Continued Professional Development [CPD] compliance to retain registration.
Veterinarians and Veterinary Specialists

1. Why is CPD necessary?
Veterinarians must maintain professional knowledge and skills required to ensure that:

- clients receive competent and ethical professional services; and
- animal- and human health and welfare are not compromised; and

by doing that veterinarians and veterinary specialists remain registered.

2. Who must do CPD and when does the CPD cycle commence?
All veterinarians and veterinary specialists registered with Council who render veterinary services in SA must do CPD as from 1 April 2006, the date on which CPD was formally introduced for the first time.

3. How long is a CPD cycle?
All cycles span 3 years from commencement date.

Examples:


4. Who are exempted from CPD requirements?

- Veterinarians and veterinary specialists who are registered with Council, but who do not render veterinary services in SA.
- Veterinarians and veterinary specialists enrolled at tertiary institutions leading to a level NQF6 or higher in a chosen field of veterinary work are not required to accumulate CPD points while enrolled and active in such a programme if proof of enrolment is submitted annually.
- The cycle does not change if the enrolment for a qualification as in item 3 above coincides with the three-year cycle.
- If the training programme is completed or deregistration from the programme occurs, then the veterinarian will enter the system of CPD on 1 April of the next year.
5. How many points are required per cycle?

Twenty (20) structured points and forty (40) unstructured points per cycle.

6. How is CPD compliance assessed by Council?

- CPD compliance is currently assessed by an annual random selection of veterinarians and veterinary specialists.
- Only the structured points are audited but confirmation in writing must be received that the unstructured points were obtained.
- Members have one year in which to provide proof of CPD compliance.

7. Who must submit proof of CPD?

Members who –

- Are randomly selected and informed in writing of their selection;
- Did not comply with CPD requirements in previous cycles;
- Were granted deferment; and
- Are requested to submit proof of CPD compliance during an investigation into alleged unprofessional conduct.

8. What activities constitute structured points and how many points are allocated?

Click on this link

9. Who determines the number of points allocated to an activity?

- CPD providers apply for accreditation of activities by Council’s CPD Accreditation Committee who evaluates the activities and allocates points.
- The CPD Accreditation Committee allocates CPD points per activity which cannot be accredited via CPD provider applications. See item 10 below.

10. Council must be approached by individual members to allocate points to non-accredited activities for:

- CPD courses and conferences presented by universities, veterinary professional associations, regulatory bodies and accredited service providers, which will augment the chosen field of veterinary work;
- Congress programmes offered abroad;
- Written assessment tests on veterinary literature; and
- Books authored by veterinarians.

11. What activities constitute unstructured points?

Click on this link
12. What is the deadline for application for deferment?
Application for deferment of CPD required points from one cycle to another must be submitted in writing well in advance of the expiry of the current CPD cycle (at least 6 months in advance of the expiry of the cycle).

13. Under what circumstances will deferment be considered?
- Deferment will only be granted in exigent circumstances (death or serious illness in the family or serious illness of the member); and
- Deferment will not be granted if the member is “too busy” to comply with CPD requirements.

14. How is CPD deferment applied?
In principle, requests for subsequent deferments will not be entertained should the terms of the first deferment granted not have been adhered to.

- Deferment means that 40 structured points and 80 unstructured points must be acquired in the next cycle.
- Deferment to a next cycle is granted once only, pending confirmation of deferment compliance as per par. a) below;
- If deferment was granted by the SAVC then the applicant must comply with the conditions of deferment as follows:
  
a) On an annual basis, within the cycle to which the CPD points were deferred, submit proof of 13.3 CPD structured points [a total of 40 CPD structured points within the deferred cycle]; and
  
b) Submit confirmation at the end of the deferred cycle of 60 unstructured points obtained;

- Only once the conditions of deferment in par a) above have been complied with or have been met; will a member again qualify to apply for deferment.
- Exceptions to the policy could be medical- or compassionate grounds. Each such application will be considered on its own merits, provided that substantiated proof of circumstances was received.

Comment: This policy does not imply that the members of a disciplinary hearing are limited in their discretion as to what the penalty should be, having regard for the circumstances of the registered [defaulting] member. The member could be suspended from practise in accordance with the Regulations relation to suspensions which were published on 9 November 2015.

Kind regards,
Registrar, SAVC