GREEN HUNTS

The South African Veterinary Council [SAVC] has declared veterinary involvement in green hunting (the practice whereby a veterinarian facilitates the immobilization/anaesthesia of an animal by a non-veterinarian) an unethical procedure with immediate effect as from 1 June 2010. The conduct of veterinarians who are involved in green hunts will be regarded as unprofessional and will be investigated.

The SAVC with the support of the South African Veterinary Association took this decision in the interest of the South African community and future generations. The preservation of wildlife animal populations of this country has increasingly been jeopardized in recent months. Drug abuse has contributed to some of these harmful activities. It is therefore critical that the veterinary profession of South Africa leads by example to endeavour to end the abuse and destruction of animal populations.

The use of scheduled medicines for the chemical immobilisation/anaesthesia of wild animals is restricted to facilitate movement, disease surveillance and medical treatment. Scheduled medicines may not be used for recreational purposes or to create potential commercial activities whereby animals are unnecessarily stressed.

The SAVC has also informed the veterinary profession that the advertising of veterinary safaris and/or the charging of fees to have persons witness the rendering of veterinary services is not permitted.