Background

• Veterinary practice started in 1902 with arrival of first veterinarian
• At independence in 1966 the had reached 12
• A board founded in 1973 in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1973
• Board was chaired by Director with four other members

Background continued

• Currently 113 veterinarians are registered with the board 86 of them in government
• The board fully funded by Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Council

• In accordance with the reviewed Veterinary Surgeons Act of 2009
• Passed by parley in February 2009 and yet to be implemented

Veterinary Council membership

• Chairman- vet appointed by the Minister
• Director of Veterinary services
• 3 members of BVA
• 1 member appointed by the Minister
• 1 veterinary surgeon from DWNP
• 1 member from Attorney General
• 1 veterinary surgeon from the academia

Registration to practice vet medicine in Botswana

• Newly qualified veterinarians

✓ Registration with RSA veterinary council
✓ Registration with Zimbabwe veterinary council
✓ Membership of Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
✓ Exemption by the council
REGISTRATION CTD

• EXPERIENCED VETERINARIANS
  ✓ Registration as above
  ✓ Letter of good standing from previous council/board of service from country of origin

Funding of council

• Currently funded by Ministry
• New act proposes independent funding

Veterinary paraprofessionals

• Are currently not registered
• Training carried out in
  ✓ Athi River, Kenya
  ✓ Luyengo, Swaziland
  ✓ BCA, Botswana
  ✓ MITC, Botswana
  ✓ Technikons, RSA
  ✓ Technical colleges, UK
  ✓ Health Sciences Institutes, Botswana

Paraprofessionals ctd

• They acquire
  ✓ Certificate
  ✓ Ordinary Diploma
  ✓ Higher National diploma
  ✓ Degree
  ✓ Post graduate

Veterinary paraprofessionals ctd

• New legislation requires that they be registered by same council

• Veterinary Surgeons Act of 2009

Training of veterinarians

• No vet school in Botswana
• Many trained in several countries
  ✓ UK, USA
  ✓ Kenya
  ✓ Nigeria
  ✓ RSA
  ✓ Zimbabwe
  ✓ Ireland
  ✓ Australia
  ✓ New Zealand
  ✓ West Indies
  ✓ Trinidad and Tobago
Veterinarian training ctd

- Training of new graduates done by Ministry of Education
- Currently consideration to introduce veterinary medicine at university
- Post graduate training going well

Challenges

- Flying veterinarians from neighbours
- Exotic veterinarians doing wild animals research
- External training sometimes not meeting expectations

Conclusions

- We enjoy a diverse veterinary community
- Implementation of new act slow
- Demand for veterinarians on the increase
- Some veterinarians residing in the country not registered and not practicing
- A lot of areas of cooperation

Thank you!!!