

## Para-Veterinarians in Egypt

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### ABSTRACT

Para-veterinarians are professionals in having a liaison between veterinary doctors and livestock owners beside their ability to achieve some of the veterinarians activity such as Collecting information about sick animals, using thermometer, using needles and syringes, Calculating, diluting and using antiseptic, knowledge about live and inactive vaccines, oral treatment of animals, herbal medicine, rectal palpation for detection of pregnancy, hoof treatment, treatment of chronic inflammation by using old methods such as blister and intervention in some large surgical operations such as abomasal displacement. According to our knowledge, This is the first review that highlight on the role of para-veterinarians in the Egypt as a co-aid for veterinary doctors.

**Keywords:** para-veterinarian; Egypt.

### INTRODUCTION

Para-professionals in the form of Para-veterinarians have long been recognized as a means of increasing the availability and affordability of private animal health services to traditional and small-scale livestock keepers in Egypt. However, many countries have strongly resisted the use of Para-professionals to deliver privatized veterinary services as they fear that Para-professionals would increase the level of drug misuse, provide substandard services and compete with private veterinarians[1].

Veterinary services in many developing countries have typically been provided by the State. Structural adjustment combined with new thinking on the role of the State has led to a decline in funding to many public veterinary services. The quality and availability of public veterinary services have subsequently declined in many developing countries. Reform programmes have often assumed that non-core government services would be financed and delivered by the private sector, but after nearly two decades of privatization, it is clear that private veterinarians are reluctant to fill the gap left by a diminished public service. Although private practice is thriving in many countries, private veterinarians have tended to locate in urban and peri-urban areas, leaving most small-scale or remote producers with no or limited access to veterinary services [2].

Para-veterinarians, have for some time now been considered as one of the most promising means for increasing the provision of animal health services in the rural areas of many developing countries. Key features of Para-veterinarians are their low overhead costs and their willingness to live as part of a rural community. With these characteristics para-veterinarian are able to provide services to small-scale producers in areas that could not otherwise support a private veterinarian. Although Para-veterinarian cannot fully substitute for veterinarians, these personnel are able to provide a cheap, locally available basic health care service that can lead to quite dramatic improvements in herd health [3].

This paper provides an overview on Para-veterinarians in Egypt through the results of our data collection from the questionnaire offered to veterinarians in the General Organization of Veterinary Services (GOVS), Egypt. According to our knowledge, this is the first report that highlight on para-veterinarians in Egypt.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the survey are mentioned with discussion of the most prominent points

#### *1. Number of para-veterinarian*

Through the applied questionnaire, it was proven that every farmer have from 2 to 3 para-veterinarian. Farmers compare between para veterinarians through their reality in work,

experience, economic impact and social relationship. Nearly half of the respondents revealed that the ratio of para-veterinarian to the number of livestock kept was one to every 200 animals.

## 2. Training

According to our knowledge, no training was applied to para-veterinarians in Egypt as they are considered illegal by the local authority.

## 3. Activity carried out by para-veterinarians in Egypt

**Table 1.** In the large animal sector

Different activities	Evaluation	Point
Collecting information about sick animals	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Using thermometer	Competent	9.6-10
Using syringe and needles	Competent	9.6-10
Calculating, diluting and using antiseptic	Critical	0-3.3
Knowledge of live and inactive vaccine	Critical	0-3.3
Common used medicine in treatment	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Oral treatment for animals	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Important cattle/buffalo diseases	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Rectal palpation for detection of pregnancy	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Natural parturition	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Hoof treatment	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Traditional treatment of chronic inflammation	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Herbal medicine	Competent	9.6-10
Surgical intervention in huge problems such as abomasal impaction	Critical	0-3.3

**Table 2.** in poultry sector

Different activities	Evaluation	Point
Using syringe and needles	Competent	9.6-10
Herbal medicine	Competent	9.6-10
Common used medicine in treatment	Consolidated	6.8-9.5
Cutting the beak	Competent	9.6-10
Important poultry diseases	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Knowledge of live and inactive vaccine	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Calculating, diluting and using antiseptic	Critical	0-3.3
Vaccination	Concerned	3.4-6.7
baby chick Sexing	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Collecting information about sick birds	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Sampling	Concerned	3.4-6.7
Community based animal health programs	Concerned	3.4-6.7

These results could be attributed to The impact of budget reductions and broad service responsibilities that left many State Veterinary Services with insufficient operating budgets to

fulfill their obligations and encouraged the view that they had become ineffective and inefficient, these results were in concern with those reported by [4].

**Table 3.** who provides veterinary services in Egypt?

Group	Ranking	Percent (%)
Para vets	2	30
Non governmental organizations	4	5
State vet services	3	15
Private practitioners	1	50

**Table 4.** Trends of the farm owners for the treatment of their animals in Egypt

Treatment	Household and small holder farms	Medium holder farms	Large farms
Self-Medication	20%	10%	2%
Call Veterinarian	20%	50%	90%
Call Para-vet. staff	50%	20%	5%
Brought to the CVH	10%	20%	3%

Paravets receive fair support in many tasks, but there is a division of opinion as to whether they should provide therapeutic veterinary services. The lack of enthusiasm for paravets as providers of therapeutic services suggests that any recommendation to use paravets to provide services where private veterinarians are unavailable or unwilling to work, and where state services are unable to provide adequate levels of service, would currently be unacceptable. It was clear that calling para-vet.

Staff is prominent in small holder farms in Egypt due to poor education of the farmers. Good information and awareness of timely information on new technologies and techniques is essential for farmers and paravets when deciding whether or not to adopt an innovation. Private extension services are playing an increasing role but public extension services remain the key source of information on new technologies in developing countries such as Egypt because of poverty.

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