

Chapter 7

Veterinary statutory body, education, and services

Veterinary Council of Thailand

Based on the Veterinary Profession Act B.E. 2545 (2002), the Veterinary Council of Thailand was established as a national veterinary statutory body by law. The Board of Veterinary Council was elected and appointed. Figure 7-1 shows a structure of the Board Committee of the Veterinary Council of Thailand. According to the law, the Board of Veterinary Council shall have the following duties:

- to issue a license for veterinary practitioners and determine conditions in the license,
- to suspend or withdraw a license or withdraw a license of veterinary practitioners,
- to give consultation and advice in the field of veterinary science to the government, the government agencies, universities and any other educational institutions.

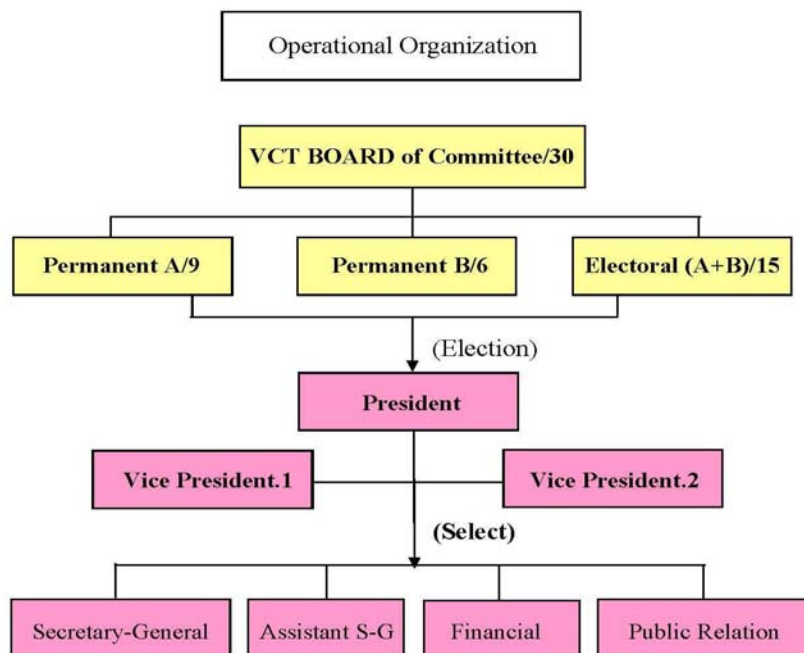


Figure 7-1. Structure of the Board Committee of the Veterinary Council of Thailand

A Registrar shall take responsibility of the registration of licensed veterinary practitioners at the Office of the Veterinary Council of Thailand which is temporarily located in the Department of Livestock Development, Bangkok. Approximately, there are now more than 5,000 veterinarians actively servicing in various governmental agencies, universities, and private sectors. Table 7-1 lists a number of veterinarians registered at the Veterinary Council of Thailand in 2010.

Table 7-1. A number of veterinary professions in Thailand (as of 2010)

Veterinary professions	Number
Animal clinics and hospitals	2,365
Private sectors (livestock and pharmaceutical industries)	795
Government agencies (animal health and public health)	709
Academic and universities	354
Wildlife and zoo activities	33
Others	1,340
Total	5,596

Veterinary Education in Thailand

During last decade, the growing public awareness and the recognition in the importance of veterinary studies raised the necessity in the expansion of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Thailand. Currently, there are six veterinary schools in Thailand.

- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kasetsart University
- Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Khon Kaen University
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University
- Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mahanakorn University of Technology

In each year, over 500 new qualified veterinarians graduate from 6 universities in Thailand (Table 7-2).

Table 7-2. A number of veterinary students graduated in 2011

Faculty	University	Number of graduates
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Kasetsart University,	100
Faculty of Veterinary Science	Chulalongkorn University	137
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Khon Kaen University	97
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Chiang Mai University	48
Faculty of Veterinary Science	Mahidol University	39
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Mahanakorn University of Technology	95
Total		516

Roles of veterinary profession

In Thailand, veterinarians play important roles in animal health and veterinary public health controls.

1. Animal health services – Veterinarians deliver animal health services to farmers and clients including smallholder and livestock industry such as vaccination, deworming, and treatment.

2. Prevention and control - Veterinarians involve in prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonotic diseases. They also involve in vaccination, quarantine, inspection and certification to mitigate risks of diseases.

3. Herd and flock health management, animal welfare and environment of livestock - Veterinarians help farmers in managing their livestock and poultry farm by providing technical support and advice. For instance, they provide advice on farm management, farm sanitation, animal hygiene, animal feeding, animal welfare and environment of livestock. Veterinarians also give advice and consultations to farmers on animal breeding and selection to ensure maximum yields.

4. Veterinary public health control - Veterinarians involve in this area in a much wider scale, for instance: -

- Ante- and post-mortem inspection at slaughterhouses and processing plants,
- Inspection and supervision for animal welfare pre-slaughtering and during slaughtering,
- Inspection for hygiene and sanitation of meat and animal product processing establishment,
- Monitoring of chemical, biological and environmental contaminants in animal products,
- Monitoring of veterinary drug use in animal feed and animal farms,
- Prevention of tropical diseases and zoonoses.

5. Small animal practice - Nowadays many people keep companion animals in their houses. Thus a number of veterinarians working at small animal clinics and hospitals is increasing.

6. Aquatic animal diseases – Aquaculture production were dispersed more widely across Thailand. Thailand also exports aquaculture products to the world markets. Therefore, needs of veterinarians who provide services and advice on aquatic animal health (including specialists from universities, government agencies, and private sectors) are also increasing.

During last decade, many veterinarians have involved in this area. Most of them work in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Zoological Park Organization, and the private zoo in Thailand.

Veterinary service provided by DLD

DLD also provides animal health services to small-holder farmers and general vulnerable people to protect animal disease outbreak and gives advice and knowledge on animal health care and management to reduce the risk of disease. Several activities and programs have been carried out during 2011.

1. Rabies control program
2. Registration of dogs and cats
3. Rehabilitation center for stray dogs
4. Animal vaccination campaign for small holder farmers and backyard poultry
5. Mobile veterinary clinic under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen

The Royal Thai Veterinary Project

His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen are highly concerned about the well-being of Thai people. The King and the queen always visit to various places in all regions of Thailand to monitor and supervise the living conditions of the people without discouragement and exhaustion. The visit of the royal family has been accompanied by Thai government agencies to take the order of their majesties in working and solving the problems of Thai people. The King and the Queen provide assistance to people and recommend the solutions for solving people problems, including a provision of new ideas that is suitable in current living condition. All of the royal duties and works present the great mercy, concerning and good willing regarding Thai people. The magnificence in royal conducts, perseverance and the great mercy in assisting the people make the veterinary agencies feel great admiration and respect. Therefore, we have unanimous agreement to mitigate the royal duties by operating mutually work and service to help animal-raising farmers during the people visit of His and Her Majesties. These services and actions benevolently favour to the King and the Queen which is highly honor of all veterinarians in the cooperation to help improve the well-being of Thai people on the royal purpose (Figure 7-2).

Objectives

1. To service for animal treatment in low income people residing in the remote area or people unable to reach the government service,
2. To transfer knowledge of animal health to the general public,
3. To prevent disease epidemics in animals including zoonotic diseases,
4. To enhance the integrated collaboration between veterinarians of private, academic and government agencies and the development of livestock services and animal health in rural areas.



Figure 7-2. Activities of the Royal Thai Veterinary Project