ANNUAL COUNCIL INDABA
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS
8 JUNE 2017
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

- Veterinary Technology is a Para-veterinary profession regulated by the SAVC
- The scope of practice
- Veterinary Technology is the oldest structured Para-Veterinary profession and qualification promulgated under the Act with the first student intake in 1972
- Part of the Professional Veterinary Team
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

• Veterinary technologists play an important role in the maintenance of animal health by providing diagnostic laboratory services to Veterinarians and Industry.

• Veterinary technologists perform:
  o Tests and generate results in Diagnostic laboratories. (Private in-clinic and Government)
  o Technical and field studies in research for Pharmaceutical companies.
  o Quality control of veterinary products during the production of biological products and manufacturing of veterinary vaccines.
• The Only qualification currently prescribed under Section 20 (1) of the Act for automatic registration to perform the duties of veterinary technologist is the National Diploma Veterinary technology/ B Tech Veterinary technology (4 years)

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

• It is Vocation specific training that has specific day one competencies that is reviewed on a regular basis.
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

• 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.
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• 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

• The Profession has a Voluntary Professional Association (NPO) called the South African Association of Veterinary Technologists.

• It represents the interests of the profession and facilitates closer contact and cooperation between Veterinary technologists and the other Veterinary and Para-Veterinary professions.

• The Association consists of members and a management committee.

• Has one elected member representing the profession on The South African Veterinary Council.

• Has various members serving on the TUT advisory committee for Veterinary Technology.
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

• The Profession is in process of currently reviewing its rules as is all other Para-Veterinary professions

• Various workshops and meetings have been held and input requested from various role players and other professions within the veterinary team

• The process is still in progress and recommendations need to be finalised.
Authorisation to perform the scope of practice of a Veterinary Technologist

- The Act also allows for authorisation of persons not in possession of the required qualification.

- This authorisation has also been utilised and applied for when employers have special needs and could not find any registered veterinary technologists to fill vacant positions in the past.

- The authorisation of the registered holder a qualification other than the prescribed qualification will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

• The Registration and Authorisation committee of Council considers applications on an individual basis provided the position has been advertised according to the rules in the Act and that proof can be provided that no suitable registered veterinary technologist applied for the position.

• As per Section 3 (f) it is not an objective of council to protect the interests of any employer, but rather to ensure a fair process is applied and followed within the framework of the Act with the applications received, considering all facts presented or omitted to the Registration and Authorisation committee.
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The way forward

• Due to an apparent shortfall of available qualified registered Veterinary technologists and perceived challenges this has caused in industry, the South African Association of Veterinary Technologist discussed this with Tshwane University of Technology and requested the university to increase their intake to accommodate the demand in the market place which has been done.

• 2016/2017 student intake doubled and work integrated laboratory facility was implemented on campus to provide students training on all disciplines taught in the programme
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

• It is envisioned that in future all students completing any of the qualifications prescribed for members of the broader veterinary team will have to pass a council examination which will at least test day one competencies before they will be allowed to register.

• The process should be completed soon and a recommendation will be presented to Council for deliberations.
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?