

GN 1445 of 3 October 1997: Rules Relating to the Practising of the Para-Veterinary Profession of Laboratory Animal Technologist

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

It is hereby made known for general information that—

(a) the South African Veterinary Council has under [section 30 \(1\)](#) of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act [No. 19 of 1982](#)), made the rules relating to the practising of the para-veterinary profession of laboratory animal technologist as set out in [the Schedule](#); and

(b) the Minister of Agriculture has under [section 30 \(3\)](#) of the said Act approved the rules concerned.

H. KRUGER
Registrar: South African Veterinary Council

SCHEDULE

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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1. Definitions.—Any word or expression in this Schedule to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning, and—

“animal experiment” means any procedure whereby an animal is used in experiments for the purposes contemplated in [rule 4.12](#);

“experimental animal” means non-human vertebrates and non-human vertebrate foetuses which are bred or acquired for the sole purpose of using it as an animal experiment;

“the Act” means the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act [No. 19 of 1982](#)); and

“the profession” means the para-veterinary profession of laboratory animal technologist.

SERVICES THAT PERTAIN TO THE PROFESSION OF LABORATORY ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIST

2. General services.—For purposes of the Act the following services shall be deemed to be general services which pertain to the para-veterinary profession of laboratory animal technologist:

- 2.1 Care of experimental animals;
2.2 oral and parenteral administration and administration by inhalation of scheduled and experimental substances;
2.3 administration of scheduled substances for anaesthesia and euthanasia;

- 2.4 collection of body fluids including blood, urine by free flow and ascites, and the collection of tissues including smears, faeces, post mortal samples and bacterial swabs for diagnostic and experimental purposes;
- 2.5 clinical observation;
- 2.6 preparation of animals for surgery;
- 2.7 monitoring of animals before, during and after an operation;
- 2.8 performance of minor surgical procedures such as lancing of abscesses and suturing of superficial wounds;
- 2.9 assisting with experimental surgical procedures;
- 2.10 use of the tranquilliser dart gun and blow pipe;
- 2.11 capture of wild animals for the purpose of research;
- 2.12 transportation of experimental animals;
- 2.13 training and examination of trainee laboratory animal technologists; and
- 2.14 teaching of students or researchers who require training in any specific aspect of laboratory animal technology.

3. Execution of general services.—

- 3.1 The services referred to in [rule 2](#) shall—
 - (a) be carried out under the supervision of a veterinary or medical practitioner; and
 - (b) be performed on experimental animals only.
- 3.2 Rule 2 shall not be construed in a manner so as to prohibit—
 - (a) a veterinarian or a veterinary specialist from performing the services referred to in [rule 2](#); and
 - (b) other para-veterinarians from performing procedures as set out for their profession.

4. Special services.—For purposes of the Act the following services shall be deemed to be special services which pertain to the para-veterinary profession of laboratory animal technologist:

- 4.1 Daily general care of laboratory animals;
- 4.2 management of various breeding programmes;
- 4.3 production of specified pathogen free animals;
- 4.4 use and management of specialised animal house equipment;
- 4.5 maintaining and monitoring of animal house environment;
- 4.6 control of sanitation of hygiene in the animal house;
- 4.7 sterilisation and disinfection of the animal house and animal house equipment;
- 4.8 supervision over the feeding of experimental animals including the preparation of feed for special diets;
- 4.9 biohazard containment in the animal house including endogenous and exogenous containment;
- 4.10 general supervision, administration and use of laboratory animal facilities; and
- 4.11 conducting of experiments with experimental animals for any of the following purposes:
 - (a) The advancement of knowledge;
 - (b) to test a hypothesis;
 - (c) to supply a product;

- (d) to provide organs, tissues or sera;
- (e) to act as a host;
- (f) to impart or demonstrate existing knowledge;
- (g) to learn or teach surgical and other techniques;
- (h) to comply with statutory requirements for testing or collecting data on any substance or product; and
- (i) to make audio-visual recordings of any of the above.

5. Execution of special services.—

- 5.1 The services referred to in [rule 4](#) shall be performed on experimental animals only.
- 5.2 Rule 4 shall not be construed in a manner so as to prohibit—
- (a) veterinarian or a veterinarian specialist from performing the services referred to in [rule 4](#); and
 - (b) other para-veterinarians from performing procedures as set out for their profession.

6. Course of conduct for persons practising the profession.—

6.1 A person who practices the para-veterinary profession of laboratory animal technologist shall base his or her personal and professional conduct thereon that—

- (a) he or she is a member of a learned and honourable profession who is required to act at all times in a manner that shall maintain and promote the prestige, honour, dignity and interests of the profession and of the persons by whom it is practised;
- (b) he or she is morally obliged to serve the public to the best of his or her ability by maintaining at all times the highest standards of humane care of laboratory animals and professional conduct;
- (c) he or she shall not seek any personal advantage at the expense of any colleague in the profession; and
- (d) he or she shall not permit himself or herself to be exploited in a manner which may be detrimental to an animal, a researcher, the public or the profession.

6.2 A laboratory animal technologist shall—

- (a) execute the instructions of a veterinarian discerningly and faithfully;
- (b) refuse to take part in any unethical behaviour or procedure;
- (c) keep himself or herself informed of all the statutes and statutory provisions which affect him or her in the practising of the profession;
- (d) be familiar with the ethical rules pertaining to the profession of laboratory animal technology and shall promote these rules at all times;
- (e) treat any information acquired during the course of his or her employment as strictly confidential and shall not divulge such information to any person except his or her employer;
- (f) refrain from expressing any criticism in public through which the reputation, status or practice of a colleague in the profession is or could be undermined or injured, or through which a reflection is or could be cast on the probity, skill, methods or conduct of such a colleague; and
- (g) at all times keep detailed and accurate records of all information and experiments and which shall be kept on file for at least five years.

6.3 All persons practising as laboratory animal technologists work for the same good cause and they shall therefore co-operate with each other and the authorities concerned to promote that cause.

6.4 The place at or from which a person practices as a laboratory animal technologist shall comply with the applicable minimum standards for experimental animals as determined by the Council from time to time.

6.5 When advertising of any nature is undertaken, a laboratory animal technologist must be aware of public opinion and of any possible implications which may prove detrimental to the profession of laboratory animal technology.

6.6 The fundamental responsibility of a laboratory animal technologist is to provide optimal and exemplary standards of humane animal care to experimental animals at all times.