.

Veterinarians shall ensure their staff are covered by proper professional liability insurance and that

their team receives continuing professional development to enhance their professional and technical knowledge.

Veterinarians shall ensure that any member of their staff to whom a task is delegated has the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake that task effectively and efficiently. However, the veterinarian shall maintain overall responsibility and give appropriate supervision.

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should ensure their team receive a fair salary;
2. Veterinarians should encourage and ensure the continual improvement of the professional and/or technical knowledge and skills of their personnel and try to support the professional development of the next generation of veterinarians.

1.6 Veterinarians and Competent Authorities

All veterinarians shall observe the laws governing their professional activities. To do this, they shall foster and endeavour to maintain good relationships with Competent Authorities.

Veterinarians shall contact the relevant Competent Authorities and inform themselves about the rules affecting them. They shall ensure they abide by the Competent Authority's regulations in the countries where they wish to provide services.

Veterinarians, when performing tasks on behalf of Competent Authorities, shall ensure there is no conflict of interest and shall not use their position to try to extend their clientele or to gain personal advantage. Veterinarians, when performing inspections on behalf of Competent Authorities, shall understand the importance of impartiality and uniformity.

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should fulfil the obligations of public service they undertake on behalf of



Competent Authorities whenever required, promptly and in accordance with the instructions given;

2. When a veterinarian is required by a Competent Authority to perform tasks for the client of another veterinarian, and then asked by that client to perform any further tasks, that veterinarian should inform the other veterinarian;
3. Veterinarians should not commence any form of proceedings against a colleague without first informing the Competent Authorities to which they both belong, especially if they are from different Member States. This gives the Competent Authorities concerned an opportunity to help in reaching a settlement.

1.7 Veterinarians and society

Veterinarians shall be aware of and fully committed to the role they play in society. To maintain and enhance public trust they shall comply with all legal obligations. Veterinarians shall keep abreast of, and observe the relevant legislation applicable to, public health, animal health, animal welfare and environmental protection.

Veterinarians shall bear in mind the impact their actions might have on end products and on consumers and shall do their best to protect consumers' health.

Veterinarians shall understand and comply with legislation in relation to veterinary medicinal products. Veterinarians shall report any suspicion of a notifiable disease and animal mistreatment to the appropriate authority.

Veterinarians shall keep their knowledge of digital technology⁷ and its proper use up-to-date (e.g. telehealth, telemedicine,⁸ web and social media), whether or not they aim to provide digital veterinary services or online consultations. If allowed by law, digital veterinary services shall only be provided to carry out preliminary examinations or to exchange advice.

Veterinarians providing digital services shall be fully responsible and liable for their use, scope and quality. In addition, veterinarians shall ensure clients are aware of the provider's identity, location, licence status and veterinary statutory body/Competent Authority membership, and privacy and security issues.

⁷ Digital technology is the branch of scientific and engineering knowledge that deals with the creation and practical use of digital or computerised devices (e.g. mobile phones, computers, laptops and other such machines operated through a binary computational code, methods, systems, etc. with the purpose of storing, processing, exchanging and generating data).

⁸ World Health Organization (2009) *Telemedicine: opportunities and developments in Member States. Report on the second global survey on eHealth.*

Core values

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should make animal owners aware of their responsibilities to public health, and animal health and welfare;
2. Veterinarians should advise their clients about measures to minimise the risk of zoonotic agents, food-borne pathogens, residues, contaminants (biological and chemical agents) and anti-microbial resistance;
3. Veterinarians should utilise digital and emerging technologies to enhance their provision of services as long as they can use these technologies competently, and hold up-to-date knowledge of the animal(s), of the owner and/or of the farm(s)/farmer(s).

1.8 Veterinarians and medicines

Veterinarians play a pivotal role in the health and welfare of animals, a critical part of which is the handling, prescription and supply of veterinary medicinal products. Veterinarians shall maintain up-to-date knowledge of current best practice in all matters related to the use of medicines in animals.

Veterinarians shall understand and comply with their legal, professional and technical obligations in relation to the recording, prescription, safekeeping, use, supply and disposal of medicinal products, according to general principles of therapeutics and pharmacovigilance.

Veterinarians shall use veterinary medicines responsibly and shall report to the Competent Authority adverse events and reduced or lack of efficiency of the medicines concerned.

In particular, and especially in respect of anti-microbial medicines, veterinarians shall be mindful of the impact the use of veterinary medicinal products may have on the use of the same or similar medicines in humans.

Veterinarians shall at all times be conscious of

issues related to the development of resistance to specific medicines or groups of medicines and shall make reasonable efforts to encourage compliance by the end user.

Recommendations

1. Veterinarians should keep their knowledge related to pharmacology and pharmacovigilance up-to-date, including proper and responsible use of veterinary medicinal products and of medicated feed.

1.9 Veterinarians and the environment

Veterinarians shall be familiar with and observe the relevant legislation on environmental protection. All veterinarians shall consider social and environmental impact.

Recommendations

1. When using disinfectants, medicinal products and other chemicals veterinarians should attempt to reduce environmental pollution;
2. Veterinarians should aim to be environmentally responsible by using energy and water economically;
3. Veterinarians should organise facilities for separate collection of different types of waste so they can be sent to the appropriate recycling points.

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Annex

Article 38 of Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU on the recognition of professional qualifications lays out the skills, training and competences veterinarians should have:

Paragraph 1

The training of veterinary surgeons shall comprise a total of at least five years of full-time theoretical and practical study, which may in addition be expressed with the equivalent ECTS credits, at a university or at a higher institute providing training recognised as being of an equivalent level, or under the supervision of a university, covering at least the study programme referred to in point 5.4.1 of Annex V.

Paragraph 3

Training as a veterinary surgeon shall provide an assurance that the professional in question has acquired the following knowledge and skills:

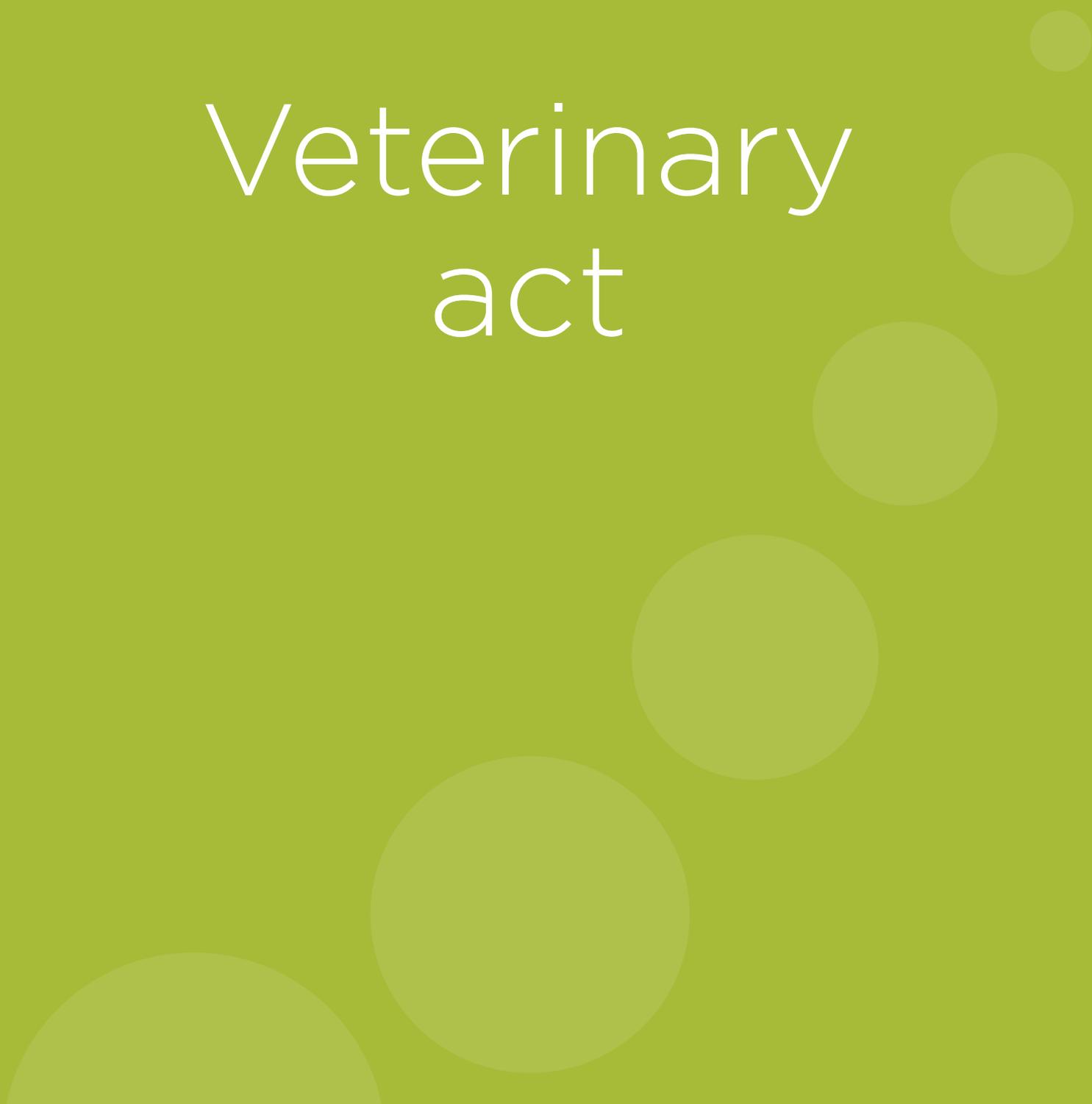
- a) Adequate knowledge of the sciences on which the activities of a veterinary surgeon are based and of the Union law relating to those activities;
- b) Adequate knowledge of the structure, functions, behaviour and physiological needs of animals, as well as the skills and competences needed for their husbandry, feeding, welfare, reproduction and hygiene in general;
- c) The clinical, epidemiological and analytical skills and competences required for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the diseases of animals, including anaesthesia, aseptic surgery and painless death, whether considered individually or in groups, including specific knowledge of the diseases which may be transmitted to humans;
- d) Adequate knowledge, skills and competences for preventive medicine, including competences relating to inquiries and certification;
- e) Adequate knowledge of the hygiene and technology involved in the production, manufacture and putting into circulation of animal feedstuffs or foodstuffs of animal origin intended for human consumption, including the skills and competences required to understand and explain good practice in this regard;
- f) The knowledge, skills and competences required for the responsible and sensible use of veterinary medicinal products, in order to treat the animals and to ensure the safety of the food chain and the protection of the environment.







Veterinary act



Veterinary act

01

The veterinary profession is a regulated and liberal profession. Veterinarians practise a wide range of activities and have specific qualifications that are not just limited to private clinical practice. Veterinarians provide intellectual and practical services to clients and patients and to the general public in a responsible and independent manner. The veterinary profession is regulated by Competent Authorities and/or veterinary statutory bodies. To avoid low quality services which could harm animal health and welfare, as well as public health and the environment, the practice of veterinary medicine is subject to adequate training and to registration and/or control by each national Competent Authority.⁹

02

The European public has come to demand a high level of welfare protection for all species, and a high degree of quality assurance in the ethical production of food of animal origin. Companion animals become ever more important as 'members of the family'.

03

FVE believes that the veterinary profession holds unique competences and expertise that guarantee a high level of animal health and welfare, as well as making an important contribution to human health and the protection of the environment.

04

FVE believes that only a veterinarian can take a holistic approach and has the evidence-based scientific knowledge and established experience to practise veterinary medicine.

05

FVE strongly believes that examination, diagnosis, recommendations for subsequent action, and the prescription of medicines or surgery are all strongly linked and must be the exclusive preserve of the veterinarian. A diagnosis

cannot be made without examination, either physical examination of the animal or investigative examination of samples. A treatment cannot be recommended or a surgical intervention performed without an examination and a diagnosis. Neither can a veterinary prescription be issued without a diagnosis.

06

FVE makes the same argument in respect of the role of the official veterinarian undertaking official tasks, who has an equally important role in animal health, animal welfare and public health.

07

FVE has therefore adopted the following definition of the veterinary act:

- a) All material or intellectual interventions that have as their objective to diagnose, treat, or prevent mental or physical disease, injury, pain or defect in an animal, or to determine the health and welfare status of an animal or group of animals, particularly physiological status; including the prescription of veterinary medicines;
- b) All interventions that cause or have the potential to cause pain;
- c) All invasive interventions;
- d) All veterinary interventions, including food and feed chain activities affecting public health;
- e) Veterinary certification relating to any of the above.
 - * Section a) includes all medical, surgical and pharmaceutical acts practised on animals such as consultations, physical examinations, biopsies, radiography, echography or other imaging exams, samples (blood, skin, faeces, urine) and drug prescription.
 - * Sections b) and c) include all surgery

⁹ FVE position paper (2015) *Regulating the veterinary profession is in the public interest*

and examinations performed on and all samples taken from animals' bodies such as blood samples, swabbing of the ear canal, urine samples and biopsies. In such cases, if needed to avoid suffering and pain, veterinarians should use anaesthesia (local or general) and analgesic drugs.

* Section d) refers to acts related to public health such as audit control and inspection of animals and all products of animal origin from the stable to the table. It also refers to the prescription and administration of any veterinary medicinal products considering all the potential effects on the animals, the public/consumers and the environment (e.g. antibiotics).

* Section e) refers to veterinarians certifying the health and welfare of animals and certifying the safety of products of animal origin (e.g. notifiable and zoonotic diseases, rabies control, pets' health and movement, etc.).

value as well as ethical procedures in terms of welfare and the environment.

10

A veterinary paraprofessional is a person who, for the purposes of the Terrestrial Code, is authorised by the veterinary statutory body to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent on the category of veterinary paraprofessional) in a country and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a veterinarian. The veterinary statutory body should define the tasks authorised for each category of veterinary paraprofessional depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

08

By defining the veterinary act FVE aims to ensure that only qualified people carry out such acts.

09

FVE accepts that in specific circumstances some veterinary acts may be delegated to non-veterinarians under the permanent supervision of a veterinarian. Such people should be appropriately trained, technically and legally competent and subject to varying levels of veterinary supervision appropriate to the specific task. Such delegation can be encouraged in the interests of the client, the consumer and the general public, who have a right to expect good



Veterinary act

11

It must also be expected that paraprofessionals are properly trained in full co-operation with the veterinary profession in certain, limited, procedures which provide effective treatment for animals and ensure enhanced public confidence in the production of safe food and in the veterinary profession.

12

However, certain principles should be established first, namely:

- a) Law and practice must conform. It is not acceptable for different groups to be given the legal right to care for animals or to undertake certain interventions without equal legal obligation for competence and regulation;
- b) The competence of the individual must be assured;
- c) It is necessary to determine level of responsibility and the relationship with the veterinarian who may have overall responsibility and control, for example:
 - I. Interventions that may be carried out under the authority of and/or in the presence of the veterinarian;
 - II. Interventions that may be carried out under the authority of the veterinarian, who is able to intervene in an emergency;

III. Interventions that may be carried out in the absence of the veterinarian;

IV. Independent or autonomous interventions.

- d) The level of legal responsibility must be proportional to the level of practical responsibility.

13

Overall, based on models already established in the medical health professions, we can foresee a general, and sometimes specialised, competence for veterinarians (who are basically qualified to carry out all interventions) and specific or restricted competences for clearly identified professions or activities.

14

In conclusion, differences in historical and cultural backgrounds between countries and people have led to diversity in national legislation. Ever growing international contacts and the increasing number of veterinarians providing cross-border services or establishing practices in other countries have created a need for a clear, practical and international definition of the role of the veterinarian. There is an unbreakable link between animal health (whatever the species), animal welfare, food safety and public health and welfare. The veterinarian occupies a pivotal position within that chain.



FVE members

Albania

Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons

Austria

Österreichische Tierärztekammer

Belgium

Union Professionnelle Vétérinaire
(UPV)

Bosnia/Herzegovina

Veterinary Chamber of the
Republic of SRPSKA

Bulgaria

Bulgarian Veterinary Union (BVU)
Union of the Veterinarians in
Bulgaria (UVB)

Croatia

Croatian Veterinary Chamber
Croatian Veterinary Society

Cyprus

Pancyprian Veterinary Association

Czech Republic

Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons
of the Czech Republic

Denmark

Danish Veterinary Association

Estonia

Estonian Veterinary Association

Finland

Finnish Veterinary Association

France

Ordre National des Vétérinaires
Fédération des Syndicats
Vétérinaires de France (FSVF)

Germany

Bundestierärztekammer
Bundesverband Praktizierender
Tierärzte e.V.

Greece

Hellenic Veterinary
Association

Hungary

Magyar Állatorvosi Kamara
(MAOK)

Iceland

Dýralæknafélag Islands

Ireland

Veterinary Council of Ireland
Veterinary Ireland

Italy

Federazione Nazionale degli
Ordini Dei Veterinari Italiani
(FNOVI)

Latvia

Latvijas Veterinararstu
Biedriba

Lithuania

Lithuanian Veterinary
Association

Luxembourg

Association des Médecins
Vétérinaires du Grand-Duché de
Luxembourg

Malta

Malta Veterinary
Association

Montenegro

Veterinary Chamber of
Montenegro

Netherlands

Royal Veterinary Association of
the Netherlands

North Macedonia

Macedonian Veterinary Chamber

Norway

Norwegian Veterinary Association
(DNV)

Poland

Krajowa Izba Lekarsko-
Weterynaryjna

Portugal

Ordem dos Médicos
Veterinários

Romania

The General Association of
Romanian Veterinarians
College of Romanian
Veterinarians

Slovak Republic

Komora veterinárnych lekárov
Slovenskej Republiky

Slovenia

Veterinarska Zbornica

Serbia

Veterinary Chamber of Serbia

Spain

Consejo General de Colegios
Veterinarios de España (CGCVE)

Sweden

Swedish Veterinary Association
(SVF)

Switzerland

Société des Vétérinaires
Suisses

United Kingdom

British Veterinary Association
(BVA)
Royal College of Veterinary
Surgeons (RCVS)

OBSERVERS

Armenia

National Association of
Veterinarians

Russia

Russian National Veterinary
Chamber

Turkey

Türk Veteriner Hekimleri
Birliği

Ukraine

Association of Veterinarians
of Ukraine

In numbers: veterinarians in Europe





FINLAND
■ 2,500 ■ 5,513,130

SWEDEN
■ 3,326 ■ 10,120,242

ESTONIA
■ 800 ■ 1,319,133

LATVIA
■ 2,500 ■ 1,934,379

RUSSIA
■ 25,000 ■ 144,496,740

POLAND
■ 9,617 ■ 37,976,687

LITHUANIA
■ 2,250 ■ 2,808,901

CZECH REPUBLIC
■ 4,500 ■ 10,610,055

UKRAINE
■ 38,400 ■ 42,216,766

AUSTRIA
■ 3,100 ■ 8,822,267

SLOVAK REPUBLIC
■ 2,150 ■ 5,443,120

HUNGARY
■ 2,971 ■ 9,778,371

CROATIA
■ 1,150 ■ 4,105,493

ROMANIA
■ 7,400 ■ 19,530,631

BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA
■ 700 ■ 3,502,550

ARMENIA
■ 540 ■ 2,965,300

MONTENEGRO
■ 140 ■ 622,359

BULGARIA
■ 3,400 ■ 7,050,034

NORTH MACEDONIA
■ 270 ■ 2,075,301

SERBIA
■ 2,750 ■ 7,001,444

TURKEY
■ 20,000 ■ 80,810,525

ALBANIA
■ 660 ■ 2,870,324

GREECE
■ 2,345 ■ 10,741,165

CYPRUS
■ 150 ■ 864,236



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