Animal Welfare workshop

30 May 2018

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY
Veterinary Technology FAQ

- What is a Veterinary Technologist
- Where do you study to become a Veterinary technologist
- Who Regulates the profession
- Is there an association that a Veterinary technologist can join
- How does a Veterinary technologist play a role in the Veterinary team
- What about CPD?
The work of veterinary technologists can primarily be divided in three categories:

- **Diagnostic work**, where specimens of animal tissue such as blood and organs, plants and feeds are subjected to a variety of tests to determine the cause of disease or death.

- **Research**, which is mainly problem-orientated and embraces studies on the causes of animal disease, the methods of transmission, the specific effects on normal physiological processes and the most effective ways of preventing or combating the diseases in animals.

- **Preparation of veterinary biological products**, such as antigens for diagnostic tests and vaccines for the prevention of disease, is largely the task of veterinary technologists. This involves large-scale cultivation of bacteria and viruses and a considerable amount of developmental work, particularly in the field of fermenter technology.

Veterinary technologists work in clean, orderly, well-equipped laboratories with only the best scientific apparatus at their disposal. Some tasks involving the handling of animals may take place out of doors in the open fields.
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY – Qualification requirements

• The only qualification currently prescribed under Section 20 (1) of the Act for registration to perform the duties of veterinary technologist is the National Diploma Veterinary technology/B Tech Veterinary technology (4 years) Soon will change to a four year professional degree course.

• It is offered by the Tshwane University of Technology based in Pretoria/Tshwane.

• It is Vocation specific training that has specific day one competencies and skills that is reviewed on a regular basis.
Veterinary Technology program

Course includes disciplines in

- Biochemistry
- Parasitology
- Histopathology
- Molecular biology
- Virology
- Microbiology
- Haematology
- Serology
- Helminthology
- Lab management and Quality
Veterinary Technology – Regulatory requirements

• Veterinary Technology is a Para-veterinary profession regulated by the SAVC
• The scope of practice of the profession falls under the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act 19 of 1982 [section 23 (1)(a)]
• All the Veterinary and Para-veterinary professions fall under the Act
• It is the oldest structured Para-Veterinary profession and qualification promulgated under the Act with the first student intake in 1972
• It forms an integrated part of the Professional Veterinary Team
In order to fulfill its objectives as listed in Section 3 of the Act and especially 3 (b) the SAVC subjects the Tshwane University of Technology to a visitation visit where the qualification is evaluated at the hand of a Self Evaluation Report presented to SAVC by TUT.

This same process is followed for the other training institutions training members of the veterinary team:

- The University of Pretoria,
- University of South Africa (UNISA)
- University of the North West

Visitations are on a fixed schedule to monitor standards and visitation team members may consist of persons from different institutions, similar professions and where applicable other countries.
A further part of the continual monitoring of the qualification, as with qualifications of the other professions, is that each subject offered as part of the qualification is monitored per set schedule by persons considered as specialists in their subject field and with an understanding of what is expected from technologists in the work environment.
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY – Role in the Veterinary team

• Veterinary technologists play an important role in the maintenance of animal health and productivity.
• Their tasks consist of diagnostic work to determine the cause of sickness or death of an animal.
• They also carry out technical and field studies in research where they work with a professional team of researchers, veterinary surgeons, other experts and scientists.

Veterinary technologists are employed in the production of biological products such as antigens for diagnostic tests and vaccines for the prevention of disease.

• In a research or diagnostic laboratory, veterinary technologists who are specifically trained to execute laboratory procedures, handle animals, draw blood and take other samples to assist the veterinarian and other scientists trained in the fields of Microbiology, Parasitology, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Animal Science.
The Profession has a Voluntary Professional Association (NPO) called the South African Association of Veterinary Technologists

It represents the interests of the profession

The Association consists of members and a management committee and has one elected member representing the profession on Council and various members serving on the TUT advisory committee for Veterinary Technology
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY - CPD

• As with all the other Veterinary and Para-Veterinary professions Veterinary Technologists also needs to keep updated on a regular basis with new developments and techniques in their profession.

• CPD (continued professional development) is a legal requirement and a professional must obtain structured and unstructured points in a three year cycle.

• This can be obtained by attending accredited congresses and talks as well as reading relevant articles and publications.

• Points must be logged on the SAVC website.
THANK YOU

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