COMPULSORY VETERINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE [CCS] QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE SAVC

1. **What does CCS registration with the SAVC imply?**

   CCS registration implies that veterinarians, who register with the SAVC for the first time, will be registered with Council with a view to perform CCS.

2. **Do I get registration when I enter the CCS year?**

   Yes, registration is granted until such time as the SAVC receives written confirmation from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF] that the CCS year was completed by the CCS veterinarian, which CCS should be completed within eighteen months of commencement of the CCS year.

3. **Do I get a registration certificate after graduation?**

   No, you will not receive a registration certificate. You will however receive a letter from the SAVC setting out the terms of registration including the purpose of the CCS registration. You will only receive a registration certificate once the SAVC receives written confirmation from DAFF that you have fully complied with your duties as a CCS veterinarian.

4. **Why am I not fully registered with the SAVC after I have qualified?**

   The completion of a CCS year is a requirement for registration to practice in South Africa. The intention is to ensure that all registered veterinarians have completed a CCS year. The CCS year is the end result of a wide consultation process in support of CCS, as a means to bring veterinary services to all people of South Africa. Only once the CCS year has been completed will full registration be granted.

5. **May I do locums in SA if I have not completed my CCS year?**

   No, registered CCS veterinarians may not work outside of the scope of the CCS year. However, CCS veterinarians who are mainly placed in a regulatory environment may, with a view to retain clinical skills, volunteer their services for example in animal welfare services, community veterinary clinics, sterilisation campaigns etc. **This matter is under review.**

6. **What should I do to enable me to do locums in South Africa before I have completed the CCS year?**

   Unfortunately, there is nothing that you can do as you may not locum in SA without being fully registered. **This matter is currently under review.**

7. **What proof of registration and professional good standing will the SAVC issue if I go abroad right after I graduated and want to work abroad?**

   The SAVC will issue a letter of good professional standing for the period in which you were registered as a student and will state that you are registered for purposes of the CCS year.
8. **How will the SAVC assist me regarding a work permit if I am not a SA resident or citizen and must complete a CCS year?**

   The SAVC will issue a letter in support of the application for a work permit as part of the motivation to employ scarce skills in SA.

9. **Do I need to complete a CCS year if I registered with the SAVC previously but de-registered as I worked abroad and now return to practice in SA?**

   No, anyone who registered previously with the SAVC need not complete a CCS year. Only veterinarians who register for the *very first time* with the SAVC need to complete a CCS year.

10. **Who is liable during the CCS year if my professional care or treatment of an animal is not what is expected of a reasonable veterinarian?**

    The CCS veterinarian is personally liable for his/her professional care and treatment of an animal.

11. **Must CCS be performed from a registered facility?**

    Yes, all veterinary services including CCS services must be rendered from registered facilities. Only a veterinarian who renders services from a registered facility may obtain, use and prescribe veterinary medicines.

12. **Who is responsible for the facility standards from which a compulsory veterinary community services or locum services are rendered?**

    The registered veterinarian who acts as the principal of the facility and who applied for registration of the facility is responsible for the facility standards.

13. **When does my first Continued Professional Development [CPD] cycle start?**

    The first CPD cycle commences during the CCS year. For example if you commence CCS in 2016 your three-year cycle will start on 1 April 2016 and end on 31 March 2019.

14. **Am I required to keep up to date with CPD during the CCS year?**

    Yes, you have to keep up to date with CPD during the CCS year.

15. **Where can I access more information on CPD requirements?**

    Visit the SAVC’s website for access to the CPD accredited activities and the CPD guidelines.

16. **May I enrol for veterinary related post graduate studies during the CCS year?**

    Yes, you may enrol for a post-graduate qualification provided that it does not interfere with your
employment as a CCS veterinarian. You would be well advised to discuss your enrolment with your mentor as soon as possible.

17. **Under what circumstances will I be exempted from the CCS year?**

Although exemption from the CCS year is not guaranteed but could be considered by the Minister upon receipt of a substantiated application, the only grounds for exemption will be having obtained a post graduate qualification abroad. Such qualification and related expertise should at least be regarded as critical skills required in SA.

18. **Am I required to complete the CCS year if I qualified before 2015 and did not previously register with the SAVC?**

Yes, you will have to complete a CCS year before full registration will be granted. If you did not register with the SAVC within three years of qualifying as a veterinarian then you will have to, in addition, prove how you kept up to date with your professional skills prior to being granted partial registration.