



WORLD VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION



INFONEWS

## WVA President's message – Nepal Earthquake



The horrific earthquake disaster in Nepal has captured the hearts of many around the world. We have been in contact with the General Secretary and President of the Nepal Veterinary Association to offer support and assistance at this difficult time. Through the usual shock, grief, and confusion of the first few days and weeks after such an event, the NVA has courageously been working to assess and prioritize their immediate and long-term needs. Many organizations are flooding Nepal in efforts to help. As you can imagine in times of massive disasters, communication, coordination, assessment, and distribution of needed supplies can be difficult. We remain in touch with them as they evaluate how we might best support them.

## World Medical Association – 200 Council meeting



WVA President, Dr René Carlson attended the [World Medical Association](#) Council meeting in Oslo, Norway in April. This was a special opportunity to meet with our many physician colleagues before we co-host the [Global Conference on One Health](#) in a couple weeks in Madrid. Dr Carlson attended three days of their meetings and was able to address their Council about the many public health issues that we, as veterinarians, experience in our daily lives. With Pharmaceutical Stewardship and Zoonoses as main priorities for the WVA, we have many areas in common. We know why physicians and veterinarians need to work better together for One Health, now we need to define how we actually do that. That is the question we hope to answer in Madrid

on May 21-22. This is an important meeting and partnership that can act as a good model for forming similar collaboration between our two professions on a local, regional, and national level. In the picture, WVA President, Dr René Carlson with WMA President, Dr Xavier DEAU.

## Den Norske Veterinaerferening (Norwegian Veterinary Association)



While the WVA President was in Norway, she met with the [Den Norske Veterinaerferening](#) Executive Board (including President Torill Moreng and General Secretary Hans Petter Bugge) for an update on current WVA activities. Developing the personal relationships is important to build trust and value for WVA membership; *“I especially appreciate the feedback Members give when engaged in informal and honest discussions”* said Dr Carlson. In the picture, WVA President, Dr René Carlson with the Norwegian Veterinary Association delegation

## Veterinary Statutory Bodies

The screenshot shows the OIE website page for Veterinary Statutory Bodies. The header includes the OIE logo and the text "WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH Protecting animals, preserving our future". The navigation menu includes Home, About us, Our scientific expertise, Support to OIE members (highlighted), Animal health in the World, International Standard Setting, Animal welfare, and One Health. The main content area is titled "Veterinary Statutory Bodies" and contains the following text:

The role of a Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) is to oversee the quality and competence of veterinarians in a country. A competent Veterinary Statutory Body, autonomous from any political or commercial interests, can ensure the excellence of the veterinary profession through appropriately licensing or registering veterinary professionals, and providing minimum standards for (initial and continuing) education and professional conduct. The functional and legislative framework within which a Veterinary Statutory Body exercises its regulatory capacity is defined in Article 3.2.12 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

In order to ensure the efficacy of a Veterinary Statutory Body, twinning is encouraged to strengthen the competencies required for a Veterinary Statutory Body to fulfil its responsibilities under the Veterinary Authority, whilst complying with international standards.

The ultimate goal of twinning is to assist Veterinary Statutory Bodies in becoming self-sufficient and supervise professional practice.

Projects under the OIE Veterinary Statutory Body Twinning Programme are undertaken by a recognised Veterinary Statutory Body – the Parent – and the beneficiary Candidate Veterinary Statutory Body, and aim to provide an opportunity for both the Parent and Candidate to garner and develop expertise.

Furthermore, projects are sufficiently flexible to cater the required support needed by a Candidate Veterinary Statutory Body, regardless of the reasons for twinning. A twinning project can assist a Candidate in becoming established in a situation where there is a lack of national regulation or it can serve to assist an established Veterinary Statutory Body improve its compliance with international standards.

It is encouraged that projects under this programme include the participation of developing and in-transition countries so as to achieve a better balance in the global distribution of expertise, especially in geographic areas where capacities are most lacking.

The length of the project would depend on its scope. OIE twinning projects last a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years (extensions may be envisaged). Further details regarding twinning projects between Veterinary Statutory Bodies can be consulted in the OIE's Guide to Veterinary Statutory Body Twinning Projects.

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Recently, an issue about the composition of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) and the balance of veterinarian members with paraprofessional members was raised. First, let's review the role of the VSB. *“The role of a VSB is to oversee the quality and competence of veterinarians in a country. A competent VSB, autonomous from any political or commercial interests, can ensure the excellence of the veterinary profession through appropriately licensing or registering veterinary professionals, and providing minimum standards for (initial and continuing) education and professional conduct.”* ([OIE - Veterinary Statutory Bodies](#)). The evaluation of the VSB is clearly defined in [Article 3.2.12 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#). There is no general rule for the actual composition of the members of the VSB in terms of numbers of veterinarians, paraprofessionals, or public members, other than it must be clearly defined. However, let us be clear, *“to oversee the quality and competence of veterinarians in a country”*, the Statutory Body must have a good

representation of veterinarians in order to fulfil the role of licensing and registering veterinary professionals and evaluating veterinary services within a country. While paraprofessionals are very important to the support and administration of defined veterinary services, they do not equal the level of competency or scientific medical knowledge of a degreed veterinarian from a quality veterinary medical program.

**Thank you for your membership. We need your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message about our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don't be left out of the process!**

**Please forward this info-news to your individual members**



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