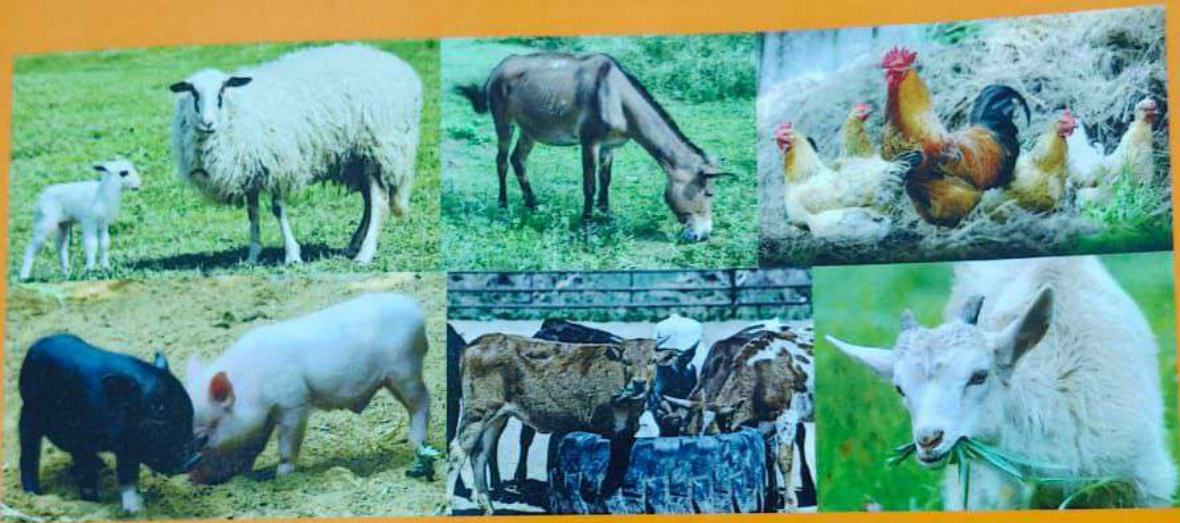


POLICY PAPER 4

# PARAVET REGULATION IN INDIA

[www.navsindia.org](http://www.navsindia.org)



National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India)

POLICY PAPER 4

[www.navsindia.org](http://www.navsindia.org)

## PARAVET REGULATION IN INDIA

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)**

G-4, A-Block, NASC, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110012

March 2018

Citation: NAVS 2018. Paravet Regulation in India. Policy Paper No. 4, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India), New Delhi

### **MISSION OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES**

“To consolidate and promote the views of scientific community on all policy matters related to Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry in the welfare of India; to encourage better training and utilization of veterinary talent and enterprise in the country; to strive for advancement of livestock sector in the national economy; to promote animal welfare; to protect environment; and to safeguard the interests of the profession and to gain greater recognition and acclaim for it”.

***Published By***

**National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India)**

*(Registered with the Registrar of Societies vide Regn. certificate No.S-2/4471 of 1993)*

**March 2018**

## NAVS (INDIA) GOVERNING COUNCIL 2017-2019

### **Office Bearers**

President	: Maj. Gen. Shri Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.)
Vice-President	: Dr. D.V.R. Prakasha Rao
Secretary General	: Dr. S.K. Gupta
Treasurer	: Dr. Nem Singh
Editor	: Prof. R.N. Kohli

### **Members**

Dr. P.N. Khanna  
Col. R.P. Garg, VSM (Retd.)  
Maj. Gen. M.L. Sharma (Retd.)  
Dr. S.N.S. Randhawa  
Dr. S.K. Srivastava  
Dr. V.D.P. Rao  
Dr. S.N. Singh  
Dr. A.B. Mandal  
Dr. Mandeep Sharma  
Dr. S.K. Tiwari  
Dr. B.N. Tripathi  
Dr. S.K. Saha  
Dr. Ravindra Sharma  
Dr. Minakshi  
Dr. Sanjeev Kumar

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Prof. S. Honnappagol, AHC, GOI  
Lt. Gen. A.J. Singh, AVSM, VSM, DG RVS, IHQ of MoD (Army)  
DDG (An. Sci.), ICAR, KrishiBhawan  
Prof. K.M.L. Pathak, VC, DUVASU, Mathura  
President, Veterinary Council of India  
Prof. R.N. Kohli, Editor, NAVS(I), Newsletter

---

## PREFACE

Livestock Sector is an integral part of India's agricultural economy and plays a multifaceted role in providing livelihood support to the rural population. It is estimated that about 70 million rural households own livestock of one species or the other.

There is a growing need for generating qualified and trained human resource for faster growth of the livestock sector. As on date, the Country is facing shortage of around **50 per cent** Veterinarians and **80 per cent** Paravets. To cope up with the present situation, there is an urgent need to have a cadre of trained paravets to provide basic health care to vulnerable livestock in line with the National Livestock Policy 2013.

This policy document, "**Paravet Regulation in India**", focuses on the need to streamline the syllabus, the duration of para-veterinary courses and the entry level requirement for joining such courses. Further, the document highlights the importance of registration of paravets by a state level body and of their regulation by the Chief Veterinary Officer at district level. It is envisaged that this document will be of immense value to the concerned authorities for formulation of Paravet Regulation in the Country which would be a significant step forward to achieve Sustainable Development Goal in Livestock Industry.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Brooke India, an international charity working for the welfare of equines, the panel of experts from the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) and representatives from various Government and Non-Government Organizations who have contributed in preparing this policy document.

**Maj Gen Shri Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.)**  
President,  
National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India)

---

---

## Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
1. Prologue	1
2. Livestock Sector's Role In Rural India	1
3. Present Situation	2
4. Veterinary Para-Professionals	2
5. Role of Community Based Animal Health Workers (CBAHWs)	3
6. Institutes for Training of Paravets	4
7. The Himachal Pradesh Para-veterinary Council Act, 2010	4
8. Recommendations	5
9. Epilogue	6
10. Annexure 1	7
11. References	8

---

# PARAVET REGULATION IN INDIA

## 1. Prologue

Livestock have been an integral component of the country's rural economy since time immemorial. They were used as draught animals, milch animals and provided meat, wool and organic manure. Technological advances have, however, weakened the synergy between livestock and cultivation of food and other crops.

The huge livestock and poultry sector in the country which includes cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, camels, mithun, yak, chicken, ducks, turkeys and other avian species require multifarious tasks for veterinarians and other para-veterinary personnel.

India's livestock sector is one of the largest in the world (livestock 512 million and poultry 729 million<sup>1</sup>). It plays an important role in the national economy and employment generation. The sector is emerging as an engine of agricultural growth in the 12<sup>th</sup> plan, in view of rapid growth in the demand for food products and protein of animal origin<sup>2</sup>.

According to the 2012-13 report of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F), Government of India, a sum of Rs. 5,37,535 crore accounting for 4.11% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and approximately 25% of the value of output from agriculture and allied sectors at current prices are generated through animal husbandry practices. Milk alone contributes about 66% of the total output and the rest comes from meat, eggs, wool, leather and other products.<sup>3</sup> The progressive increase in the output of milk, meat, eggs and fish has resulted in enhancement of the per capita consumption of these commodities in the country and thereby augmenting food as well as nutritional security for the people<sup>4</sup>.

The livestock sector is being looked after by trained professionals, namely veterinarians and para-veterinary personnel. Para-Veterinary personnel are assisting in providing health care facilities to animals. They also independently treat and provide essential health care services to animals. The existing Vet : Animal ratio in the country is 1 : 15,000, which is required to be reduced to 1 : 3000 for better health care and productivity of the animals<sup>5</sup>.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to increase the number of veterinarians in the country and also to improve their quality. There is an urgent requirement to enhance and improve the number and quality of para-veterinary personnel.

## 2. Livestock Sector's Role in Rural India

It is a hard fact that in order to be sustainable in agriculture, livestock sector is considered to be the most dependable avocation for rural households. This sector needs to be expanded exponentially and better equipped to share the burden in societal built up through veterinary and animal husbandry enterprise and practices. The growth in livestock sector is demand-driven, inclusive and pro-poor. Incidence of rural poverty is less in states like Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan, where livestock accounts for a sizeable share of agricultural income as well as employment. Livestock is considered as more climate resilient compared to crop agriculture<sup>6</sup>.

### 3. Present Situation

There is an acute shortage of veterinarians in the country with only 34,500 veterinary graduates as against the requirement of around 67,000. Similarly, there is also a lack of trained para-veterinary personnel in India. The total availability of paravets in the country is about 52,000 as against the requirement of atleast 2,59,000.

(Report of the Working Group on Animal Husbandry & Dairying, 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, (2012-2017), Planning Commission, Government of India).

**Table 1: Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Human Resource**

Category	Required	Availability	Deficit
Veterinarians in field veterinary institutions, meat and food, drug, inspection, etc.	67,000	34,500	32,500
Veterinarians in teaching and research	7,500	3,050	4,450
Paravets	2,59,000	5,200	2,07,000

The huge gap in providing health related care to animals in the country is detrimental, not only for productive and working animals, but also for the economy, the people and the families who depend on these animals for their livelihood and sustenance. Frequent outbreaks of infectious and contagious diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS), Black Quarter (BQ), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Brucellosis, Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, Glanders and Trypanosomosis in equines etc. continue to reduce production and productivity of livestock, while the available veterinary support in terms of infrastructure (for hospitals and diagnostic labs) and technical manpower, are insufficient.

At the same time diagnostic facilities at field level in terms of good clinical laboratories, equipment, quick and quality diagnostics are inadequate. In view of these challenges, it is important to improve the capability and quality of veterinary personnel in India and also increase the number of trained para-veterinary personnel in the country.

### 4. Veterinary Para-Professionals

#### OIE TERRESTRIAL CODE

#### **OIE HAS DEFINED VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONAL <sup>7</sup>**

"A person who is authorized by the Veterinary Statutory Body to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of Veterinary Para-Professional) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a veterinarian. The tasks for each category of Veterinary Para-Professional should be defined by the Veterinary Statutory Body depending on qualifications and training, and according to need".

## **MINOR VETERINARY SERVICES**

### **Veterinary Council of India Act, 1984, Section 30<sup>b</sup>**

**30. Right of persons who are enrolled on the Indian veterinary practitioners register.**—No person, other than a registered veterinary practitioner, shall—

- (a) Hold office as veterinary physician or surgeon or any other like office (by whatever name called) in Government or in any institution maintained by a local or other authority;
- (b) Practice veterinary medicine in any State:

Provided that the State Government may, by order, permit a person holding a diploma or certificate of veterinary supervisor, stockman or stock assistant (by whatever name called) issued by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry (by whatever name called) of any State or any veterinary institution in India, to render, under the supervision and direction of a registered veterinary practitioner, minor veterinary services.

*Explanation*—“Minor veterinary services” means the rendering of preliminary veterinary aid, like vaccination, castration, and dressing of wounds, and such other types of preliminary aid or the treatment of such ailments as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf;

- (c) Be entitled to sign or authenticate a veterinary health certificate or any other certificate required by any law to be signed or authenticated by a duly qualified veterinary practitioner;
- (d) be entitled to give evidence at any inquest or in any court of law as an expert under section 45 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), on any matter relating to veterinary medicine.

### **5. Role of Community Based Animal Health Workers (CBAHWs):**

Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), supported under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), is undertaking short term (3 months) certified training courses for CBAHWs on Artificial Insemination, First Aid, etc for providing gainful employment to youth and also facilitate provision of basic health services to rural livestock. Therefore, it is imperative to register such skilled persons to work under the supervision of Government Veterinarians.

## 6. Institutes for Training of Paravets

There are about 190 institutions providing training to the paravets in different States/UTs in India. However, there is widespread imbalance in the number of paravet institutions available in different parts of the country. All institutions conducting education and training of paravets exists both in public sector (government-owned) and private sector institutions, but these institutions are not commensurate with the livestock population in different States/UT's of the country. Following table clearly depict the disparity in various states.

**Table 2: Livestock Population and Number of Paravet Schools in States/UTs**

State	No of Paravet Schools	Livestock Population in Crores
Uttar Pradesh	1	6.8
Rajasthan	67	5.7
Andhra Pradesh	8	5.6
Maharashtra	101	3.2
Gujarat	9	2.7
Jammu and Kashmir	2	1
Haryana	3	0.9
Himachal Pradesh	3	0.7
Uttarakhand	1	0.5
Delhi	1	0.04

(All India Report 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census-2012, field knowledge, Govt and institutions website)

In addition to such disparity in the number of paravet training institutions in various states, there also exists a significant gap/disparity in the course curricula amongst the different institutions and also in the degrees/certificates being awarded after successful completion of the course which ranged from six-month duration to one-year diploma. After successful completion of the course, these are working as qualified paravets. Yet some other states also have two-year course for qualifying as a paravet. Similarly, the entry level of those who join the various courses across the country to qualify as a paravet also differs greatly.

In some states the eligibility criteria for the paravet courses is 10<sup>th</sup> pass and in others it is 12<sup>th</sup> pass. At the same time there is also a glaring difference in faculty and infrastructure in paravet institutions across the country.

Some recognized para-veterinary institutes affiliated to universities are running a two-year course, like the Veterinary Livestock Development Diploma (VLDD), Diploma in Veterinary Laboratory Technology (DVLTL) and Diploma in Dairy Technology (DIDT). The two-year course is indeed comprehensive and eventually prepares the paravets to help in treating the animals and providing relief to them.

## 7. The Himachal Pradesh Para-veterinary Council Act, 2010

Himachal Pradesh is the only state in the country that has established a Paravet Council & Paravets are being absorbed in state government services as per seniority. The Himachal Pradesh Para-veterinary Council Act, 2010<sup>9</sup> provides for the establishment of para-veterinary council in the state and to regulate the practice by para-veterinarians and para-veterinary institutions. This Act can be said to be a model act for paravets. Though paravet regulation is a state subject, there should be

some central control and registration of paravets in India. There could be a body like a National Level Regulatory Authority to formulate minimum standards for paravets and to regulate their working conditions.

As per the Act of Himachal Pradesh, The Director, Animal Husbandry issues attachment orders of these paravets with Veterinary Dispensaries at Panchayat level. The paravets are paid Rs. 5,000/ monthly stipend and allowed to carry out Artificial Insemination, Vaccination, Deworming and minor veterinary services on chargeable basis under the supervision of a Government vet.

Based on the necessity and requirement for bringing all paravets under the State regulatory body, the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, India (NAVS-I) and Brooke India jointly organized a brainstorming discussion on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to formulate basic strategies for regulating paravet education and training in the country. During the session Maj. Gen.(Dr.) M.L. Sharma, Member, Governing Council, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, India (NAVS-I) and CEO, Brooke India, made an elaborate presentation on "**PARAVET REGULATION IN INDIA- CURRENT STATUS**". Based on detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were made for proper execution and implementation at the national and state level.

## **8. Recommendations**

### **8.1 National Level**

- Setting up of a National Level Regulatory Authority on priority basis to function under the control and direction of the Veterinary Council of India to maintain and regulate the working condition and the course curricula of institutions imparting para-veterinary education.
- Minimum requirement for getting admission in the para-veterinary course should be Class 12<sup>th</sup> standard and the duration of the course should be of two years.
- The minimum qualification for a person to join the CBAHW courses should be Class 10 pass.
- Public Private Partnership (PPP) in veterinary and animal science education should be encouraged by making specific policies and fund allocation.

### **8.2 State Level**

- A State Level Para-Veterinary Council on the lines of State Veterinary Council be established which should be affiliated to State Veterinary Councils.
- An Act similar to the Himachal Pradesh Para-veterinary Council Act, 2010 may be enacted by all the states and the states should have the freedom to make minor, state-specific changes in the course curricula for paravets, but care should be taken to maintain the standards as prescribed from time to time.
- The number of admissions for paravets must be based on the number of facilities available in the state like the number of hospitals and setting up more paravet training institutions should be based on livestock population in different states,
- There should be a body to regulate and register paravet training institutions to maintain minimum standards.

- Adequate facility for disease diagnosis, reporting, epidemiology, surveillance and forecasting should be available at all veterinary colleges and paravet training institutions
- The state body should maintain a register of all practicing paravets in the state and they should be under the overall supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the district
- The state body should also register the skilled CBAHWs to work under the supervision of Government Veterinarians.
- There should be at least 1 paravet per 5,000 animals given the condition that he/she must work under the supervision of registered veterinarians
- Refresher courses must be conducted for the paravets on a regular basis, preferably after every two years.

### **9. Epilogue**

An innovative holistic approach is needed to bring about transformation in para-veterinary education in order to provide adequate animal health care in the country. This would not only provide animal health care services but would also improve the socio-economic status of those people who depend on livestock for their livelihood and sustenance. Healthy animals are more productive, produce safe and healthy food, serve as moving bank, and are an asset to their owners and to the society at large. In a large country like India, it is not possible for veterinary doctors to be present everywhere and there are logistical issues involved in providing the services of a veterinary doctor to every single animal which requires health care. Therefore, it is imperative that a cadre of trained para-veterinary personnel should be streamlined which would help in providing essential health care to livestock.

## 10. Annexure-1

### List of Participants at the Interactive Workshop on Paravet Regulation in India

1. Dr. Suresh S. Honnappagol, Commissioner, AHD, Government of India
2. Major General Shri Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.), President, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India)
3. Major General M.L. Sharma (Retd.), CEO, Brooke India
4. Dr. H.K. Muniyellappa, Joint Commissioner, DADF, Government of India
5. Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Director, ICAR-NRCE, Hisar
6. Dr. R. Kumar, Prof & Head, Dept of Vety. Physiology, COVAS, CSKHPKV, Palampur
7. Dr. N.N. Zade, Dean, Lower Education, MAFSU, Nagpur
8. Dr. R.A. Luthra, Registrar, LUVAS, Hisar
9. Dr. S.N.S. Randhawa, Research Advisor-cum-Professor, GADVASU, Ludhiana
10. Dr. Prakash Bhati, Director, AHD, Rajasthan, Jaipur
11. Dr. Punita, Dy Director, AHD, Haryana
12. Dr. Jyoti Misri, Principal Scientist (AH), ICAR, New Delhi
13. Dr. Lal Krishna, Former Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India
14. Dr. Ravinder Chaudhary, Chairman, Discipline Committee, Veterinary Council of India
15. Dr. Hardeo Singh Yadav, Registrar, UPVCI, Lucknow
16. Col. R.P. Garg, VSM (Retd.), Member, Governing Council, NAVS(I)
17. Dr. Nem Singh, Treasurer, NAVS(I)
18. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Secretary General, NAVS(I)
19. Dr. R.K. Yadav, Ex-President, UP VCI
20. Mr. Gajender K. Sharma, Country Director, World Animal Protection
21. Prof. A.C. Varshney, DG, Ayurved Research Foundation
22. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, CEO, PETA India
23. Dr. Surajit Nath, Veterinarian, Donkey Sanctuary, Delhi
24. Ms. Avni Malhotra, Country Director, Heifer International India
25. Mr. Nityanand Dhal, Integrator, PRADAN
26. Dr. Mamta Dhawan, Regional Manager, GALVmed
27. Dr. Ramesh Kumar Perumal, Veterinary Coordinator, Donkey Sanctuary
28. Mr. Faizan Jalil, Head of Region, South and West, Brooke India
29. Dr. S.F. Zaman, Head of Region, North and Central, Brooke India
30. Dr. Saurabh Singh, Manager Veterinary Services, Brooke India
31. Ms. Sirjana Nijjar, Head of Advocacy, Brooke India
32. Dr. Dinesh Mohite, Team Leader Research, Brooke India
33. Mr. Akhauri Pradyuman Sinha, Advocacy Officer, Brooke India
34. Mr. Karan Kapoor, Information Communication Officer, Brooke India
34. Ms. Nishtha Gorke, Information Communication Officer, Brooke India

## 11. References:

- <sup>1</sup>All India Report 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census-2012
- <sup>2,4,5,6</sup>Working Group on Animal Husbandry & Dairying, 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, (2012-2017), Planning Commission, Government of India.
- <sup>3</sup>Policy Paper on Human Resource Needs in Veterinary and Animal Sciences of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India)
- <sup>7</sup><http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/the-role-of-param-professionals-in-the-delivery-of-veterinary-services-in-africa/>
- <sup>8</sup><http://lawmin.nic.in/ld/P-ACT/1984/The%20Indian%20Veterinary%20Coucil%20Act,%201984.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup>[HTTP://rajpatrahimachal.nic.in/OPENFILE1.aspx?etype=SPECIAL&ID=136/GAZETTE/2011-01/10/2011](http://rajpatrahimachal.nic.in/OPENFILE1.aspx?etype=SPECIAL&ID=136/GAZETTE/2011-01/10/2011)
- Annual Report (2012-13), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, & Fisheries (DAHD&F), Government of India (Table 1)

## DELEGATES



(Delegates and experts from Government, NAVS(I), Private and Non-Government Organisations who contributed in developing this policy document, at the Interactive Workshop on Paravet Regulation in India on 11 August 2017, New Delhi)

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)**

G-4, A-Block, NASC, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110012

[www.navsindia.org](http://www.navsindia.org)