

# A LLM-Powered Agent for Summarizing Critical Information in the Swine Certification Process

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**Abstract:** Animal production farms play an essential role in sanitary control by serving as the first line of defense against disease outbreaks, thus safeguarding both the national food supply and public health. In the state of Rio Grande do Sul, one of Brazil's leading regions for livestock production, swine farming holds particular economic importance and requires rigorous oversight to maintain herd health and compliance with regulatory standards. Recognizing this critical need, this paper presents the development of a virtual assistant aimed at supporting swine certification processes within the Animal Health Defense Platform of Rio Grande do Sul (PDSA-RS), a system integral to monitoring and preserving swine health in the region. The virtual assistant was implemented in Java using Spring Boot and the Spring AI library, with large language models (LLMs) executed locally through Ollama to ensure data privacy and provide contextualized responses. To improve response accuracy and relevance, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) was employed, enriching user queries with external data on swine health regulations, standard operating procedures, and relevant certifications. A case study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the prototype in real-world swine certification scenarios. Results indicated that the virtual assistant showed promise in improving the speed and accuracy of the certification process, offering timely and relevant information to users. This highlights the system's potential to streamline workflows and facilitate better decision-making among technicians and veterinarians involved in sanitary control measures.


## 1 INTRODUCTION


Swine certification in Brazil is pivotal to maintaining and expanding the nation's standing as one of the world's top pork exporters. By ensuring compliance with strict global standards for quality, food safety, and animal welfare, certification fosters trust among trading partners and consumers, significantly contributing to the growth of the swine industry. In 2022 alone, Brazil's gross production value for swine reached about R\$ 34.175 billion, with the state of Rio Grande do Sul accounting for nearly 20% of national slaughter (ABPA, 2024).

In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has accelerated rapidly, fueled by advancements in data processing and increasingly sophisticated algorithms. Large-scale language models, such as EcoAssistant, have gained prominence for performing complex nat-

ural language processing tasks more efficiently and accurately, while reducing operational costs (Zhang et al., 2023). Various architectures—autoregressive models (GPT-3), encoder-decoder (BERT), and multimodal models (CLIP)—demonstrate the remarkable versatility of LLMs in applications beyond natural language processing (Raffel et al., 2020; Radford et al., 2021). Notably, GPT-3.5 has shown state-of-the-art performance in generating coherent, high-quality text from large datasets (Brown et al., 2020), while LLaMA caters to contexts where computational resources are constrained (Touvron et al., 2023). LLMs have already been adopted across many domains, from virtual assistants to livestock management. Ávila (2022) discusses how LLMs and related AI tools can optimize herd management, reduce animal stress, and enhance efficiency (Shi et al., 2021). In customer service, LLM-powered virtual assistants demonstrate more natural and personalized interactions than traditional chatbots, which handle only basic queries (Peters et al., 2018). Nonetheless, chal-

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Challenges remain in addressing diverse cultural and linguistic contexts and ensuring users fully understand model outputs (Brown et al., 2020; Touvron et al., 2023). Further development is critical, particularly for precision livestock farming and related industries.

This paper is structured as follows: Section 2 covers the fundamental concepts behind our research. Section 3 presents the related work, examining previous studies and solutions relevant to this domain. In Section 4, we introduce our LLM-powered agent for the swine certification process. Section 5 focuses on the evaluation of our approach, and Section 6 concludes the paper.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Domain-Specific Agents

Domain-specific agents are specialized software systems designed to leverage focused knowledge bases and processes relevant to a particular field. In veterinary certification, for instance, these agents must manage and interpret legislation, health records, immunization data, and inspection guidelines with precision (Peters et al., 2018). Unlike general chatbots, which often rely on generic language models or rule-based flows, domain-specific agents—especially those powered by LLMs—deliver more nuanced dialogues and can adapt to rapidly changing regulations. These agents may integrate external data sources, such as official veterinary databases, to implement robust Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) strategies. This connection ensures that the agent's answers remain accurate and authoritative, reducing the potential for misinformation. However, creating and maintaining high-quality, domain-relevant training data poses significant challenges, requiring collaboration between domain experts and AI developers. Despite these hurdles, ongoing advances in natural language processing and knowledge representation promise to further enhance the reliability and impact of domain-specific agents in veterinary public health and animal certification.

### 2.2 LLM

Large Language Models represent a major breakthrough in AI, particularly in natural language processing. Their development is part of a long-standing evolution in the field, where researchers have endeavored to create machines capable of understanding and generating human language automatically. Early efforts with neural networks and transformers, such as

GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer), paved the way for GPT-2. Released in 2019 by OpenAI, GPT-2 gained attention by producing coherent and persuasive text from simple prompts (Brown et al., 2020).

Currently, LLMs permeate everyday applications, such as Alexa, Siri, and Google Assistant, enabling more natural language interactions (Radford et al., 2019). They also underpin large-scale operations, from automated customer support and content generation to medical data analysis (Raffel et al., 2020). A key factor behind their capabilities lies in billions of adjustable parameters, which allow models like GPT-3 to capture linguistic nuances. However, increasing the number of parameters also raises computational costs, both during training and inference, and requires extensive datasets to avoid overfitting (Brown et al., 2020).

Training methods vary. A typical approach is to first pre-train the model on vast amounts of general data, imparting broad language skills. Fine-tuning then adapts these skills to domain-specific tasks, such as translation or customer service (Brown et al., 2020), while in-context learning further refines models based on a few specialized examples. Figure 1 illustrates how an LLM can shift from generic language tasks to targeted applications.

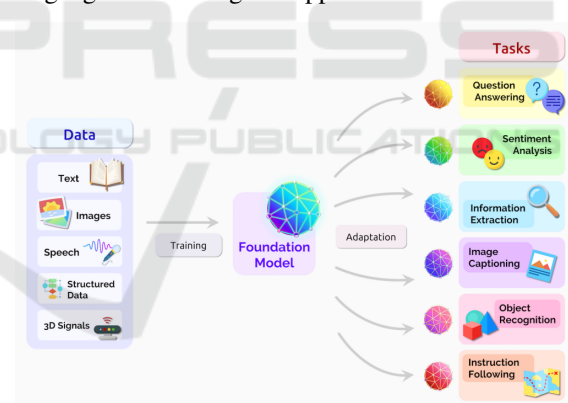


Figure 1: Example of a model's adaptability (Bommasani et al., 2021).

Nonetheless, these architectures bring certain challenges, especially regarding computational resources and data privacy. Balancing model complexity with efficiency is therefore a central concern for applying LLMs in real-world solutions.

#### 2.2.1 Fine-Tuning

Unlike pre-training with large, general-purpose datasets, fine-tuning adjusts the model using a smaller, domain-specific set of labeled data. This technique is particularly useful for tasks requiring specialized language understanding (e.g., sentiment

analysis or legal text generation), as it optimizes weights for domain-specific nuances (Howard and Ruder, 2018). In a simplified workflow, a pre-trained model undergoes additional training on a specialized dataset, leveraging prior knowledge while reducing overall computational cost (Devlin, 2018).

However, fine-tuning also presents challenges. If the labeled dataset is insufficient or biased, the model may inherit these flaws, resulting in skewed or overly specialized responses. Additionally, fine-tuned models risk over-fitting, losing the ability to generalize to new data (Raffel et al., 2020). Maintaining a careful balance between specialization and broader applicability is therefore essential for successful fine-tuning.

### 2.2.2 Prompt Engineering

Creating and structuring the instructions provided to LLMs is an essential practice for optimizing the responses these systems generate, ensuring that an LLM's outputs align with the specific needs of the user. With the growing influence of LLMs, such as GPT-3, small variations in instruction design can significantly affect model performance (Brown et al., 2020), underscoring the importance of carefully crafted prompts.

Beyond guiding the model toward desired behaviors, prompt engineering can also adapt the model to different contexts and audiences without additional training. This flexibility is particularly useful when computational resources or domain-specific data are limited. By refining prompts, LLMs can perform complex tasks more efficiently and in a more personalized manner, reinforcing the value of prompt engineering in real-world AI solutions (Reynolds and McDonnell, 2021).

### 2.2.3 Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) significantly advances the integration of language models with information retrieval, enhancing both accuracy and relevance in generated answers (Lewis et al., 2020). By combining text generation with external data, RAG expands the context and applicability of LLMs beyond their internal knowledge. As shown in Figure 2, a prompt and query first retrieve relevant information from external sources, such as legislative or specialized databases, which is then integrated into the initial context before the LLM generates a final textual answer. This process allows the model to align text generation with up-to-date data, overcoming limitations of pre-trained-only approaches.

RAG typically involves two collaborative modules: (1) an information retrieval system, essential

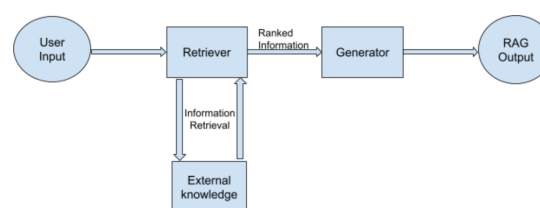


Figure 2: How RAG works (Gupta et al., 2024).

for expanding the model's context and improving response accuracy, and (2) a text generation model that incorporates retrieved data to produce contextualized answers (Brown et al., 2020). This design adapts quickly to regulatory changes without frequent re-training, reducing computational costs (Touvron et al., 2023; Raffel et al., 2020).

Despite its advantages, RAG depends heavily on the organization and accuracy of external data sources—poorly maintained or outdated databases can undermine answer quality (Lewis et al., 2020). Response time may also increase when large volumes of data or high query loads are involved (Zhang et al., 2023). Lastly, security measures become critical in sensitive domains, such as sanitary certification, to protect both user data and generated outputs (Brown et al., 2020).

### 2.2.4 Embedding Process

Embedding transforms text into dense vectors, capturing semantic and contextual relationships (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019). In the swine certification context, embedding helps retrieve legislative paragraphs closely aligned with user queries.

## 2.3 Animal Farm Certification

Ensuring swine health in Brazil is vital for global market competitiveness. Certification processes require detailed tracking of vaccinations, compliance with biosafety norms, and continuous monitoring (Brown et al., 2020). As Brazil is a major pork exporter, these certifications uphold both national regulations and international standards (Descovi et al., 2021).

### 2.3.1 The PDSA-RS Platform

The PDSA-RS platform streamlines poultry and swine certification (Descovi et al., 2021). It originally supported four main portals:

Previously, the PDSA-RS offered only four of its five main portals, as shown in Figure 3:

- **RT Portal.** Aimed at veterinarians accredited by the SVO, enabling them to perform and represent the legal activities of farms;

- **Laboratory Portal.** Equipped with explicit functionalities for sample reception routines, processing, registration, and the issuance of authenticated reports by veterinarians and staff from private, accredited, and federal laboratories;
- **SVE Portal.** Geared toward agents of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation of Rio Grande do Sul, handling farm registration, poultry and swine genetic certification, warehouse management, and other related tasks;
- **MAPA Portal.** Designed for final certification activities involving all parties in certificate issuance, result analysis, farm history tracking, and other responsibilities under Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply.

As new demands arose and additional projects were implemented within PDSA-RS, the platform expanded its known portals by adding the new **Citizen Portal**. This portal is intended for use by any individual, with streamlined access through gov.br authentication.

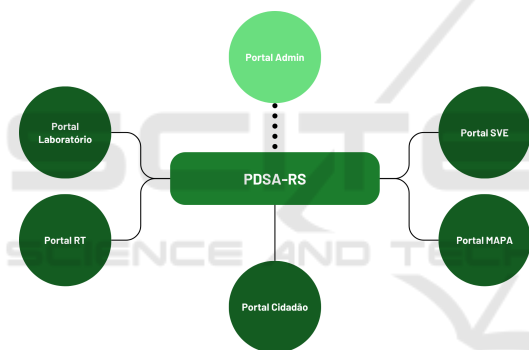


Figure 3: Structure of the PDSA-RS platform.

### 3 RELATED WORK

The application of AI in livestock management has seen increasing research interest, particularly in predictive analytics and automated monitoring systems. Ávila (2022) explored neural networks for herd optimization, demonstrating improvements in health monitoring and resource allocation (Shi et al., 2021). Similarly, Mallinger et al. (2024) examined how Explainable AI (XAI) can facilitate the adoption of smart farming technologies by improving requirement analysis and technology design, ensuring that AI-driven solutions are transparent and user-friendly (Mallinger et al., 2024). However, most studies focus on structured data analysis rather than language-based AI models.

LLMs have been extensively used in customer ser-

vice (Peters et al., 2018) and healthcare applications (Esteva et al., 2019), yet their role in regulatory compliance for animal certification remains underdeveloped. Research on AI-driven automation in legal and administrative fields has demonstrated the potential of LLMs in document processing and compliance validation (Zhong et al., 2020). The integration of RAG has further improved accuracy in generating responses based on external regulatory databases (Lewis et al., 2020).

Despite advancements in AI-driven certification, existing solutions in livestock management remain largely manual or rule-based, lacking the contextual adaptability that LLMs can provide. Our work aims to bridge this gap by leveraging domain-specific AI models to enhance the swine certification process through real-time legal interpretation and compliance validation.

## 4 A LLM-POWERED AGENT FOR SWINE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

This section describes how we developed and integrated an LLM-based agent within the PDSA-RS to aid official veterinaries in swine certification processes. We detail the software architecture, agent definition, and the steps involved in ensuring contextually relevant responses.

### 4.1 Software Architecture Definition

The architecture of the swine certification assistant integrates seamlessly with the PDSA-RS platform, leveraging existing client portals and backend APIs while introducing new components to support the LLM-powered assistant. The system uses Java (Spring Boot) for a stable REST backend, Spring AI for connecting to LLM services, and Ollama for the local execution of open-source models (e.g., LLaMA). By running LLMs locally, the system ensures data privacy—critical for sensitive veterinary records—while reducing reliance on external APIs.

The architecture is illustrated in Figure 4, which highlights the components of the PDSA-RS platform. The existing client portals include MAPA, SVE, RT, and LAB, each serving specific roles in swine certification and related processes. Among these, the MAPA portal is the first to integrate the LLM-powered assistant, as indicated by the brain icon in the image. This marks it as the entry point for testing and deploying the assistant.



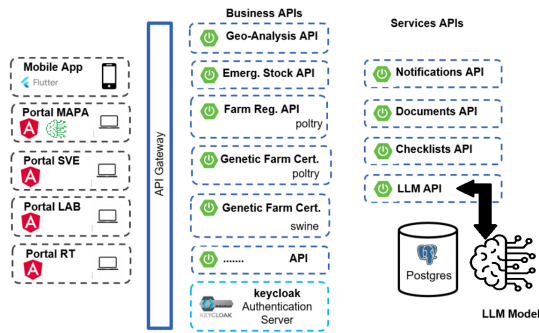


Figure 4: Software architecture of the PDSA-RS platform with LLM integration.

On the backend, the system includes several APIs for business and service functionalities. Notably, a new API, the LLM API, was introduced in the services layer to facilitate communication with the LLM model. This API is responsible for handling queries sent to the model, managing RAG operations, and retrieving relevant legislative content from the PostgreSQL database. The database stores vector embeddings of regulatory documents to enable semantic search, as well as logs of user interactions for analytics and future improvements.

- **Backend (Spring Boot).** Exposes endpoints to handle certification queries, fetch legislative content, and manage user sessions.
- **Spring AI.** Orchestrates prompt engineering and RAG retrieval. Minimal official documentation posed integration challenges.
- **Ollama.** Executes LLMs like LLaMA 3.2:3B locally, ensuring rapid responses for domain-specific queries (OLLAMA, 2024).

This modular design not only ensures the scalability and adaptability of the platform but also positions it to efficiently incorporate advanced AI features into existing workflows. The integration with the MAPA portal demonstrates the potential of the assistant to enhance certification processes while preserving data privacy and system autonomy.

## 4.2 Agent Definition

The agent is a domain-specific virtual assistant designed to streamline the swine certification process by providing quick and accurate responses to complex veterinary and regulatory queries. Its primary goal is to assist veterinarians, inspectors, and other stakeholders in accessing legislative and procedural information necessary for sanitary compliance, thereby reducing the time and effort required for manual searches.

The agent operates in a structured manner:

1. **Receive a Query.** Users, such as veterinarians or officials, input questions related to sanitary regulations, certification requirements, or other domain-specific topics.
2. **Retrieve Relevant Data (RAG).** The system employs Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) to search an embedded database containing regulatory documents and legislative data. This ensures that the query is matched to semantically relevant content.
3. **Integrate and Generate a Response.** Retrieved data is appended to the user's query and passed to the Large Language Model (LLM). The LLM synthesizes this information to generate a context-rich, domain-specific response.
4. **Return Result.** The generated response is presented to the user in an intuitive and accessible format, providing clear guidance tailored to the specific query.

The agent was designed with the unique requirements of swine certification in mind, ensuring that it can handle technical terminology, navigate complex hierarchical regulations, and adapt to evolving legislative standards. However, a notable limitation is the lack of conversation continuity. Due to the absence of native multi-turn memory in Spring AI, the agent processes each query independently. This can lead to disjointed or repetitive responses in multi-step interactions, underscoring the need for improved context management mechanisms. Future iterations may address this limitation by integrating libraries like Langchain4j or exploring alternative architectures to support dynamic and continuous dialogue.

By leveraging a combination of advanced information retrieval and LLM capabilities, the agent serves as a valuable tool for enhancing decision-making and operational efficiency in swine certification workflows.

## 4.3 Prototype Definition

The prototype for the swine certification assistant was developed to integrate seamlessly with the PDSA-RS platform, leveraging advanced technologies to provide efficient and privacy-preserving responses to user queries. Currently at the proof-of-concept (PoC) stage, the system aims to validate the feasibility and potential impact of a locally executed LLM for swine certification.

The software architecture combines a robust backend, a curated knowledge base, and a user-friendly interface to streamline the certification process for veterinarians and officials. The backend, implemented

using Spring Boot, manages user interactions and processes queries through a locally deployed LLM using Ollama. A PostgreSQL database handles semantic search and logs interactions, enabling RAG for accurate, context-relevant responses. By embedding knowledge from domain-specific documents, the system ensures quick access to vital information for certification procedures.

The user interface was extended to integrate a chat component, as shown in Figure 5. This component allows users to submit queries, receive real-time answers, and interact with the assistant intuitively. By embedding this functionality directly into the PDSA-RS platform, the assistant becomes a practical tool for stakeholders, simplifying the certification workflow and improving decision-making efficiency.

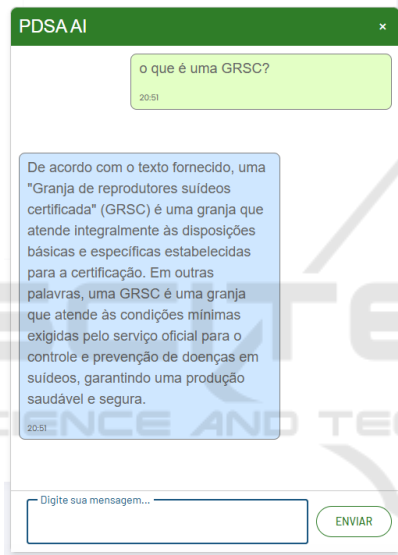


Figure 5: Chat component integrated into the PDSA-RS platform. Source: Author’s own work.

The system’s backend architecture, illustrated in Figure 6, employs the Reactor project’s Flux class to enable real-time data exchange through ServerSentEvent (SSE). This design allows responses to be streamed incrementally, enhancing the user experience by reducing latency and enabling seamless interaction with the assistant.

This prototype demonstrates the feasibility of deploying LLM-based solutions for domain-specific challenges, such as swine certification. By combining advanced AI with tailored infrastructure, the system provides veterinarians and technicians with an effective, user-friendly tool to navigate complex certification requirements. The next section illustrates the assistant’s practical applications through a real-world usage scenario, highlighting its benefits and identifying potential areas for future improvement.

```
@RestController
@RequestMapping("/chat")
public class ChatController {

    private final RagService ragService;

    public ChatController(RagService ragService) { this.ragService = ragService; }

    @GetMapping("/conversations")
    public List<String> getAllConversations() { return ragService.getAllConversations(); }

    @GetMapping("/stream")
    public Flux<ServerSentEvent<String>> chatWithStream(
        @RequestParam(value = "msg", defaultValue = "Você é assistente de quem?") String msg,
        @RequestParam(value = "user") String userName
    ) {
        // ...
    }

    @GetMapping("/stream/{conversa_id}")
    public Flux<ServerSentEvent<String>> chatWithStream(
        @RequestParam(value = "msg", defaultValue = "Você é assistente de quem?") String msg,
        @RequestParam(value = "user") String userName,
        @PathVariable(value = "conversa_id", required = false) String conversaId
    ) {
        // ...
    }
}
```

Figure 6: REST Controller architecture for managing chat interactions.

5 EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION

This section presents a comprehensive evaluation of the prototype, detailing the implementation, a real-world usage scenario, and a discussion of the results.

5.1 Usage Scenario

**Case: Export Inconsistencies.** Suppose a veterinarian named João at MAPA faces an urgent export request for pigs whose vaccination records are incomplete. Unsure which vaccines must be immediately administered according to Brazil’s swine certification rules, João queries the integrated assistant:

*“What vaccinations are mandatory for breeding swine in Brazil before export?”*

The system:

- 1. Retrieves relevant normative instructions from the embedded database.
- 2. Merges the retrieved content with João’s prompt.
- 3. LLaMA 3.2:3B generates a response summarizing the mandatory vaccines and references official documents.
- 4. Answer: "In Brazil, vaccination is mandatory for pig farming before export. The specific vaccines required may vary depending on the type of pig and the destination of the product..."

If João wants to ask a follow-up, like scheduling details or exceptions for certain export destinations, the assistant may struggle because each new request is processed independently. This limitation often results in partial or repetitive answers. Despite that, it still saves João time, offering specialized guidance far more efficiently than manually searching legislation.

## 5.2 Evaluation and Discussion

The evaluation of the swine certification assistant focused on assessing its performance, usability, and limitations in real-world scenarios. The prototype was deployed on a conventional computer equipped with an AMD Ryzen 5 5600 processor, 48 GB of RAM, and an NVIDIA 2060 Super graphics card with 8 GB of VRAM. This setup demonstrated the system's capability to achieve efficient local inference without requiring high-end infrastructure, reinforcing the feasibility of deploying such solutions in resource-constrained environments. During testing, the system was subjected to various queries, including straightforward and complex examples, to evaluate its accuracy and relevance. For instance, a user might ask:

- *"What vaccinations are mandatory for breeding swine in Brazil before export?"*: The system retrieved relevant regulations from the database, synthesized the information, and provided a detailed response citing specific normative instructions.

In a follow-up query, such as:

- *"Are there exceptions to these requirements for exports to specific countries?"*: The assistant struggled with maintaining context due to the lack of native multi-turn memory, resulting in responses that required rephrasing the initial query for clarity. This limitation highlights the need for advanced context management in future iterations.

The assistant was evaluated on several aspects, summarized below:

**Performance.** Running LLaMA 3.2:3B locally via Ollama delivered near real-time responses, thanks to the GPU acceleration provided by the NVIDIA 2060 Super. The model's size was optimized for efficient inference on this setup, avoiding the need for large-scale infrastructure while maintaining acceptable response times and accuracy.

**Documentation Limitations.** The nascent status of Spring AI posed challenges during development. Limited documentation required significant effort to discover workable configurations and hindered the customization of prompts to sustain conversational continuity. This constraint underscored the importance of community-supported libraries and tools for future projects.

**Context Retention.** A notable limitation was the system's inability to retain conversational context across multiple queries. Each query was processed independently, which led to disjointed interactions in scenarios requiring multi-step dialogues. While sufficient for single-turn queries, the lack of memory negatively

impacted the user experience in more complex use cases.

**Advantages.** The prototype demonstrated several key benefits: - *Data Security*: All sensitive information, such as farm records and lab reports, remained on local servers, ensuring compliance with privacy standards. - *Faster Development*: Leveraging Java and Spring Boot simplified integration with existing enterprise systems, reducing the time required for development. - *Scalability*: The containerized approach with Docker and Docker Compose facilitated horizontal scaling, making the system adaptable to increased usage demands.

**Overall.** The results validated the prototype's potential to reduce the effort required to access regulatory information for swine certification. Despite limitations in conversational memory and documentation, the assistant provided accurate and timely responses for stand-alone queries. Future improvements should prioritize enhancing conversational capabilities and integrating more robust documentation to support developers and end-users alike.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The integration of LLMs into specific domains, such as swine certification, addresses the pressing need for tools that can process and interpret complex, domain-specific information efficiently. This project proposed and developed a swine certification assistant for PDSA-RS using Java, Spring Boot, Spring AI, and Ollama. The objective was to demonstrate how locally deployed LLMs can provide privacy-preserving, contextualized, and near real-time responses, catering to the unique requirements of swine health certification in Rio Grande do Sul. The proposal was motivated by the challenges faced in navigating intricate veterinary regulations and processes, which demand precise, timely decisions. By leveraging RAG and embedding key regulatory documents, the system enabled rapid access to relevant information. A case study validated the prototype's effectiveness in assisting veterinarians with certification tasks, showcasing its potential to improve decision-making and streamline workflows.

Despite these advancements, the project encountered limitations, particularly in maintaining conversational continuity due to the lack of native support for multi-turn dialogues in Spring AI. Additionally, the limited documentation for Spring AI integration posed challenges during development. These barriers highlight opportunities for future improvements, such as adopting context-tracking frameworks like

Langchain4j, exploring Python-based ecosystems for broader tool support, and optimizing model performance through compression techniques. In conclusion, this work demonstrated the feasibility and value of integrating LLMs into the swine certification process, offering a practical solution for a highly specialized domain. Future enhancements to the assistant are expected to refine its capabilities further, empowering veterinarians and technicians with accurate, efficient, and user-friendly tools for managing certification procedures. This study underscores the broader potential of LLMs to revolutionize domain-specific applications, paving the way for innovation in public health and regulatory compliance.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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