Dear Honourable Minister Zokwana

INTRODUCTORY MEETING TO BE HELD BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES AND THE SAVC

The SAVC wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the time made available on Monday, 25 August 2014 to meet with representatives of the SAVC.

Following our previous correspondence dated 29 May 2014 and in preparation for the meeting we wish to provide you with the main concerns affecting the veterinary professions and seek your intervention in these matters.

The SAVC exhausted all avenues to address the requirement by regulation under the National Environment Management: Biodiversity Act for veterinarians to obtain permits to treat Threatened or Protected Species [TOPS] in addition to being registered with the SAVC. The SAVC requests that the honourable Minister engages the Minister of Environmental Affairs and facilitates the exemption of veterinarians from the requirement to obtain permits.

Act 16 of 2012 the amended Act is not enacted, and whilst it is pending the finalisation of the CCS regulations, the SAVC has no investigative powers to investigate illegal activities of either veterinary professionals or lay persons. The SAVC and the veterinary professions are concerned that the protracted delay in finalisation of the CCS regulations is a setback in the achievements of the past and progress made with the amendments to the Act is now unnecessarily delayed.

The SAVC and the veterinary profession are displeased with the excessively protracted process in the finalisation of the Game Meat Scheme and that there are no formal structures in place to regulate the harvesting of game meat, which presents a food safety and security risk. The decision not to proceed with the Game Meat Scheme destroys a possible interim solution to regulate the harvesting of game meat. Council recommends that the Game Meat Scheme should still be utilised as an interim measure, pending the amendment of the regulations. Game meat is a potential source of valuable protein.
Veterinary medicines are regulated by two Acts [Act 101 of 1965 & Act 36 of 1947]. The SAVC is concerned that the gaps in control of medicines are detrimental to the health and well-being of the people of SA and the animals. The SAVC exhausted all avenues to address the concerns relating to medicines and requests the Honourable Minister to engage the Minister of Health and to seek solutions to the lack of control and use of veterinary medicines.

Council intends to bring a new veterinary para-profession namely veterinary physiotherapist on board. However, human physiotherapists strongly object to the use of the word physiotherapist. The SAVC requests that the honourable Minister engages the Minister of Health to avoid legal action in the matter pertaining to the use of the word physiotherapist.

The SAVC acquired new premises to house its administration and requests that the honourable Minister officially opens the new building and meet with the full Council and other stakeholders.

We have included a detailed submission with the correspondence. We look forward to meeting with you and thank you for the opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele
President SAVC