Annex 20

DRAFT CHAPTER 3.X.  
 **INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON VETERINARY SERVICES**

Article 3.X.1.

*Veterinary Services* are critical to global and national health security, food security and food safety, agricultural and rural development, poverty alleviation, safe *international trade*, *wildlife* and environmental protection; as such they are considered a global public good. To achieve these goals, *Veterinary Services* require good governance, including effective policy and management, personnel and resources, veterinary professionals and interaction with stakeholders.

Member Countries have the sovereign right to structure and manage the delivery of animal health, *animal* *welfare* and veterinary public health in the veterinary domain in their countries as they see fit. The veterinary domain covers a broad scope of possible activities. Section 3 focuses on aspects of the *Veterinary Services* that enable the OIE standards to be met even when under the responsibility of one or more *Competent Authorities.*

Member Countries should implement the OIE standards across their whole territory and should meet their obligations at the international level through representation by their respective OIE Delegate. The *Veterinary Authority,* including the OIE Delegate,should coordinate with other *Competent Authorities* to ensure international standards and responsibilities are met.

*Veterinary Services* have responsibility for implementing the activities necessary for the Member Country to comply with OIE standards. These activities can be delivered by a combination of individuals or organisations, public or private that are responsible to one or more *Competent Authorities*. *Veterinary Services* also include the personnel of the *Competent Authorities* themselves. The term *Veterinary Services* refers to the combination of a number of separate actors, with different organisational affiliations.

Section 3 provides standards to assist the *Veterinary Services* of Member Countries in meeting their objectives of improving terrestrial animal health and *animal* *welfare* and veterinary public health, as well as to establish and maintain confidence in their *international veterinary certificates*.

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