
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

GENERAL: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: What do I get, as a registered member, in return for the payment of my maintenance fees?

A1: The members of the veterinary professions pay an annual maintenance fee. The income generated from these maintenance fees is the only income from which Council has to fund all its activities.

The SAVC is a statutory body which as its **core functions** has to-

- Keep a register of registered persons who qualify to render veterinary or para-veterinary services in South Africa;
- Maintain standards of training to ensure that the prescribed qualifications accepted by the SAVC for automatic registration comply with the minimum requirements for training; and to ensure that a registration examination is held for applicants without prescribed qualifications;
- Maintain standards of practice to ensure that the veterinary professions; the public and the animals are protected; and
- Advise the Minister on all matters pertaining to the veterinary professions.

The SAVC works on a committee system where recommendations on core and other functions are made to full Council. The Council and its committees are supported by an Administration.

In addition to these core functions and the funding thereof Council has to fund its administration from the annual maintenance fees only. Council also exercises and funds the remaining activities included in its objectives as described in the Act namely -

- to encourage and promote efficiency in and responsibility with regard to the practice of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions;
- to protect the interests of the professions and to deal with matters relating to those interests; and to maintain and enhance the prestige, status and dignity of persons practising the veterinary professions.

To exercise its functions Council ensures that it liaises with its stakeholders and in this regard extensive public relations from student grass roots liaison to presentations at congresses are funded by the income generated from the maintenance fees.

All committee and Council members are remunerated i.e. a meeting fee is paid and travel and accommodation expenses are funded. The funding allocated to the administration consists of the largest percentage of the budget; remuneration and travel expenses follows second and operations and the procurement of new premises are in third and fourth place. An overview of the budget will be published on the website after 25 February 2014.

Having read the above information the short answer is that the benefit of paying maintenance fees cannot be translated into a personal benefit *per se* but it can be translated into a benefit for the professions at large and for the greater good of the country, its people and animals.