ALERT to veterinarians practising from unregistered facilities and/or from no “structured” facilities and other important things!!!

A person practising the veterinary profession must personally be registered at the Council in terms of Sections 23, 24 and 25 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Act, Act 19 of 1982 (the Act). In addition, the practise (irrespective of kind of service being rendered, i.e. mobile or otherwise) from which a veterinarian renders a service must be registered as a veterinary facility with the Council in terms of Regulation 1 and 2 of the Regulations relating to the registration of veterinary facilities published in Government Gazette no 29792 on 20 April 2007, as amended on 8 June 2012 in Government Gazette no 35413. Without this practise number no medicines may be supplied to a veterinarian in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Act 101 of 1965 (Medicines Act). A valid prescription must contain a practise number in terms of Regulation 11 and 28 of the General Regulations promulgated under the Medicines Act. Prescriptions may not be filled if the practise number is absent. It is both unprofessional conduct (very serious) and a criminal offence to practise from an unregistered facility. The registration number of a company or Close Corporation is not to be confused with the registration number issued by Council. The company or Close Corporation registration number is issued by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission and does not suffice for the purposes of the Act or the Medicines Act.

Rule 23, read with Rule 4 (5), of the Rules relating to the practising of the veterinary profession (the Rules) provide that the minimum standards for a veterinary facility must be maintained and that it must be a permanent structure, albeit a prefabricated building or something similar. The physical facility is further necessitated by the provisions of the Medicines Act that prescription books (Regulation 11) and registers for Schedule 5 and 6 medicines (Regulation 30) must be kept for a period of five years. The physical register for scheduled medicine must be capable of being produced summarily should a Medicines Control Council inspector visits you, otherwise all medicines found on the premises will be confiscated. If the physical facility does not fully comply with all the minimum standards as prescribed by the Rules exemption may be applied for under rule 40. You also have to keep scheduled medicines securely locked up in a dispensary and limit access to those. A locked vehicle does not suffice and would be no excuse if scheduled medicines are stolen from such a locked vehicle (mobile facility).

Section 34 further provides that a veterinarian may not keep an open shop. That means that medicines may only be supplied to a client and an animal with which you have a client-patient relationship. You may not even fill a prescription for another veterinarian, unless in an emergency, and the only medicine for three days!

Don’t get caught unravelling

and suffer the inevitable consequences! Be wise and register your facility now!

This information is not new but has been available since 1965.

LINKS TO REGISTER YOUR FACILITY
Minimum standards
Compliance checklist
Application: New facility or moving to new premises
Application: Transfer of facility
Application: Exemption from compliance with minimum standards
Application form: Registration Vetshops