Conditions of Authorisation

Why all registered veterinary and para-veterinary professionals need to be aware of the conditions of authorisation, a special dispensation, granted from time to time to persons without prescribed qualifications

1. Does the Act allow Council to authorise persons, without the required qualifications, to perform veterinary and para-veterinary services?

Yes, section 23(1)(c) determines that-

- “No person shall in any manner whatsoever practise a veterinary profession or a para-veterinary profession unless he or she is registered or deemed to be registered in terms of this Act to practise the profession concerned.”
- “(c) The council may, after consideration of an application by a person not registered or deemed to be registered in terms of this Act, authorize him or her in writing to render, subject to such conditions as the council may determine, for gain a particular service deemed in terms of the rules to pertain specially to a veterinary profession or a para-veterinary profession.”

Authorisation is only granted where a need is motivated and where proof is provided that no suitably registered veterinarian or para-veterinary professional could be employed to perform the services of that profession.

2. May I employ a person who was granted authorisation by Council on application by another employer?

No, because the conditions of authorisation always limit employment of the authorised person to the specific employer who applied for authorisation of that person.

3. How does Council determine competence for a person who obtains authorisation?

There is always some form of assessment of competence, whether by tests or documented proof and an authorised person will always be supervised by a registered veterinarian or a registered para-veterinary professional.

4. Why is authorisation regarded as a special dispensation?

Because the authorised person, is not the holder of a prescribed qualification and/or a qualification accepted for automatic registration based on assessment of that training according to set criteria, and will have to sit the Council’s registration examination before that person can be registered as a veterinarian or a para-veterinary professional.

5. What other general requirements should an employer comply with when an application is made for authorisation of a person to render veterinary or para-veterinary services?

General requirements, other than motivating the need, provide proof of competence or proof of the tests conducted to confirm competence and submitting proof that no registered veterinarian or para-veterinary professional could be employed to fill the position, are proof that/ of:

- The position was advertised [running for at least a month, but the advert should not be older than six months];
- Experience and/or qualifications;
- An offer for employment, clearly indicating the future date of employment and the job description;
- Identification and all relevant permits, if the person is a foreigner;
- Supervision and a supervisor, employer and authorised person agreement;
- The services will be provided from a registered facility;
- The relevant veterinary professionals are informed of the authorised person or work taking place in a specified area;
- Payment for the application; and
• Other specific requirements as determined by Council in each case.

6. **What other general conditions of authorisation are determined when authorisation is granted?**

   General conditions, other than limitation regarding, employer and supervision are:
   
   • The authorised person is subject to the provisions of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act No 19 of 1982;
   
   • Payment of an annual maintenance fee;
   
   • Services: procedures;
   
   • Period of authorisation;
   
   • Enrolment and passing of a registration examination;
   
   • Regular reports by the supervisor;
   
   • Immediate notification should anything change regarding the agreed conditions of authorisation, including resignation, dismissal or a move or transfer to another employer; and
   
   • Other specific conditions, as determined by Council in each case.

7. **Why are veterinary and para-veterinary professionals informed of the above requirements and conditions?**

   Council determines standards and acts as the regulator of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions. Therefore, registered and/or authorised persons should be made aware of these requirements and conditions to enable registered and/or authorised persons to adhere to these requirements and conditions. If these requirements and conditions are not adhered to then registered and/or authorised persons will be held professionally liable in accordance with the relevant professional rules, as non-compliance with the rules are not only unprofessional conduct, but a contravention of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982, as well.