

# RULES FOR VETERINARY NURSES

## Schedule

### 1. Definitions

Any word or expression in these rules shall have the meaning assigned thereto in the Act, and-

" **Act** " means the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982), and the regulations made there under;

" **direct and continuous supervision**" means that the veterinary nurse receives instructions from a person registered to practice a veterinary profession and carries out the instructions in that person's presence provided that the person gives the veterinary nurse and the patient, his/ her undivided attention;

"**direction**" means that a person who is registered to practice a veterinary profession gives directions to the veterinary nurse but is not necessarily present when the directions are carried out;

"**professional identification device**" means any form of identification approved by council, including epaulettes, worn by a veterinary nurse which identifies the veterinary nurse as such;

"**supervision**" means that a person who is registered to practice a veterinary profession is available and in a position to assist the veterinary nurse if required but is not necessarily at the veterinary nurse's side or in the same room when the directions are carried out.

### 2. Services pertaining specially to the profession of veterinary nurse

2.1 For the purposes of the Act the following services shall be deemed to be services, which pertain specially to the para-veterinary profession of veterinary nurse:

2.1.1 Basic animal care including the clipping of nails and beaks in birds, the clipping of nails in dogs and cats, and professional dental scaling and polishing.

2.1.2 The collection and processing of samples, including skin scraping, the collection of urine and catheterisation, the collection of blood and vaginal smears, impression smears and sheath washing in bulls, but excluding the collection of samples by biopsy.

2.1.3 The examination for purposes of recording and reporting findings to a veterinarian of samples, including haematology and blood chemistry, urine examination, stool examination, skin and scraping examinations, rumen fluid examination and examinations in which the Woods lamp is used.

2.1.4 The administration of injections and medicines per os, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intravenously or intraperitoneally.

2.1.5 The administration of pre-medication and the induction and maintenance of anaesthesia but excluding epidural anaesthesia and nerve blocks.

2.1.6 The taking and developing of radiographs, assistance with diagnostic imaging, maintenance of diagnostic imaging apparatus and record keeping of diagnostic imaging.

2.1.7 The administration of enemas.

2.1.8 The passing of stomach tubes.

2.1.9 Intravenous catheter placement and the infusion of fluids and blood including the collection of blood for transfusion.

2.1.10 Supervision of animals giving birth and caring for newly born animals.

2.1.11 Wound care, the lancing of abscesses, superficial skin stitching, placing of dressing and bandages, including Robert Jones bandages.

2.1.12 Dispensing of medicines in accordance with relevant legislation.

2.1.13 The taking of samples for the diagnosis by a veterinarian of Brucellosis in animals and the testing of animals for tuberculosis by means of the intradermal tuberculin test provided that the veterinary nurse has passed a course approved by the Department of Agriculture

2.1.14 Physical rehabilitation.

2.1.15 Assisting a person registered to practice a veterinary profession with surgical procedures.

2.2 A veterinary nurse may also assist a person practising a veterinary profession with any other service, which such person may perform if such assistance is rendered under supervision, direct continuous supervision and by direction of that person.

2.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of rules 2.1 and 2.2 a veterinary nurse shall perform the services referred to in these rules only during the course of his or her employment-

2.3.1 by a person registered to practise a veterinary profession; or

2.3.2 by a person employing a person registered to practise a veterinary profession.

2.4 In a case of emergency a veterinary nurse may also render other services which fall within his or her scope of training and experience and which are essential to save lives or relieve suffering in animals, on condition that a report thereon is made to the person referred to in rule 2.3 as soon as possible and the further treatment of such animal is entrusted to him or her or another person registered to practise a veterinary profession.

2.A Rule 2 must not be construed in a manner so as to prohibit any other person registered to practise a veterinary or para-veterinary profession from performing procedures that pertain to their profession.

### **3. Course of conduct for veterinary nurses**

3.1 A person who practises the para-veterinary profession of veterinary nurse shall base his personal and professional conduct thereon that he or she is a member of a learned and honourable profession and is required to act at all times in such a manner as will maintain and promote the prestige, honour, dignity and interests of the profession and of the persons by whom it is practised.

3.2 The fundamental responsibilities of veterinary nurses are to save lives, to relieve suffering and to promote health.

3.3 A veterinary nurse shall keep himself or herself abreast of the ethical rules and the laws which affect him or her in the practising of his or her profession and shall, as far as it lies within his or her power, assist in the application of those rules and laws.

3.4 A veterinary nurse must at all times maintain the highest standard of nursing care and professional conduct.

3.5 A veterinary nurse shall regard any information acquired during the course of his employment as confidential and shall refrain from divulging such information to any person except his or her employer.

3.6 A veterinary nurse is bound to execute the instructions of a person practising a veterinary profession discerningly and faithfully and shall refuse to take part in any unethical behaviour.

3.7 A veterinary nurse shall 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.

3.8 Subject to the provisions of Part III of the Rules Relating to the practising of Veterinary Professions published by government Notice No. R. 2086 of 1 October 1982, a veterinary nurse in private practice shall under no circumstances-

3.8.1 advertise the practice or products of his or her employer; and

3.8.2 appear in advertisements as a veterinary nurse unless it is an advertisement of the employer referred to in 2.3 above which complies with the Rules relating to the practising of Veterinary Professions.

#### **4. Dress Code**

4.1 A veterinary nurse shall adhere to a dress code that upholds the image of the veterinary nursing profession.

4.2 A veterinary nurse shall wear a professional identification device at all times whilst rendering a service that pertains to the profession of a veterinary nurse.