REQUEST FOR THE GRANTING OF AN AMNESTY PERIOD FOR REGISTRATION AND RE-REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS

Definition: Veterinary Technologist – A person with a minimum qualification of a National Diploma in Veterinary Technology

Background:
During interaction with members of the profession it has become apparent that a number of Veterinary Technologists are not currently registered with the SA Veterinary Council as required by Act 19 of 1982.

Looking into the matter it appears that the non registered status may be ascribed to two main reasons, the validity of which may be debatable, as stated by those professionals affected and the reasons being:
1. Persons previously registered as students in terms of section 22 of the Act and whose student registration was terminated according to section 28(1)(a) of the Act claim that they were unaware of the requirement for registration as student registration was done by the training institution.
2. Persons previously registered did not maintain their registration for a number of reasons and registration was terminated according to section 28(1)(c) of the Act.

The non-registered persons mentioned above can be separated into two groups, these being:
1. Persons who have been in full time employment since graduation or last registration
2. Persons who have not been in full time employment since graduation or last registration

Proposal:
In the Act it is stated that Council may determine that a person of whom the registration has lapsed shall be registered only if the person passed an examination determined by the council (section 24(1A). The statement may determine however indicates that the need for an examination may also be waivered by Council. Section 25(1)(b) of the Act allows Council the option to require from any applicant who applies for registration to submit documentary evidence regarding identity, good character, education and experience as it may require in order to consider such application.

The SA Association of Veterinary Technologists would like to request that Council consider the option set in Section 25(1)(b) to apply to those veterinary technologists who are not currently registered but who have been in full time employment since graduation or last registration. This will entail that those who do qualify must submit documentary evidence to satisfy Council of their:
(a) Continued employment during the period not registered
(b) Continued development as a professional through additional training (formal and/or informal); attendance of congresses etc.

As the above principles have already been applied to some applications during 2012 we believe that a president has been set.
As far as those persons who have not been in full time employment since graduation or last registration the Association is in agreement that they should be required to sit the Full Council Examination in the year that they apply for registration.

Amnesty request:
Currently the Act makes provision for the prosecution of these persons but since the Association would like to get as many of the qualified veterinary technologists back unto the register we are of the opinion that prosecuting them will be counter productive and the Association would therefor like to request Council to grant an amnesty period which includes the following:

1. All veterinary technologist who have been in full time employment since graduation or last registration but not currently registered be allowed to apply for registration and requested to submit documentation as per section 25(1)(b) of the Act, without being charged for practicing the profession while not registered.
2. Those persons who applied for first- or re-registration and were instructed to write the Full Council Examination in September 2013 be exempt from writing the examination should they comply with the conditions set in the proposal. This will allow them to apply for registration under the proposal.
3. The amnesty to run for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of official communication of the amnesty via the SAVC Newsletter

We propose the following methods of official communication:
(a) SAVC Newsletter.
(b) Letter sent by post and email to all know employers including government and private veterinary laboratories.
(c) The information above can also further be disseminated via the communication channels of the SAAVT.

We are looking forward to Counsel’s review of this request.

Regards

[Signature]
Francois Dreyer
Chairperson: SA Association of Veterinary Technologists
2013/07/02
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