The President’s Message

Colleagues

Council took leave of our President, Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele, who formally resigned as member of Council on 24 July 2015 and who has been seconded to the Embassy in Brussels, Belgium representing SA as Agricultural attaché. We wish to congratulate him on his appointment and wish him well in his new position.

We also wish to thank Dr Ntshabele for his exemplary leadership as President of the SAVC during the period 31 July 2013 to date. He leaves a void in bringing Councillors to consensus on controversial matters and he was an outstanding spokesperson during discussions with various stakeholders, most import the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister Senzeni Zokwana.

Dr Charlotte Nkuna joined Dr Clive Marwick and myself as member of the Executive of Council and we welcome her to the activities of the Executive. Dr Mphane Molefe, Deputy Director, Veterinary Public Health was designated by the Minister in the place of Dr Ntshabele, as officer of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). We welcome Dr Molefe and trust that his period in office will be productive.

Since our communications in June 2015 we have, as the Executive, met with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister Senzeni Zokwana on 24 August 2015. We have once again discussed the issue of the

Continued on page 2

Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele
permits required of veterinarians to treat Threatened or Protected Species and Dr Mike Modisane. Chief State Veterinarian of SA was tasked to arrange a meeting between Minister Zokwana and the Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs. We will keep you posted on developments. However, we do not achieve the required outcome on behalf of the veterinary profession then Council will have to consider its options.

You will have noted that there is much talk in the press and media about anti-microbial resistance, as a critical problem not only in SA but worldwide, and that the veterinary professions need to become involved in the solutions more so than any other profession. During our discussions with Minister Zokwana it was resolved that Dr Motsoaledi will also ensure that a meeting takes place between Minister Zokwana and the Minister of Health, Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, to address the matter of medicines available to the public and anti-microbial resistance. These meetings will aim to have closer cooperation between DAAF and the Department of Health.

We will soon welcome the profession of veterinary physiotherapists as we approved promulgation of this profession in June 2015. We also recently approved the scope of practice for this profession to fast track the process.

The World Animal Health Organisation [OIE] is hosting, together with Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicine (GALVMed), a conference from 13 - 15 October 2015 in Gauteng on the role of veterinary para-professionals (VPP) in Africa and linking the professionals with the veterinary profession. Council resolved to be represented and will present our positioning at the conference. The outcome of this conference will also give direction to the review of the rules for the veterinary para-professions which will be reviewed during the first half of 2016. As we regard the services of veterinary para-professionals as key to effective disease control and Primary Animal Health Care we funded the travel of the Executive of the Association of Animal Health Technicians to meet with us on 24 August 2015. We undertook to facilitate the concerns of the animal health technician profession with Minister Zokwana and Dr Mike Modisane later the same day. As a result Dr Modisane will meet with the animal health technicians and address their concerns.

Involvement of the members of the veterinary professions is of utmost importance for the effective functioning of Council. I would like to invite all members to make contributions, send suggestions, ask questions about issues that affect the professions and become involved with Council. It is very often unknown or misunderstood how much members’ inputs are crucial to the decision making process at Council. We are your representatives. Please make use of the make.

I hope you all have/had a wonderful World Rhino Day (22 September) as well as Heritage day (24 September), all in one week!

Regards
Acting President

“Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS] will be introduced in 2016 and we wish everyone involved all the best for the year.”

Jan Pretorius

As we are fast nearing the end of 2015 and will see a new dispensation for the veterinary profession coming into effect before the end of the year I wish to alert you to the forthcoming enactment of the Amendment Act 16 of 2012, the regulations and the rules for the veterinary profession. As a result of these developments Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS] will be introduced in 2016 and we wish everyone involved all the best for the year. Thank you once again to all members who made input to these legislative reviews.

Council intends to take stock of its activities as per its strategic plans 2014-2016 over the past two and a half years at its forthcoming Council meeting on 20 and 21 October 2015. Please let us know what we still need to do on your behalf!

The answers to the questions are available on the SAVC’s website on the home page: CCS Questions & Answers.

The SAVC received a letter from a group of students who expressed their concerns regarding locum work outside the scope of CCS. The Council will discuss these concerns on 20 October 2015.

The SAVC’s new rules for research animal facilities place a strong emphasis on ensuring high scientific quality, animal welfare and ethical standards.

The Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) are responsible for ensuring that the ethical principles of the Three Rs is being applied – i.e. the Replacement of animals by non-animal models where possible; the Reduction of the number of animals used to the minimum required to produce valid scientific results; and the Refinement of procedures in order to limit potential suffering – thus safeguarding animal wellbeing.

“Members’ inputs are crucial to the decision making process at Council.”

Jana Pretorius

THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Council took leave of our President, Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele, who formally resigned as member of Council on 24 July 2015 and who has been seconded to the Embassy in Brussels, Belgium representing SA as Agricultural attaché.

Dr Charlotte Nkuna joined Dr Clive Marwick and Dr Jana Pretorius as member of the Executive of Council.

Dr Mphane Molefe, Deputy Director, Veterinary Public Health was designated by the Minister in the place of Dr Ntshabele, as officer of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The Executive met with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister Senzeni Zokwana on 24 August 2015. They have once again discussed the issue of the permits required of veterinarians to treat Threatened and Protected Species and Dr Mike Modisane, Chief State Veterinarian of SA was tasked to arrange a meeting between Minister Zokwana and the Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

SAVA CONGRESS .................7

Application for extension of registration is considered by Council on merit and not on individual basis. On 24 August Miss Talita Coetzee, registration coordinator handled an accompanying letter. Council and the administration took a number of steps to ensure that the outcome of a complaint do not unnecessarily cause stress. One of the most important steps being to mediate possible complaints at an early stage when calls are received.

SAVA CONGRESS .................7

The SAVA’s new rules for research animal facilities place a strong emphasis on ensuring high scientific quality, animal welfare and ethical standards.

The Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) are responsible for ensuring that the ethical principles of the Three Rs is being applied – i.e. the Replacement of animals by non-animal models where possible; the Reduction of the number of animals used to the minimum required to produce valid scientific results; and the Refinement of procedures in order to limit potential suffering – thus safeguarding animal wellbeing.

THE EXECUTIVE

The answers to the questions are available on the SAVC’s website on the home page: CCS Questions & Answers.

The SAVC received a letter from a group of students who expressed their concerns regarding locum work outside the scope of CCS. The Council will discuss these concerns on 20 October 2015.

The test is performed carefully following the manufacturer’s instructions;

The results are reported accurately and in a timely manner;

Maintenance procedures are performed on the instruments;

Staff members that are going to operate any POC device are trained, and their competency assessed before performing patient tests.

BETTER SCIENCE FROM FEWER ANIMALS...............19

The SAVC’s new rules for research animal facilities place a strong emphasis on ensuring high scientific quality, animal welfare and ethical standards.

The Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) are responsible for ensuring that the ethical principles of the Three Rs is being applied – i.e. the Replacement of animals by non-animal models where possible; the Reduction of the number of animals used to the minimum required to produce valid scientific results; and the Refinement of procedures in order to limit potential suffering – thus safeguarding animal wellbeing.

WHAT ABOUT STRESS?..............21

The Council is aware of the burden of stress especially when a complaint arrives at the practice with an SAVC accompanying letter. Council and the administration took a number of steps to ensure that the outcome of a complaint do not unnecessarily cause stress. One of the most important steps being to mediate possible complaints at an early stage when calls are received.
Recent stakeholder interactions

ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN STUDENT GRASS ROOTS LIAISON

9 July 2015 - Tweedsmuir in the Cradle of Humankind.

5 August 2015 - Unisa Florida Campus

Workshop on Specialisation - 23 July 2015
LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr G Carlisle (chairperson), Dr M Lawrance, Dr M Veresput

Investigation Committee meeting 13 August 2015
LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr L Moljope (observer), Ms L Mhlongo, Dr M Modisane, Mrs D Stoltz.

Investigation Committee meeting 13 August 2015
LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr G Carlisle (chairperson), Dr M Lawrance, Dr M Veresput

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER
A letter was sent to the honourable Minister Senzeni Zokwana after the Executive Committee met with him on 24 August 2015. Ongoing issues were raised in this letter and the SAVC requested regular discussions with the Minister and Dr Mike Modisane (Chief Veterinary Officer of SA) to ensure that the SAVC supports the Ministry and DAFF in meeting the needs of the country: Link to letter.

WILDLIFE RANCHING SOUTH AFRICA (WRSA) VS SAVC
The matter in which the WRSA has taken DAFF, the SAVC and MCC to task regarding the use of chemical immobilisation (anaesthesia) medicines as per Rule 10 of the rules for veterinarians is still pending a court date.

UPDATE ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

Acting president

Newly elected Executive Committee member

Newly elected DAFF representative

Dr Jana Pretorius
Dr Charlotte Nkuna
Dr Mpene Molefe

AMENDMENT ACT, ACT NO 16 OF 2012
The Act was assented to on 6 December 2012. However the Act is not in operation and is pending the finalisation of the regulations pertaining to CCS Appeals, Inspectorate and Suspensions. It is foreseen that the regulations will be finalised within the next quarter of the year. Please visit this link for access to the Integrated Act, or to this link for a copy of the Amendment Act.

MEETINGS HELD WITH THE REGISTRARS OF ACT 101 OF 1965 AND ACT 36 OF 1947
These meetings will be continued in future to ensure that solutions are found for the indiscriminate use of medicines especially in food producing animals.

Annual Report 2014-2015

The Annual Report is available on the website - please click on this link.
The Code Company offers the unique combination of software development, graphic design, multimedia, practice management, marketing and operational expertise tailored by a wealth of experience in the veterinary industry. Innovation is at the core of everything we do, as we embrace technology to provide simple & practical solutions for the veterinary environment.

Our knowledge and understanding of the veterinary industry allows us to offer a number of solutions as our aim is to become a full house provider of all that your practice requires.

We offer solutions and services as an extension to your practice allowing us to focus on moving your business forward while you focus on veterinary medicine.

CALL US TODAY to find out how we can benefit you.

0861 000 VET (838)
info@codeco.co.za
www.codeco.co.za

WHERE TO FIND US:
ROUTE21 CORPORATE PARK, IRENE

Kindly note that the numbers on Victoria Link Street do not run in sequence, but as follows 24, 28, 26.

SAVA CONGRESS 2015

TOP: We want to thank all the members who visited the the SAVC stand. RIGHT: Mr Sive Nqawe (Administration) and Dr Rebone Moerane.

RIGHT: Dr Jana Pretorius addressed the SAVA AGM on 29 July 2015 on behalf of the SAVC’s president.

VETS GOT TALENT EVENT
Dr Tod Collins (below) and Dr Joubert Viljoen (bottom) showed that veterinarians have lots of talents!
Update on Compulsory Veterinary Community Service (CCS)

Questions answered by the SAVC

The SAVC received a letter from a group of students who expressed their concerns regarding locum work outside the scope of CCS. The Council will discuss these concerns on 20 October 2015.

1. What does CCS registration with the SAVC imply?

CCS registration implies that veterinarians, who register with the SAVC for the first time, will be registered with Council with a view to perform CCS.

2. Do I get registration when I enter the CCS year?

Yes, registration is granted until such time as the SAVC receives written confirmation from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) that the CCS year was completed by the CCS veterinarian, which CCS should be completed within eighteen months of commencement of the CCS year.

3. Do I get a registration certificate after graduation?

No, you will not receive a registration certificate. You will however receive a letter from the SAVC setting out the terms of registration including the purpose of the CCS registration.

You will only receive a registration certificate once the SAVC receives written confirmation from DAFF that you have fully complied with your duties as a CCS veterinarian.

4. Why am I not fully registered with the SAVC after I have qualified?

The completion of a CCS year is a requirement for registration to practice in South Africa. The intention is to ensure that all registered veterinarians have completed a CCS year. The CCS year is the end result of a wide consultation process in support of CCS, as a means to bring veterinary services to all people of South Africa. Only once the CCS year has been completed will full registration be granted.

5. May I do locums in SA if I have not completed my CCS year?

No, registered CCS veterinarians may not work outside of the scope of the CCS year.

However, CCS veterinarians who are mainly placed in a regulatory environment may, with a view to retain clinical skills, volunteer their services for example in animal welfare services, community veterinary clinics, sterilisation campaigns etc. This matter is under review.

6. What should I do to enable me to do locums in South Africa before I have completed the CCS year?

Unfortunately, there is nothing that you can do as you may not locum in SA without being fully registered. This matter is currently under review.

7. What proof of registration and professional good standing will the SAVC issue if I go abroad right after I graduated and want to work abroad?

The SAVC will issue a letter of good professional standing for the period in which you were registered as a student and will state that you are registered for purposes of the CCS year.

8. How will the SAVC assist me regarding a work permit if I am not a SA resident or citizen and must complete a CCS year?

The SAVC will issue a letter in support of the application for a work permit as part of the motivation to employ scarce skills in SA.

9. Do I need to complete a CCS year if I registered with the SAVC previously but de-registered as I worked abroad and now return to practice in SA?

No, anyone who registered previously with the SAVC need not complete a CCS year. Only veterinarians who register for the very first time with the SAVC need to complete a CCS year.

10. Who is liable during the CCS year if my professional care or treatment of an animal is not what is expected of a reasonable veterinarian?

The CCS veterinarian is personally liable for his/her professional care and treatment of an animal.

11. Must CCS be performed from a registered facility?

Yes, all veterinary services including CCS services must be rendered from registered facilities. Only a veterinarian who renders services from a registered facility may obtain, use and prescribe veterinary medicines.

12. Who is responsible for the facility standards from which a compulsory veterinary community service or locum services are rendered?

The registered veterinarian who acts as the principal of the facility and who applied for registration of the facility is responsible for the facility standards.

13. When does my first Continued Professional Development (CPD) cycle start?

The first CPD cycle commences during the CCS year. For example if you commence CCS in 2016 your three-year cycle will start on 1 April 2016 and end on 31 March 2019.

14. Am I required to keep up to date with CPD during the CCS year?

Yes, you have to keep up to date with CPD during the CCS year.

15. Where can I access more information on CPD requirements?

Visit the SAVC’s website for access to the CPD accredited activities and the CPD guidelines.

16. May I enrol for veterinary related post graduate studies during the CCS year?

Yes, you may enrol for a post-graduate qualification provided that it does not interfere with your employment as a CCS veterinarian. You would be well advised to discuss your enrolment with your mentor as soon as possible.

17. Under what circumstances will I be exempted from the CCS year?

Although exemption from the CCS year is not guaranteed but could be considered by the Minister upon receipt of a substantiated application, the only grounds for exemption will be having obtained a post graduate qualification abroad. Such qualification and related expertise should at least be regarded as critical skills required in SA.

18. Am I required to complete the CCS year if I qualified before 2015 and did not previously register with the SAVC?

Yes, you will have to complete a CCS year before full registration will be granted. If you did not register with the SAVC within three years of qualifying as a veterinarian then you will have to, in addition, prove how you kept up to date with your professional skills prior to being granted partial registration.
07 September 2015

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL FINAL YEAR VETERINARY STUDENTS

Dear colleagues-to-be (soon!)

You will be the first group of new-graduates to partake in the new Compulsory Community Service (CCS) programme of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

The primary goals of CCS are great and have our full support. These are:

- To promote accessibility of veterinary services particularly in under-serviced and resource poor areas. CCS will therefore have a major impact on animal and human health and thus be at the forefront of the “one-health” approach.
- To provide an opportunity to CCS veterinarians to acquire knowledge, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help their professional development. During your CCS year you will deal with cases that you might never see again but that will add to your experience and practical skills.

But there are concerns, too. One major concern, voiced at all meetings on CCS, relates to the salary that will be paid to you, as CCS veterinarians. You will be employed as “government” or “state” veterinarians, and will be remunerated accordingly, a decision based thereon that CCS veterinarians are appointed and remunerated:

- at the level of a fully functional veterinarian i.e. not in an internship nor in in-service training;
- as having veterinary Day 1 skills;
- without a rural allowance;
- without any compensation for accommodation.

Based on current salary levels, the monthly salary will amount to approximately R 44 000-00 per month, more than you, as a new graduate fresh from Onderstepoort, will be offered anywhere else. The South African Veterinary Association publishes remuneration guidelines annually; in the latest version the recommended salary for new graduates is between R 25 400-00 - R 28 770-00 per month, considerably less than what you will be paid during your CCS year. On top of this, veterinarians in rural practice will probably be paid less than the minimum recommendation, purely based on affordability.

It is therefore important that you will:

- realise that your salary will take a huge dip after the CCS year;
- not enter into any fixed term contracts that require monthly instalments based on the CCS salary, as you might not be able to continue these payments later;
- invest the “extra” money wisely. Investigate all options available to you in this regard:
  - Speak to financial advisors (not to your fellow-students or lecturers at OP, please, as they might not be in a position to give you sound financial advice);
  - Set aside some of the money (aim for 40 - 50 %) in a safe investment for future expenses (such as a deposit on your first house);
  - You could use the money to repay as much as possible of your study debt (but keep in mind that study debt comes at lower interest rates and therefore is “cheaper debt”, and that it might be better to repay this over the maximum period allowed);
  - Get financial advice (yes, I mentioned this before, but want to make sure that you do it!)

In general, enjoy the CCS year that lies ahead and make full use of all the opportunities offered. Do not hesitate to phone an older colleague, whether he/she has been appointed as your official mentor or not - no colleague will put the phone down on you, we will all happily provide you with advice. Also listen to the non-veterinarians that you will encounter on your journey; the animal health technicians have seen it all before and have a wealth of practical experience to share with you!

The veterinary profession and the SA Veterinary Association are looking forward to welcoming you as new colleagues!

Regards

Dr Paul van Dam
Managing Director: South African Veterinary Association

South African Veterinary Association
Suid-Afrikaanse Veterinère Vereniging

Why choose DOXYDOG?

Doxycycline penetrates well into all tissues, but can cause oesophageal irritation and nausea...

Sugar-coated tablets:
- Are more palatable, hence easier dosing;
- Enable smoother swallowing;
- Help prevent catching in the throat;
- Prevent the nausea caused by stomach irritation.

3 different strengths:
- Pets come in different sizes;
- Avoids a one-size-fits-all approach;
- Avoids the need to break tablets into impractical sizes;
- Reduces the risk of throat-lodging and lesions caused by broken tablets with sharp edges;
- Enables greater dosing accuracy.

Suppliers of premium, scientifically formulated products for companion animals, pigeons and avians.

Tel. 011 614 8915 • info@medpet.co.za • www.medpet.co.za
Registered veterinary para-professionals, in particular veterinary nurses, animal health technicians and veterinary technologists, are from time to time required to assist veterinarians with tasks, which tasks do not strictly fall within their scope of practice (as per the rules for each profession), but where there is a need to provide the service under the supervision of a registered veterinarian.

What if a complaint is lodged against the veterinarian and you did not apply for extension of your registration? How does one legalise the situation?

To legalise the position a member needs to submit a motivation to Council.

Together with the written motivation you have to submit –

- Written support by the supervising veterinarian under whose supervision the tasks are performed, and if the veterinarian is not the employer, then also written support from the employer;
- A detailed job description; and
- Proof of competence to perform the required tasks need to be submitted.

Application for extension of registration is considered by Council on merit and on individual basis.

Applications for extension of registration will only be considered whilst the member is in veterinary employment, and if granted, then it will be limited as per the conditions determined by Council. Conditions will be limited to an employer whilst fulfilling a particular need.

Please contact Ms Talita Coetzee, registration coordinator for clarification or full details at authorise@savc.org.za.
The importance of complying with the minimum standards for a Veterinary Laboratory that is rendering a service to the public and veterinary industry

“The history of integrative thinking between veterinary medicine, human medicine, and environmental and economic domains has slowly evolved through time into comparative medicine and lately to the concept of “One Health”. Recognition of interdependence between these entities has increasingly become apparent within the last decade. Although this concept is not new, its implementation requires collaborative efforts involving multiple disciplines.”

The One Health Concept is embraced and supported by all major role players in the Veterinary and Medical industries as well as Governments worldwide. The environment that we live and work in has been changed dramatically by the expectations created by this concept and our adaptation to this is vital. It is apparent that we still know very little about zoonotic pathogen transmission and do not fully understand the mechanisms of these transmissions.

We therefore need to see the holistic picture which means that healthy soil produces healthy crops that are irrigated with healthy water. In turn the healthy crops are consumed by both animals and humans. Therefore it has become critical to ensure that all aspects of the food chain is monitored and checked regularly to ensure the quality and standard of the food that we and our animals consume.

The only process to ensure this is to work with registered and accredited laboratory facilities in the different disciplines that will provide the Veterinary and Medical health professionals the guarantee that the laboratory results generated comply with a certain standard and that the laboratory can be held accountable for the results generated and provided.

The veterinary and veterinary-para professions form an integrated part of this concept and therefore it has become essential that we also address our shortcomings by adapting the rules and regulations pertaining to our specific professions to accommodate the changing environment.

Laboratories now have to comply with minimum requirements as stipulated in the new updated veterinary rules which inter alia include requirements such as:

- Separate laboratory areas to prevent cross contamination of samples;
- Facilities and containers for the storage of disposed hazardous waste including but not limited to sharps, chemicals, used test kits, biological samples, etc. prior to collection.
- Collection and disposal of above by a licensed waste removal company as per regulations of the local authority.

It is important to note that currently, only a veterinarian may register a laboratory as the minimum standards for laboratories are part of the rules for veterinarians. Veterinarians have to take responsibility for the compliance of the minimum standards for laboratory facilities [all facilities where veterinary services are rendered].

It is clear that there are far too many unregistered facilities offering Veterinary laboratory services employing untrained and unregistered laboratory personnel which include notifiable and controlled diseases. The danger in this lies that these laboratories do not comply with the minimum requirements of personnel and facilities to accredit themselves so no guarantees of quality laboratory results to the client will be available.

It is very difficult to monitor the quality of the results produced as these laboratories usually do not comply with the regulations and work under the radar. To make matters worse the unsuspecting client (usually the veterinarian) uses these results to certify animals for export in many instances. This may have serious consequences for the veterinarian involved.

The implications for our country, is should we fail to demonstrate that we are able to control the spread of disease and to manage the movement of livestock, we stand to lose our trade agreements which are directly dependent on how we deal and regulate these matters.

Your thoughts are welcomed. Please contact the Director Legal Affairs, Mrs Dinamarie Stoltz at legadirector@savc.org.za.

Registration of facilities - are you registered?
Link to Facilities documents

ONE HEALTH CONCEPT
The maximizing of the well-being of people through maximising the well-being of animals

1. ANIMAL PRODUCTION
   - Reproduction herd management: food security
   - Veterinary support of land reform
   - Programmes & sustainable eco-farming
   - Emphasis on efficient production: including
     - Game
     - Goats
     - Fish
     - Pigs
     - Compulsory Community Veterinary Service [CCS]

2. SMALL-SCALE FARMER SUPPORT
   - Education, training & information
   - Good farming practice including:
     - Back-yard egg production
     - Small-scale broilers
     - Pig, goat, game & ostrich owners
   - Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC)
   - Proper use of stock remedies & animal medicines
   - Compulsory Community Veterinary Service [CCS]
   - Contact points

3. DISEASE MANAGEMENT
   - Veterinary disease surveillance & cross border control
   - Role of Veterinary Public Health in disease management
   - Food safety and inspection of products originated from animals
   - Veterinary prevention & control of:
     - Controlled and notifiable diseases (TB/Brucella)
     - Infectious diseases
     - Zoonoses
     - Vaccination programs; tick & worm control
   - Stakeholder network:
     - Inter- and intra-professional communication: human & animal doctors;
     - Public & private veterinary responsibility

4. ANIMAL RESEARCH
   - Veterinary involvement in
     - Research & development of stock remedies and animal medicines
     - Policy development on generic medicines
     - Improved Animal Production: Nutrition
     - Disease control

5. EXOTICS INCLUDING
   - Bees
   - Crocodiles
   - Inland fish

6. COMPANION & WORKING ANIMALS’ HEALTH
   - Human-animal interaction: well-being
   - Emerging zoonoses/unique diseases
   - Rabies management
   - Sterilisation campaigns

This is the One
IDEXX Catalyst One™
The One that delivers complete diagnostic chemistry information in minutes
The One that takes you practice better medicine
The One that is accurate and reliable
The One that is easy to use
The One that offers reference-lab quality in-clinic

In one run, with one sample, the Catalyst One™ Analyzer delivers chemistry and electrolyte results in only 8 minutes and total T 4 in as little as 15 minutes, for real-time patient insight.
For more information please call: 011 691 8200 or visit www.idexx.co.za and www.idexxlearningcentre.com
INTRODUCTION

Arguably the simplest form of laboratory testing is point-of-care testing (POCT), which is designed to be used near the patient. This testing is typically performed in-clinic/hospital by veterinarians, veterinary para professionals and even untrained staff whose duties include a variety of non-testing-related duties, rather than laboratory specialists in a dedicated laboratory.

POCT needs to be simple to use, but that simplicity can be deceptive. Complicated technology is required to make a simple test, and even simple tests used to make important medical decisions.

There are various facts to consider before deciding on whether a point of care instrument or system should be purchased or placed in a practice. A decision should be based on the following selection criteria:

- Clinical needs assessment
- Operational needs assessment
- Cost assessment
- Regulation and accreditation needs assessment

IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION:

PRE-ANALYTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Errors that occur before the test is performed are classified as ‘pre-analytical’ and may be due to improper patient preparation, improper sample collection, or improper sample handling.

Because so many people and issues are involved at this stage, errors can happen easily; they can also be difficult to detect and cause significant problems in care.

Patient Preparation

- Although not all tests require specific patient preparation, when they do, it is for a reason.
- Ignoring patient preparation requirements or conditions may yield incorrect results e.g. fasting periods before sampling.

Sample Collection, Handling, and Storage

- Proper sample collection, handling, and storage are as important as patient preparation and following the correct test procedure.
- Depending on what is being measured or detected, sloppy procedures may produce wrong results.
- All samples are not the same.
- When you collect ear prick blood, squeezing the ear will contaminate the blood with tissue fluids.
- Many specimens are not stable; a sample that is positive when drawn may be negative after overnight storage.
- If you mix up two patients, neither patient receives the correct result.

PRODUCT STORAGE AND STABILITY

- As with consumer or household products, improper handling and storage of reagents may affect results.
- Rapid test kits are complicated combinations of chemical and biological substances, and all the components have to work to give the right answer.
- Too much heat, too much sunlight, freezing, thawing, and just the passage of time can inactivate some tests.

ANALYTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Errors that occur during the actual test procedure or during analysis are classified as analytical because they happen during the laboratory analysis of the sample.

They are usually tied to one or more of the following:

- product handling (or storage)
- testing personnel technique
- product performance limitations
- interferences

Is the Test Working correctly today? Quality Control Is Your Friend.

Every time you perform a test, you need to be confident that you are giving the correct answer.

The practices and features of a test that provide this confidence are called quality control.

Generally, QC involves running samples of known reactivity (“known samples”) alongside patient samples. If the known samples give the correct answer, that indicates that the test is working right.

IN SUMMARY:

- Care should be taken to ensuring that the sample is collected and handled properly.
- The test is performed carefully following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- The results are reported accurately and in a timely manner.
- Perform maintenance procedures on the instruments.
- Staff members that are going to operate any POC device must be trained, and their competency must be assessed before performing patient tests e.g.
  1. Can they run and interpret QC results?
  2. Can they enter and/or verify patient results?
  3. Who is responsible and accountable for erroneous results seen at times on POC platforms?

Taking all of above into consideration it is clear that it is highly recommended that the Act should also be followed and be adhered to by ensuring that correctly qualified and registered personnel perform these tests on these instruments even in an in-house laboratory that should meet the minimum requirements as prescribed within the veterinary rules to avoid any misdiagnosis and a legal action because of this.
Better science from fewer animals: Minimum standards for research animal facilities

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)’s new rules for research animal facilities place a strong emphasis on ensuring high scientific quality, animal welfare and ethical standards. This is appropriate, given our moral responsibility not only to the subjects of the research, i.e. the animals in our care; but also to the beneficiaries of the research, whether these are humans, animals or the environment.

Research animal facilities are defined in the rules as facilities or areas where animals may be used, maintained or bred for scientific purposes, which includes research, teaching, testing, validation, production or observation; and covers all species, including laboratory animals, rodents, companion animals, production animals, domesticated animals, wildlife and exotic species.

The minimum standards for research animal facilities define the nature of the physical environment where the scientific activities are conducted; as well as health and safety, hygiene, bioccontainment, biosecurity, standardisation of techniques and other aspects of high-quality biological science.

Ethical standards are established by the requirement that Animal Ethics Committees (AECs), which function in accordance with the relevant South African National Standard, must approve all animal care and use. AECs are responsible for ensuring that the core ethical principles of the Three Rs is being applied – i.e. the Replacement of animals by non-animal models where possible; the Reduction of the number of animals used to the minimum required to produce valid scientific results; and the Refinement of procedures in order to limit potential suffering – thus safeguarding animal wellbeing.

Animal welfare is further bolstered by defining appropriate standards for animal housing, husbandry, environmental enrichment, emergency care, anaesthesia and surgery; the requirement for at least daily welfare monitoring of experimental animals by competent personnel; at least weekly veterinary health and welfare examination; and regular inspections by registered animal welfare organisations.

Continued on page 20

News from the SAVA
The South African Veterinary Association is very proud of our monthly magazine, VetNews. VetNews is the official mouthpiece of the association.

The September issue is full of interesting and informative information, including the message from our new president, Dr Johan Marais, on page 2 and Prof Darrel Abernethy’s review of the Future of Veterinary Education in SA on page 9 and read about what the SAVA is doing for its members.

Members can also earn CPD points when completing the questionnaire linked to the CPD article [sorry - only members can do the questionnaire]! For more information on how to become a member, visit our website (www.sava.co.za) or email marketing@sava.co.za
The SAVC's minimum standards parallel international trends. It is increasingly being recognised how the reproducibility of animal research is dependent on quality standards; how improved welfare standards provide health and economic benefits; how animal health standards, and the consequent consistency of more dependable model systems; and how this decreases variability in biological responses, strengthens statistical power and reduces sample size.

And so we see how high quality standards lead to better science from fewer animals.

Dr Bert Mohr  
University of Cape Town, President: SAALAS

What about stress?

The Council is aware of the burden of stress especially when a complaint arrives at the practice with an SAVC accompanying letter. Council and the administration took a number of steps to ensure that the receipt of a complaint do not unnecessarily cause stress by:

- Mediating possible complaints at an early stage when calls are received;
- Advising clients of the avenues of resolve to avoid complaints;
- Discussing matters with members of the profession to ensure that they are au fait with the rules, etc;
- Shortening, more recently, the period of response to avoid a protracted period of stress for all concerned;
- Actively mediating the complaint between the parties at a later stage;
- Appointing specifically a Councilor/s with the stress portfolio; and
- Drafting, many years ago, a letter to ensure that the member is not unduly stressed by the receipt of a complaint. The letter states the following:-

Dear Colleague

INQUIRY IN TERMS OF THE VETERINARY AND PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS ACT, ACT 19 OF 1982
Enclosed with this letter please receive the so-called “please-explain” letter. The letter, according to reports has been feared and / or dreaded by members of the profession.

This “dreaded” letter by no means is an attack on your integrity, professionalism and care. However as the investigation of complaints is part of a legal process, legal terminology is used and a process with time schedules is followed in terms of the Rules to ensure that the member, animal and public are protected.

Furthermore, please note that Council although it does not solicit complaints, has an obligation to, when a complaint is received, investigate the matter and an obligation to obtain input from the member, against whom a complaint is lodged, of complaints is part of a legal process, legal terminology is used and a process with time schedules is followed in terms of the Rules to ensure that the member, animal and public are protected.

I trust that you will receive this “please explain letter” in the understanding that Council is a statutory body with an obligation to ensure that the member, animal and public are protected.

Thank you for your understanding.

continued on page 2
Members should also bear in mind that not all instances of unprofessional conduct are equally serious, notwithstanding possible advice to the contrary by unscrupulous representatives with a vested interest in scaremongering and in vilifying Council.

Members should further bear in mind that their co-operation in the process of investigation prior to the IC deciding whether to dismiss complaint or refer it to an inquiry is a very important factor in expediting the process. In other words, if the professional has sixty days (current rule) or thirty days (new rule) to reply and he/she waits until the sixtieth day (current rule) or thirtieth day (new rule) to submit his/her reply, it will obviously delay the process. If on the other hand, the reply is furnished within a week or two, the process is shortened by six weeks (currently) or two to three weeks under the new rules, which means a shorter period that the professional will have to live with the uncertainty hanging over his/her head. The sooner the administration receives the records, information or reply it requires in terms of the process, the sooner the matter can be finalised.

Minor unprofessional conduct is not visited by a suspension or the heaviest fine capable of being imposed. These are reserved for the most serious of serious unprofessional conduct. If in doubt, kindly contact the Legal Department.

Why not outsource the disciplinary function by another body?

For the profession in South Africa to have a parallel and totally independent disciplinary structure would be prohibitively expensive, considering the number of veterinary and para-veterinary professionals in the country. Council has already, on its own initiative, outsourced the disciplinary process to a very large extent over a period of several years. The amendment to the Act, which culminated in the publication of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Amendment Act, Act 16 of 2012 (the Amendment Act), was proposed and discussed since 2008 and legal input was sourced from more than one source.

The question was asked, “How will these changes affect me?”

The regular veterinarian who goes through life doing his/her best – with or without some unreasonable and disgruntled clients – will have nothing to fear. Only those professionals without integrity that wilfully bring the profession into disrepute will be affected.

In summary:

The veterinary profession should take great pride in the progress brought about by the Amendment Act and its supporting regulations and the new rules, drafted by the profession for the profession.
## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jana Pretorius</td>
<td>(Acting-president) (Wildlife Forum)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vet@janapretorius.com">vet@janapretorius.com</a></td>
<td>076 734 7622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Adam</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Committee on Food Safety and Security)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jadanvet@outlook.com">jadanvet@outlook.com</a></td>
<td>021 976 3015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayoub Banderker</td>
<td>(Animal Welfare Portfolio)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ayoubbanderker@yahoo.co.uk">ayoubbanderker@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
<td>082 375 0361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cor Bester</td>
<td>(Laboratory Animal Technologist Profession)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cor.bester@nwu.ac.za">Cor.bester@nwu.ac.za</a></td>
<td>082 348 3737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derick Block</td>
<td>(Legal Knowledge)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:derickblock@i4u.co.za">derickblock@i4u.co.za</a></td>
<td>082 900 0632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Carlisle</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Investigation Committee)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oudtshoornvet@mweb.co.za">oudtshoornvet@mweb.co.za</a></td>
<td>083 701 1367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne de Vos</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Veterinary Specialisation Committee; Review Committee; Portfolio Stress)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:apdevos@telkomsa.net">apdevos@telkomsa.net</a></td>
<td>051 924 3028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Lotter</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Inspections; Veterinary Nurse Profession)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:theresalotter.ii@gmail.com">theresalotter.ii@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>082 453 6992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziyanda Majokweni</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ziyanda.majokweni@weathersa.co.za">ziyanda.majokweni@weathersa.co.za</a></td>
<td>084 616 6084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clive Marwick</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Finance Committee; Member of the Executive Committee)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clocvet@ntelecom.co.za">clocvet@ntelecom.co.za</a></td>
<td>083 262 4171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipalesa Motjope</td>
<td>(Non-veterinary professional)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmotjope@gmail.com">lmotjope@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>071 637 8535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mphane Molefe</td>
<td>(DAFF Representative)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MphaneM@daf.gov.za">MphaneM@daf.gov.za</a></td>
<td>012 319 7505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapule Mphuthi</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rapule@hotmail.com">rapule@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>079 105 5582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann Müller</td>
<td>(Veterinary Technologist Profession)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johann@kommakoffie.co.za">johann@kommakoffie.co.za</a></td>
<td>072 289 8650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinny Naidoo</td>
<td>(Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP; Chairperson: Education and Standards Committees)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vinny.naidoo@up.ac.za">vinny.naidoo@up.ac.za</a></td>
<td>082 563 3271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Nkuna</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Registration and Authorisation Committee)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:charlotte@daybreak.za.com">charlotte@daybreak.za.com</a></td>
<td>082 884 4492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Oberem</td>
<td>(Chairperson: Medicines: Pre-packaging) (Wildlife Forum)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter.oberem@afrivet.co.za">peter.oberem@afrivet.co.za</a></td>
<td>082 821 6577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johan Oosthuizen</td>
<td>(Animal Health Technician Profession)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oosteij@unisa.ac.za">oosteij@unisa.ac.za</a></td>
<td>082 870 7482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph van Heerden</td>
<td>(Chairperson: CPD Accreditation Committee; SAVA Representative)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:doretha@global.co.za">doretha@global.co.za</a></td>
<td>093 832 5711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vision**

Advancing public and animal health through quality veterinary services for all

**Mission**

The South African Veterinary Council seeks, through the statutes of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 to

- serve the interests of the people of South Africa by promoting competent, efficient, accessible and needs-driven service delivery in the animal health care sector;
- protect the health and well-being of animals and animal populations;
- protect and represent the interests of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions;
- regulate the professional conduct of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions; and
- set and monitor standards of both education and practice for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions

**DISCLAIMER**

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) shall not be liable for any loss due to advertisements published in its Newsletters. The advertisements represent the products of the advertisers only. The SAVC does not accept liability for the information or advice contained in the advertisements or for any loss arising from the use of the products advertised.

By placing the advertisements the SAVC does in no way endorse the product or content of the advertisement.