MINI CONGRESS

21 JUNE 2016

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY
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- Veterinary Technology is a Para-veterinary profession regulated by the SAVC
- The scope of practice of the profession falls under the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act 19 of 1982 [section 23 (1)(a)]
- The Veterinary and Para-veterinary professions all fall under the Act
- It is the oldest structured Para-Veterinary profession and qualification promulgated under the Act with the first student intake in 1972
- It forms an integrated part of the Professional Veterinary Team
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• The only qualification currently prescribed under Section 20 (1) of the Act for 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
Two legal ‘in house’ advisors (Director and deputy director of legal affairs)

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,
- 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.
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.
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- The Profession has a Voluntary Professional Association (NPO) called the South African Association of Veterinary Technologists
- It represents the interests of the professions
- The Association consists of members and a management committee and has one elected member representing the profession on Council and various members serving on the TUT advisory committee for Veterinary Technology
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- The Profession is in process 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 needs to be finalised
Authorisation to perform the scope of practice of a Veterinary Technologist

- The Act also allows for authorization of persons not in possession of the required qualification to register as a Veterinary technologist to accommodate Veterinary related research in particular or where a specific need arises for a short period of time.

- This authorization has also been utilised and applied for when employers had special circumstances and could not find any Veterinary technologists to fill vacant positions in the past due to a short fall of trained and qualified Veterinary technologists.
The authorization of the holder a qualification other than the prescribed qualification will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and as indicated in Section 20 (5) (d) the authorization of a person with a specific qualification does not necessarily imply that the specific qualification will be accepted when obtained by another person.
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- For this reason the Registration and Authorisation committee of Council will consider 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 Veterinary technologist applied for the position. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the full Council meeting for consideration.

- 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.
The way forward

Due to an apparent short fall of available qualified Veterinary technologists and perceived challenges this has caused in industry, the South African Association of Veterinary Technologist obtained a mandate from its members to investigate the curriculums of other qualifications in order to consider adding these qualifications to the list of prescribed qualifications which will allow for registration with counsel after writing and passing a full Council examination.
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• 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
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- The requirements placed upon council and training institution by Section 20 of the Act for the inclusion of a qualification on the prescribed list may prove challenging especially where more than one institution offer a qualification, as all these qualifications will have to be monitored in the same way as previously mentioned and if a specific institution does not want to comply it may result in the qualification from that institution not being accepted while a similar qualification from another institution may be accepted
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- The SAAVT has also discussed the challenge with TUT and requested the university to increase their intake to accommodate the demand in the market place which has been done.

- Other training institutions have also been approached by the SAAVT to consider offering a similar training programme.
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THANK YOU

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