MINUTES OF THE LAUNCH OF THE ‘BOURGELAT’ COMMITTEE OF SOUTH AFRICA
HELD BETWEEN THE SAVA AND BVF, DR AP DE VOS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL, AT THE SAVC’s BOARDROOM, 26 VICTORIA LINK, ROUTE 21
CORPORATE PARK, NELLMAPIUS RD, IRENE, ON 20 OCTOBER 2014 AT 8:30

Present:

Dr AP de Vos (Chairperson)
Dr BR Ntshabele
Dr CP Marwick
Dr P van Dam (SAVA)

In Attendance:

Mrs L Havinga (Registrar)
Mrs R Mayhew (Marketing and Systems Administrator)

Apologies:

Dr A Kgasi, President of the Black Veterinary Forum advised that he was unable to attend the meeting as he had challenges to deal with.

1. Welcome

Dr Ntshabele opened the meeting and gave the background to Council’s decision as to the establishment of the Committee.

Dr De Vos welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Dr Paul van Dam who represented the South African Veterinary Association [SAVA].

2. Bourgelat Committee

Dr De Vos referred to the statement by Carlos Fortura which describes heritage as the factor that keeps everyone together in times of hardship.

3. What need to be preserved and how will it work?

The meeting noted the background research done by Dr De Vos, discussion on the Bourgelat Committees and in particular that:

a) The World Animal Health Organisation [OIE] wanted the national committees to have links to its website.
b) When the veterinary profession in South Africa establishes its committee, the veterinary para-professions could be included. There is a history going back to stock inspectors to animal health technicians [AHTs].
c) There is a lot of history that sits with the provincial departments.
a) It was proposed to get Dr BM Modisane (Chief State Veterinarian) on board.
b) The Committee could also benefit by making use of the History Committee of the South African Veterinary Association [SAVA] which committee will be an important part of any initiative.
c) The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF] could make use of work already done by the state veterinary services in the Eastern Cape.
d) South Africa was some of the last people who ploughed with oxen and who broke oxen in (stockmanship).

e) If people have heritage contributions then they must know who to contact.
f) After the initial hard work of two to three years to develop the Bourgelat website, the website must be updated on a regular basis to stay fresh and to inspire people.

g) Dr Van Dam mentioned an ebook approach of the SAVA History committee and that various chapters of a book could be placed on the website as links.

h) The website must be approved by General Assembly of the OIE.

i) The Committee need to establish how often it would meet.

4. Who will be part of the Bourgelat Committee?

The meeting noted that:

a) According to the rules of the Bourgelat Committee a Councillor can be a Chairperson. A Councillor can then drive the initiative but should not be prescriptive. If the Council is to drive the Committee then a Councillor must be the chairperson.

b) It was the opinion of the meeting that the SAVC had to administer the affairs of the Bourgelat Committee to ensure that there is continuity.

c) The stakeholders which will be proposed to Council are the SAVC, SAVA, BVF and DAFF.

d) Dr Ntshabele will discuss the involvement of the BVF and DAFF with Drs BM Modisane and A Kgasi, respectively.

e) Dr Modisane need to have insight into the developments to ensure that there is value.

f) The Committee can decide who they wish to send to OIE meetings as its representative. The representative need to be articulate in heritage matters.

g) Expertise such as the librarians of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute could give valuable input and could be co-opted to the Committee.

h) The Committee must get appropriate buy-in from all stakeholders. There must be benefits for the members and the Committee will need the involvement of all stakeholders.

i) Council wanted, in terms of its strategic implementation, to use the Bourgelat Committee as a vehicle to unify the veterinary profession.

j) The Committee will consist of representatives of relevant stakeholders [positions] and not persons.

k) There were many current contributions that could be added to the information of the veterinary profession for example the compulsory community service developments and rhino conservation initiatives.

l) It was proposed that the Arnold Theiler lectures be used as a means to lecture on for example Soga history lectures.

m) The South African Association of Animal Health [SAAHA] needs to be involved. Dr De Vos was tasked to discuss the initiatives with Dr P Oberem and Mr Tom Mobesa of SAAHA.

5. Name of the committee

The meeting noted that:

a) According to the Bourgelat Committee the founder of the veterinary profession in their Country should be included before the name. In South Africa the first veterinarian was Dr Soga.

b) The decision should be kept open for all stakeholders to make input including the BVF and DAFF after which a final decision can be made.

6. Finance

The meeting noted that:

a) The reference made to the OIE Charter on the funding [p2 article 8] of Bourgelat Committees.

b) Sponsorships could be obtained from companies.

c) It was proposed that stakeholders would have to fund their own expenses, but if a company could sponsor some of the expenses then that should be the route to go.
d) The SAVC should not fund the costs of a representative who attended the OIE Bourgelat meetings.
e) The Committee must decide whether the DAFF representative (who would be attending in any case) will be its representative or whether they need to send another representative.
f) There would be no costs during the first year, but that future activities had to be budgeted.
g) For the South African position the cost of membership would take the numbers of veterinarians in South Africa and the cost for that would be 200 Euros per year.
h) The Committee will work on a budget and the proposed way forward.

1. Terms of reference

The meeting noted the Terms of Reference of the Bourgelat Committee.

2. Sponsorship

The meeting noted that it was permitted to have for example a “MSD” Bourgelat Committee with MSD as its sponsor.

Dr De Vos thanked everyone and the meeting adjourned at 9:43

Recommendations to Council:

1. A Committee is to be established under auspices of the SAVC;
2. A Councillor should chair the Committee;
3. There should be no defined term for the Committee;
4. The stakeholders represented on the Committee should include the SAVC, SAVA, DAFF and the BVF.
5. Expertise such as librarians of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP and OVI, state veterinary services Eastern Cape and the History Committee of the SAVA should be involved in the deliberations and, if need be, be co-opted to the Committee.
6. The Committee should be named after the first veterinarian in SA, Dr Jotello Soga. However, the Committee should allow input thereon by all stakeholders.
7. The Committee will work out its own terms of reference, funding and functioning and will be supported by the administration of the SAVC, including the development of a website.
8. Sponsorship of the Committee activities should be well considered by the Committee.
9. OIE representation of the Committee should be well versed in heritage matters.