ANNUAL COUNCIL INDABA
VETERINARY NURSES – SR. THERESA LOTTER
8 JUNE 2017
AIM

• To support the veterinarian to provide quality patient care in a variety of veterinary practices

• to endeavour to nurse our patients with skill and compassion and promote their ongoing health and well-being;
VETERINARY NURSING IN SOUTH AFRICA

- History
- Training
- Scope of practice
- Employment opportunities
- Association
- Challenges
HISTORY

• First class of nurses qualified in 1978

• Currently a 2-year diploma, offered full-time at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital; University of Pretoria; one of few countries worldwide

• SAQA credits = 355

• Planned degree course

• Combination of classroom and practical training

• Practical training involves rotation through the various clinics within the academic hospital and workplace experience such as at private practices, wildlife centres, animal welfare organisations and animal research facilities
CURRICULUM – FIRST YEAR

• Anatomy
• Pharmacology
• Physiology
• Ethology
• Laboratory Technique
• Microbiology

• General Nursing
• Parasitology
• Medical Nursing 120
• Theatre Practice 120
• Reproductive Nursing 120
CURRICULUM SECOND YEAR

- Medical Nursing 200
- Surgical Nursing 200
- Theatre Practice 200
- Anaesthesiology 200
- Radiography 200
- Reproductive Nursing 200
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

• Species: companion animals & production animals, some exotics

• Basic Animal Management (daily care; nutrition; hygiene; grooming; dental scaling & polishing)

• Laboratory technique (haematology; blood chemistry; urine & faecal examinations; skin)

• Administration of medicines (topical; eye & ear; oral; s/c; i/m; i/v; fluid & blood administration)

• Premedication; induction and maintenance of anaesthesia; pre- and post-operative care of patients
SCOPE OF PRACTICE (2)

• Taking of radiographs & assisting with other diagnostic imaging modalities
• Supervision of animals giving birth and caring for the new-born
• General procedures incl. enemas; stomach tubes; enteral feeding; wound management; bandaging, including modified Robert-Jones
• Theatre Practice
• Handling of medicines
• Physical Rehabilitation
• Client liaison
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

• Private Practice
• Animal welfare organisations
• Industry
• Wildlife Centres
• Physical rehabilitation
• Academia
• Research Facilities
• Managerial
• Other
VNASA

- Promotes the profession
- Supportive (job adverts; remuneration guidelines; membership database; general advice)
- Merchandise
- Liaise with the profession; training institution & students
- CPD
- Official publications (“Paws for Thought”; “Itching Post” & “EduPaws”)
CHALLENGES

• Degree & post graduate opportunities
• Shortage
• Threat from lay people
• Working Independently
"LOVE AND PATIENCE HEALS"

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?