

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there any timeline as to when the place will be informed whether their application for a CCS vet has been successful?

The department's aim is to notify all facilities by May of approval/non-approval but this is dependent on many other processes and therefore the specific date cannot be confirmed.

2. Can a CCS vet be seconded to operate 80% of their time in a Mobile Clinic working a distance ( eg. 120km) away from the SAVC registered place?

The application to acquire a CCS veterinarian requires a registered a facility or a place, in this case the primary facility would be the one included, and then the detailed duties and activities for the CCS vet should be outlined in the work plan including, but not limited to, the work expected to be done on the mobile clinic.

3. Are the regulations for Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS] finalised and published yet?

Yes, the final CCS Regulations have received Ministerial approval and have been published in the Government Gazette 20 March 2015.

4. If a place has previously completed a form expressing interest in CCS during 2014 are they still required to complete the official application?

The previous form was only to express interest in acquiring a CCS vet and the online application is the official application that should be completed by the place to be considered for approval as a CCS place. The expression of interest form will not be considered during the approval process.

5. What would the cost be to our organization i.r.o. stipend fees, accommodation, meals, travel arrangements etc. for the CCS vets?

The department will pay the salary of the CCS veterinarian and the CCS vet is expected to cover their daily living costs from their income. Additional resources, such as transport, veterinary equipment etc, that the facility may require for the CCS vet to perform their tasks efficiently, should be indicated on the application form and the department will make a decision as to whether these conditions can be met.

6. Would DAFF be liable for a retainer fee payable to mentors for their time, or would they consider subsidizing a retainer to prospective mentors?

If compensation of the mentor is required, this should be indicated on the application form and the department will decide if the conditions stipulated by the facility regarding mentor compensation can be met.

7. We are not as yet registered with SAVC. What would be the process to register?

Currently we are negotiating with SAVC to exempt facilities that previously did not require SAVC registration, from registering with SAVC as the rules for minimum standards for places

**Comment [DS1]:** The regulations will have to be republished as it did not contain an enactment clause to the effect that it will be implemented from the date that the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Amendment Act 2012 will take effect. The principles in the document is however correct.

**Comment [DS2]:** All veterinary facilities, public and private, must comply with the minimum standards, which are almost finalised. Blanket exemptions will not be granted. Exemption for a limited period for a specific requirement may be granted, provided that a fully substantiated application is received.

where CCS is to be performed has not yet been finalised. SAVC registration would still be a minimum requirement for facilities such as clinics which did previously register with SAVC as there are minimum standards for these.

8. Is it acceptable for the place to partner with nearby veterinary practices who would be willing to act as mentors for the CCS vets?

Yes, the place may partner with nearby facilities for mentorship as long as this mentor is a suitably qualified veterinarian and can offer enough time to mentor the CCS veterinarian.

9. What would be the maximum number of students that we would be able to provide opportunities for?

There is currently no limitation on the number of CCS vets that you may apply for as long as mentorship will be provided for the CCS vets. A mentor may be responsible for the mentorship of up to 5 CCS vets.

10. The workplan given was just an example/template of a workplan and not the work/requirements that the CCS vet will be expected to complete.

The facility (or your practice in this case) will complete their own workplan and insert the realistic and relevant work/targets that the place would expect from the CCS vet. This workplan should then be submitted together with the application online.

11. What are the minimum requirements for the facility?

- South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) registration as a CCS place.  
(**Note:** Currently the SAVC Rules for minimum standards for places (laboratories, state vet offices, abattoirs) where CCS is to be performed are not published yet, however it does not prevent the processes from going forward. Veterinary clinics will still require their SAVC registration as prescribed by the SAVC and this registration number should be included in your application.)
- Availability of a suitably qualified primary mentor and/or secondary mentor for the duration of the CCS veterinarian's contract. (See Procedures related to CCS, Section C par.2.3.1 and 2.3.2)
- Detailed work plan for CCS candidates.  
A work plan for each candidate must be attached to the application form.

12. Would a research centre qualify as a CS place?

Yes, a research facility would qualify provided that its services rendered are in line with the objectives of CCS as outlined below:

- To promote accessibility of veterinary services particularly in under-served and resource poor areas regarding the following aspects:
  - To promote safety of food of animal origin.
  - To facilitate trade of animals and animal products.
  - To improve the veterinary diagnostic capabilities.
  - To promote animal health through management of controlled and non-controlled diseases.
  - To provide primary animal health care, including clinical services and animal welfare, to under-served areas.
- To provide an opportunity for Compulsory Community Service (CCS) veterinarians to acquire knowledge, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help their professional development.

Also note that places that will qualify to apply for approval as a CCS place include the following:

- Places for laboratory, diagnostic, research services, academia and commercial veterinary related biologicals production;
- Places for State Veterinary Services;
- Places for Animal Welfare Organisations;
- Places for private practitioners;
- Places for the South African National Defence Force and the South African Police Services;
- Places for nature conservations; and
- Any other related places or groups.

13. Can the mentor choose the CCS vet that they would like allocated to their facility?

The mentor will not be able to directly choose the CCS veterinarian that they would like but the student may indicate on their application why they would specifically want to be allocated at that specific facility, for example they did an elective at that place previously and already know how the practice operates.

[LINK TO PROCEDURES RELATED TO COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE \(CCS\)](#)