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The President’s Message

Colleagues,

I thank my fellow Councillors who elected me as President for the remaining period of office until the end of July 2016 and the confidence they have placed in me.

The process for selection and election of the Council for the 2016-2019 term of office has commenced. The Registrar will call for nominations on 15 January 2016 and will accept nominations until 15 February 2016. Please take part in this process.

We once again come to the end of another year which also marks the beginnings of a new era in veterinary practice. With the publication of the new legislation in the Government Gazette on Monday, 9 November 2015 Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS], will be implemented as from 2016, the new rules for the veterinary profession, the long awaited Inspectorate, the new Appeals and Suspension Committees and Cost orders are, amongst other changes, now in place. I wrote to the new graduates of 2015 and wished them well on your and Council’s behalf for the CCS year, 2016. I commend those members who made themselves available to mentor these new colleagues.

New standards for veterinary facilities were developed with input from the veterinary profession. I wish to thank all those colleagues who made an effort to make input on the new legislation and particulary the rules relating to the standards for facilities. We will commence with routine inspections of the facilities in 2016 and I welcome your input and co-operation in this process.

“CCS will be implemented as from 2016, the new rules for the veterinary profession, the long awaited Inspectorate, the new Appeals and Suspension Committees and Cost orders are now in place.”

All veterinary para-professionals were invited to make input on their review of their respective rules. These inputs will be discussed early in January and February 2016 by the stakeholders and the outcome of these discussions will be considered by the Review Committee. We hope to finalise the changes before the end of our term of office. It will be the new Council’s brief to thereafter once again review the rules for the veterinary profession.

Continued on page 2
in part to keep up to date with the latest trends and secondly to ensure that the rules of the veterinary profession are not in conflict with the rules of the veterinary para professions and vice versa.

The World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) in conjunction with Global Alliance for Livestock Medicines (GALVmed) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) held a summit from 13-15 October 2015 with the theme “The role of veterinary para-professionals (VPP) in Africa, Linking veterinary para-professionals and veterinarians”. The Council appointed Prof Moritz van Vuuren to the Portfolios Food Safety and Security and Support to the Chief Veterinary Officer of South Africa. We welcome him and wish him all the best in these important roles. The SAVC is of the opinion that the role of the veterinary professions in veterinary services in SA and food safety and security for the country is a determining role. The activities of the veterinary team therefore need to be seen against this important role and should be given the recognition it deserves. We resolved at our latest meeting on 20 October 2015 to mitigate the challenges in veterinary services in conjunction with the Chief Veterinary Officer of SA, Dr Mike Modsane and to hold road shows with a view to engage with the Members of the Executive Council [MECs], farmers, the veterinary team and industry in all nine provinces. All members will be invited to College as a service provider of the animal health technician qualifications. Animal health technicians will automatically come on board with this qualification.

The SAVC’s IT upgrade will commence within the next month. No IT upgrade is without teething problems and it will require everyone’s patience. One of the requests addressed to members later on in this Newsletter is to provide the SAVC with a suitable email address as your username for future engagement. We trust that you will see the benefit of this request and that the SAVC’s communication with its members will improve.

I wish you a Blessed Festive Season,

Clive Marwick

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

The vision of the World Veterinary Association is to be respected and recognised as the trusted and influential voice of global veterinary medicine. Its mission is to assist and promote animal health and welfare and public health globally, through developing and advancing veterinary medicine, the veterinary profession as well as public and private veterinary services.

Once again I have to report that we have as yet not succeeded in the drive to dispose of the requirement of the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA] that veterinarians must hold permits to treat Threatened or Protected Species [TOPS]. We requested Minister Serenzi Zokwana to address this matter with the Minister of the DEA, Minister Edna Molewa. If this cannot be achieved then we may have to resort to legal action. We are however still urging the DAFF to arrange a meeting between the Ministers.

The important issue of anaesthesia or chemical immobilisation of animals as a veterinary procedure will be tested in the courts in 2016. The Council requested a hearing date in order that a decision can be made as to the stance that chemical immobilisation resorts with the veterinary profession only.

We welcome the new profession of veterinary physiotherapist which we aim to have formally on board before the end of 2015. We also welcome the SAVC’s communication with its members.

The Minister of Agriculture, Minister Senzeni Zokwana invited comment on the strategy for 2015-2020. “Specifically, the strategy targets to: 3.1 Improve on the technical capabilities to address current and new animal health, welfare and production issues based on scientific principles; 3.2 Acquire sufficient financial capital to attract sufficient human resources and retain professionals with technical and leadership skills; 3.3 Promote and strengthen collaboration and partnership between government and non-governmental sector; and 3.4 Create / maintain an enabling animal and public health environment with the ability to access local and international markets.”

“Livestock production in South Africa is a fundamental element of socio-economic development and significant contributor to food security and food sovereignty.”

offcn@sa/

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Recent stakeholder interactions

**TREE PLANTING**

Councillors planted a tree in front of the SAVC’s Administration building. Left to right: Dr J Pretorius (Vice-President), Dr R Mphuthi, Mr J Müller, Prof V Naidoo, Dr C Manwick (President), Dr J Adam, Sr T Lötter, Dr G Cartlisle, Dr A Bandeker, Dr L Motjape, Mr J Oosthuizen.

See how Councillors, Rapule and Glen cooperate and share the load!

**OIE SEMINAR - 13-15 OCTOBER 2015**

The World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) in conjunction with GALVMed and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) held a summit from 13-15 October 2015 with the theme “The role of veterinary para-professionals (VPP) in Africa. Linking veterinary para-professionals and veterinarians”.

Dr C Marwick (in front) and Mr J Oosthuizen represented Council.

**UPDATE ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE VETERINARY PROFESSION**

**ACCEPTANCE OF VETERINARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSES**

The SAVC wishes to confirm that the BVSc degree (UP) is currently accepted by both the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) for registration purposes without the holder of the BVSc degree (UP) having to pass a registration examination.

The RCVS has indicated that the RCVS is interested, as in the case of the AVBC, who already has an agreement with the SAVC, to enter into an agreement with the SAVC regarding the accreditation of veterinary qualifications offered in the UK and South Africa. The SAVC and RCVS signed this agreement on 2 December 2015.

Veterinary qualifications are no longer automatically accepted for registration purposes as acceptance of qualifications is based on the regular assessment of the qualifications and validation of the standard of the tuition and training offered by veterinary faculties or schools.

The terms “reciprocity” and “automatic acceptance” are no longer part of any considerations in the agreements entered into when qualifications are assessed.

**Dispensing practices of veterinarians**

The Food Safety and Security Committee (FSS) met on several occasions with the Registrar of Act 101 of 1965 over a number of years. During discussions with the Registrar it became evident that there was, and still is concern about the dispensing practices of veterinarians.

In an attempt to assist the veterinary profession and prevent the authorities from taking away much needed dispensing rights Council requested the Continuing Education entity at the University of Pretoria (CE@UP) to develop an online dispensing course for veterinarians. Council funded the development of the course to the benefit of the members of the veterinary professions.

The roll-out and implementation of the dispensing examination will be dealt with by the Education Committee of Council. The dispensing course aims to avoid a requirement by law for a dispensing licence to be administered by the Medicines Control Council (Department of Health). The Council will also recommend to the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP that all final year veterinary students should pass a dispensing examination as from 2016.

Members will be updated on developments relating to the online dispensing course.

**Budget 2016.2017**

The main budget votes will be available for comment early in February 2016. Please contact the Registrar in February 2016 for a copy of the main budget votes should you wish to make input thereon. The Registrar can be emailed at savc@savc.org.za.
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.

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WHERE TO FIND US: 
ROUTE21 CORPORATE PARK, IRENE
Tel: 012 345 6347

WHERE TO FIND US:
SAVC Route21 Corporate Park, Irene

SVC
Dr Victoria Link Street, Route21 Corporate Park, Irene

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

New appointments

**PRESIDENT**

Dr Clive Marwick

Dr Botshoko Ntshabele resigned as DAFF representative in July 2015 and therefore a new President had to be elected. Dr Marwick was appointed President of the SAVC at the full Council meeting on 20 October 2015. He will serve as President for the remainder of the term. We wish him luck and thank him in advance for the time and effort he will, as a member of the Executive Committee and President, make available to the affairs of Council.

**DIRECTOR REGISTRATIONS**

Ms Nicolene van Heerden

We welcome Ms Nicolene van Heerden to the Administration as newly appointed Director Registrations. Nicolene can be contacted at: project@savc.org.za for all enquiries relating to facility, personal and incorporated company registrations as well as CPD requirements.

**PORTFOLIO FOOD SAFETY & SECURITY (FSS)**

Prof Moritz van Vuuren

We welcome Prof Moritz van Vuuren who is appointed to the Portfolio Food Safety and Security (FSS). As a veterinarian who has intimate knowledge of the One Health Concept and Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) he will attend to matters of the FSS and will facilitate and guide the FSS Committee in reaching its goals.

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ELECTION NOTICE OF FRIDAY, 15 JANUARY 2016
NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE TO COMMENCE ON 1 AUGUST 2016 TO 31 JULY 2019

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Regulations relating to the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 published under Notice P2065 in Government Gazette 8402 of 1 October 1982, as amended, that I await the nominations of

- Ten Veterinarians or Veterinary Specialists
- One Veterinary Nurse
- One Veterinary Technologist
- One Laboratory Animal Technologist
- One Animal Health Technician
- One Veterinary Physiotherapist

...to serve on the South African Veterinary Council

- Registered veterinarians or veterinary specialists are entitled to nominate ten veterinarians or veterinary specialists for membership of the Council whilst -
- registered veterinary nurses are entitled to nominate one veterinary nurse,
- veterinary technologists one veterinary technologist,
- laboratory animal technologists one laboratory animal technologist,
- animal health technicians one animal health technician, and
- veterinary physiotherapist one veterinary physiotherapist

The nomination form must be lodged with me before 16h00 on Friday, 15 FEBRUARY 2016.

Nomination forms are available on request from the South African Veterinary Council offices, Tel (012) 345 6347 or can be downloaded under the Member Area at www.savc.org.za, please see links below.

Nomination form English.
Nominasievorm Afrikaans.

An election manifesto must accompany the nomination form. The manifesto must not exceed two hundred words and include the following:

- Academic qualifications
- Career record and achievements
- Special Interest
- Public and professional service
- A mission statement

L HAVINGA
REGISTRAR

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- Are you available to serve your profession on council?
- Are you the nominee or designated member of a specific constituency?
- Are you nominating a colleague for election on council?

If so, note and diarise the election dates as listed in the schedule on p 9 of this newsletter.

GUIDANCE FOR THE NOMINEES

ELECTION MANIFESTO

The election manifesto of each candidate shall not exceed two hundred words and include the following information:

- Academic qualifications
- Career record and achievements
- Special interest
- Public and professional service
- A mission statement

The Administration will edit your manifesto at their discretion should your manifesto exceed two hundred words.

DATES TO BE DIARISED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15 January 2016</td>
<td>Call for nominations will be published in Government Gazette. Nomination forms are available on the member area at <a href="http://www.savc.org.za">www.savc.org.za</a> or can be obtained from the administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 February 2016</td>
<td>Nominations close at 16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 March 2016</td>
<td>Election Notice will be sent out to all registered members by fast mail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5 April 2016</td>
<td>Election Day – The Registrar must receive all votes by no later than 16:00</td>
<td>A business return envelope is provided for purpose of the elections. Please do not send other correspondence or cheques with the business return envelope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 April 2016</td>
<td>Counting votes – Candidates invited as observers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please read what is required when you make yourself available to serve on Council on page 11.

Please view the following links:

- Election programme
- Nomination form - English
- Nominasievorm - Afrikaans

...Continued on page 11
The treatment may vary...

but the result is always the same

...healthy animals!
It Upgrade

Change: How will the SAVC communicate with its members in future

The web portal will be developed in such a manner that emails can be sent in bulk but the members will receive unique administration that it has been done.

Used for communication but will also be used as a tool for registration requirements. The email address will be part of the registration process.

Currently, emails are sent manually and one-by-one. Members will be prompted around 1 April 2016 to insert their details via the web portal. We appreciate and thank you in advance for your co-operation.

The cheese is moving...

With acknowledgement of the author of the book “Who Moved my Cheese”, Dr Spencer Johnson

The Protection of Personal Information Act, Act 4 of 2013 (POPI)

POPI is expected to be fully operational towards the end of 2016. Only those sections dealing with definitions, the establishment the Regulatory Body, regulations and the procedure for making the necessary regulations under POPI came into operation on 11 April 2014.

POPI, once fully enacted, provides how personal information regarding individuals and in certain instances, juristic persons, must be kept and may be disseminated.

Council will devise an implementation plan during the first six months of 2016. This implementation plan will include amongst others, written confidentiality agreements with all Council employees (it is currently part and parcel of each employment agreement) and service providers, the introduction of shredders other than the current one in the legal department, delineated levels of access to information by employees of the Council as required in terms of their job requirements when the new IT system is introduced in April 2016 and regular training of staff members regarding confidentiality of information.

With the introduction of the new IT system you, as members of the professions, will also have electronic access to certain levels of information, such as personal data, subject to certain security measures.

More information will follow once the implementation plan is approved by Council on 8 and 9 March 2016.
Update on Compulsory Veterinary Community Service (CCS)

Questions answered by the SAVC

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 registered with the SAVC after I have qualified to perform services in any capacity?

The completion of a CCS year is a requirement for registration to practice in South Africa. The intention is to ensure that all veterinarians who register for the very first time 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 you be able to practice in SA.

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

Apply to Council to perform locums during your CCS year. Please read the requirements for extension of registration and locum work during the CCS year on page 16.

6. 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.

7. 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 critical skills in SA.

8. Do I need to complete a CCS year if I registered with the SAVC previously but de-registered as I worked abroad and returned 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.

9. 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?

You are personally liable for the professional care and treatment of an animal.

10. 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.

11. Who is responsible for the facility standards from which compulsory veterinary community services 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 are well advised to discuss your enrolment with your mentor as soon as possible. Proof of enrolment for a post-graduate qualification will suffice as proof of CPD.

16. 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.

17. 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 you may practice in SA. If you did not register with the SAVC within three years of qualifying as a veterinarian then you will have to, in addition, prove you kept up to date with your professional skills prior to being granted registration.
Compulsory Veterinary Community Service (CCS)

CCS LOCUMS AND OTHER MATTERS

With the publishing of the CCS legislation in the Government Gazette on 9 November 2015, in the form of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Amendment Act of 2012 and CCS regulations, a CCS year will be required as part of the first-time registration process of qualified veterinarians with the SAVC. The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) will supply the CCS veterinarian with a letter of appointment prior to registration as a CCS veterinarian with the SAVC. After completion of such a CCS year, the veterinarian’s name will be removed from the CCR register held with the SAVC and a registration certificate to practice in SA will be issued.

Following a resolution by the Council (SAVC), all CCS veterinarians will enjoy a so-called “blanket” extension of registration with the SAVC in November and December this year (2015) during which they are allowed to locum. However, as from 1 January 2016, with the official start of the CCS year, they will be required to submit an application for the extension of registration with the SAVC in order to locum. Each case will be considered by Council individually and based on merit. Such an application will typically include a motivation specifying the field in which the CCS veterinarian will perform CCS, a signed approval from the veterinarian’s CCS employer, as well as a supporting letter from the CCS veterinarian’s mentor. Council has to approve such an application before the CCS veterinarian may commence with locums. In the event that a CCS veterinarian wishes to volunteer after hours during the CCS year without the option to earn an income, it would not be necessary to submit an application to Council. However, in these cases it would still be required that the CCS veterinarian obtains approval from the CCS employer.

It is the CCS veterinarian’s responsibility to ensure that the facility wherefrom she/he will render veterinary services, is registered with the SAVC. No medicines may be prescribed or administered in the absence of a practice number. Follow this link for more information alerting veterinarians who practice from unregistered facilities or who practice from mobile facilities without a base facility.

In addition to the above requirements, CCS veterinarians should also ensure that they keep track of the structured and unstructured CPD (Continuing Professional Development) points over their three-year CPD cycle commencing on 1 April 2016. More information relating to CPD can be found on the SAVC’s website or by following this link.

Also see Frequently Asked Questions - CCS for more information, p 14.

FACILITIES

REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY FACILITIES INCLUDING CCS FACILITIES

All facilities from which veterinary services are rendered should be registered with the SAVC and managed by a veterinarian registered with the SAVC. The principal of a veterinary facility, which should be a SAVC registered veterinarian, should submit a facility application form to have a veterinary facility registered.

Such an application form should be accompanied by a minimum standards compliance checklist which can be downloaded from the SAVC’s website. There are different versions of the checklist relating to the registration of different types of veterinary facilities, including:

- clinical veterinary facilities,
- mobile animal service facilities,
- CCS and regulatory service facilities,
- small animal hospitals,
- equine hospitals/clinics,
- production animal hospitals/clinics,
- veterinary behavioural consultancies,
- veterinary laboratory facilities,
- animal research facilities,
- herd health practices (production animals),
- herd health practices (wildlife),
- consultants in industry and other consultancies, and
- non-practising facilities.

Click here for more information in this regard.

The SAVC is in the process of finalising the registration of all Compulsory Veterinary Community Service (CCS) facilities for 2016. The principals of these facilities must ensure that their facilities are in fact registered with the SAVC and that they submitted a completed Rule 26 minimum standards checklist for CCS and regulatory services.

Please contact Ms N van Heerden (project@savc.org.za) or Ms C Block (facilities@savc.org.za) for any questions regarding facility registrations.

Animal health training

LAUNCHING OF UNISA’S MOBILE CLINIC - 24 NOVEMBER 2015

The veterinary mobile clinic that has long been awaited was finally delivered on Friday, 23 October 2015. This event signalled the official commissioning of the use of the mobile clinic to train students as animal health technicians and to provide Animal Health Care to the communities. Mr Johan Oosthuizen was instrumental in this process.
REGISTRATION MATTERS

ALERT TO EMPLOYERS: UNREGISTERED VETERINARY NURSES

The SAVC received enquiries in terms of allowing holders of the ACM40412 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing qualification, an online course presented by TARDI, to enrol for the SAVC examination. The qualification consists of nineteen (19) core units and four (4) electives and is delivered in the form of distance learning by means of using an online learning centre.

Unfortunately, after being reviewed by the SAVC, it was resolved that holders of this qualification will not be allowed to write the veterinary nursing registration examination in order to register as veterinary nurses in South Africa. The reason being that this specific qualification does not expose the holder thereof to the activities required according to the Day One skills and as set out in the minimum standards of training for veterinary nursing in South Africa.

According to Section 20 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982, veterinary nurses are accepted for automatic registration when they apply at the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) if they are the holders of a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Dip. Vet. Nur.) or a Diploma in Curing Animals (Dip. Cur. Anim.). The Dip.Vet. Nur. diploma is currently the only qualification obtainable from the University of Pretoria.

Qualified and registered veterinary nurses are regarded as custodians of a respectable profession and as such they are required to always behave in such a way as to advance the integrity and reputation of their profession.

The main responsibilities of veterinary nurses include the improvement of animal health, ensuring the relief of animal suffering and saving the lives of animals. As such, veterinary nurses deliver an invaluable service by enhancing the physical and emotional wellbeing of both animals and humanity. In order to protect the integrity of this profession, an active effort should be made by employers, especially private practitioners, to guard against the employment of individuals who are not registered with the SAVC to fulfil veterinary or para-veterinary positions. In South Africa, no person may perform the work of a veterinary nurse, or any other veterinary or para-veterinary profession, if such a person is not registered with the SAVC.

Click here to download an application form to register as a veterinary para-professional such as a veterinary nurse

Click here to read more about the Rules to which veterinary nurses should adhere.

Please provide input on the review of these rules. See page 31.

TARDI DIPLOMA IN ANIMAL HEALTH

The SAVC accepted the Diploma in Animal Health offered by Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (TARDI) as a prescribed qualification. Students who complete this course will be granted automatic registration as animal health technicians with the SAVC. TARDI was established in 1904 and as a learning institute, aims to facilitate, coordinate, train and promote primary animal health and rural wealth by means of research and agri-business. For more information on TARDI, please visit their website: http://www.tardi.ac.za/

VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPY AS RECOGNISED PROFESSION

A clear need was identified for the creation of an official recognised profession of veterinary physiotherapist in South Africa. This increase in demand leads to a pressing need for the public and animals to be protected against inadequately qualified therapists. Discussions between the SAVC and a wide range of representatives from this field have been underway since October 2012 (Council dealt with this matter since 1990). Following these discussions, a workshop was established with adequate representation by therapists from a wide range of related occupations.

This workshop advises Council on accreditation of the field and provide recommendations to the SAVC for the registration of the profession. The scope of practice, day one skills and minimum standards were approved in principle by the SAVC. These documents outline the skills required by the veterinary physiotherapist in order to register as a qualified professional with the SAVC.

The SAVC is responsible for the approval of standards of education and training. Training institutions are invited to submit proposed curricula and Self-evaluation Reports for evaluation of, and acceptance by, the SAVC as this is an important step in the registration of a profession. In addition to the submission of curricula to the SAVC, training institutions have to ensure that their proposed veterinary physiotherapy qualifications are accredited with the Council of Higher Education (CHE), registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

Regulations and rules will be published as guidelines for the proposed profession, once formally accepted. These guidelines will refer to matters such as minimum equipment required, practice requirements, record keeping and all other requirements needed in order to practice professionally. Once the profession is officially registered (expected early in the first quarter of 2016), it is anticipated that every person who wishes to register and work in this field in South Africa, will have to complete the prescribed qualification in order to register with the SAVC. All therapists who already practice in the field before the change-over period would have to register with the SAVC within six months after the promulgation of the new profession in order to continue practising. The workshop suggested that a theory and practical examination be approved by the SAVC, in order for current therapists to be registered under the grandfather clause.

The South African Animal Physical Rehabilitation Association (SAAPRA) will act as an association for the profession. The association may offer CPD courses and represent members on the SAVC. Membership of the Association and other information can be obtained from SAAPRA by sending an e-mail to saapra2014@gmail.com.

Marinette Teeling, Chairperson of the working group, can be reached at marinette@equine-librium.co.za or saapra2014@gmail.com.

TARDI Veterinary Clinic used for teaching purposes of the Diploma in Animal Health programme.
EDUCATION & TRAINING

EXAMINATION 2015

Council wishes to thank all examiners who took part in the Council registration examinations.

Thirty four (34) veterinary candidates and two (2) veterinary nursing candidates enrolled to sit the SAVC Registration Examination in 2015. A Computer Based Examination (CBE) was held at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort on 1 - 2 October and an Oral/Practical Examination was held on 6-8 October (veterinarians) and on 9 October 2015 (veterinary nurses).

Both sections of the exam (CBE and oral/practical) had to be completed by every candidate.

Examination results were released by the Council after its meeting held on 20 and 21 October 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VETERINARY EXAMINATION</th>
<th>Number of candidates who sat the CBE</th>
<th>Number of candidates who passed the CBE</th>
<th>Number of candidates who passed both the CBE and practical, oral examination</th>
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<th>VETERINARY NURSING EXAMINATION</th>
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LEFT TO RIGHT: Panels: Veterinary Public Health and Pathology; Companion Animals; Skills Laboratory – Production Animals

REGISTRATION OF COUNCIL REGISTRATION EXAMINATION CANDIDATES

DECLARATION CEREMONY

Dr Clive Marwick, President of the SAVC (2015 – 2016) attended the declaration ceremony on 23 November 2015 at the SAVC office to welcome the new members to the profession who passed the Council registration examination 2015.

Dr Marwick handed over registration certificates to:
- Dr G Patsanza
- Sr Z Britz
- Dr A Rungwe
- Dr B Chiriseri
- Mrs Dinamarie Stoltz (Director Legal)

"I herewith solemnly declare that I will:

practice my profession with honesty and integrity, maintain and uphold high professional and scientific standards,
treat my patients to the best of my knowledge and ability and never intentionally cause them harm,
use my professional knowledge, skills and resources to protect and promote the health and welfare of animals and humans continue to improve my professional knowledge and
strive to further the status and image of the veterinary profession".
How NOT to deal with complaints against a veterinarian!

The letter on the link below was received from a complainant subsequent to a lengthy, protracted complaint procedure over a period of more than eighteen months. The very first question which arises is of course why the procedure was protracted. The simple answer is that the respondent and his legal representatives (three successive sets of legal representatives) tried their utmost not to let the matter be properly investigated (the answering affidavit was only delivered after the Respondent was placed on terms regarding the submission of this clinical records as well as answering affidavit) and secondly, not to proceed to the inquiry. Every attempt to arrange a date for the inquiry, was met with a vast variety of complications and technical obstacles. It was later very difficult to explain to the complainant why the matter did not make any progress.

To aggravate matters the Respondent was advised not to discuss the matter with the complainant by this legal representatives at the time. This obviously precluded the administration from attempting to mediate the matter on receipt of a complaint, as happens often. Mediation can only succeed if both parties are willing to frankly discuss the issues and willing to agree to the give and take implicit in the mediation procedure.

Why do we want to share this e-mail with the profession?

1. The vast majority of complaints received deal with the treatment of companion animals. Companion animals are in many instances as much part of a family as are the children in that family, or they may be substitutes for a lack of family. From that perspective it is important to discuss treatment issues with clients and to forewarn them of possible complications arising from the anticipated treatment. When complications do arise, it is important to discuss those with your client, as they often just want to get closure to grieve the loss of a companion animal. Failure to communicate when complications arise adds greatly to aggravating suspicions and turning suspicions into truths (albeit half truths or erroneous conclusions) in a complainant’s mind, which in turn leads to complaints filed just to get to the truth! An open honest discussion right at the outset can prevent many a complaint from being filed at Council.

2. Protracting the investigation and/or inquiry procedures on purely technical grounds or with stalling tactics are not in the interest of either party. The SAVC introduced a number of measures to expedite new complaints from receipt to a possible inquiry to complete the whole process in approximately six months or less. This can obviously not be achieved without the co-operation from the members against whom complaints are received.

3. The sooner the Investigation Committee can consider both sides of the matter, and if referred to an inquiry, the sooner it is heard, the sooner the proverbial sword over the Respondent’s head will be removed.

Please read what the client wrote by following this link. ■
REMINDERS

RECORD KEEPING

Failure to keep proper records relevant to a number of aspects of practice, but particularly regarding diagnostic imaging (X-rays etc) became the subject of several inquiries during the past few months.

Proper record keeping will assist the veterinarian in answering a complaint. It will assist the veterinarian in recalling the details of a case treated many months previously, which may have been forgotten. Important facts usually need to be submitted in the answering affidavits to Council.

Good records are also important in addressing any uncertainties when taking over the treatment from a colleague.

Members are required to submit their records relevant to a particular case within 72 hours. This specific requirement came into effect on 9 November 2015. Colleagues are well advised to submit records in the prescribed time to facilitate timeous processing and conclusion of the complaint. Failure to submit records within 72 hrs may result in an additional charge of unprofessional conduct against the veterinarian.

VACCINE BATCH NUMBERS AND CERTIFICATION

Although stickers are available, veterinarians should record the vaccination name, batch and expiry date on the patient’s record, as this information may be required later if the vaccination certificate is misplaced by the client. Certificates are legal documents and may only be written and issued by veterinarians. It is important for veterinarians to take certification very seriously as the information and certificates issued may have serious legal implications for the veterinarian if the certificate is questionable or litigation is initiated by the owner, or in the case of horse racing, by the National Horse Racing Authority.

RECORD DISCHARGE INFORMATION

All relevant patient discharge information should be recorded. Discharge instructions, even the obvious, must be provided to clients. Veterinarians deal with people from all walks of life. Depending on the client’s background, level of education or interest in their patient may have a totally different understanding or perspective on the situation as to what we as veterinarians think they may have. Make sure the correct information is given to the client on discharge of the patient, preferably in writing.

FACILITIES HAVE TO BE REGISTERED AND IDENTIFIED

All facilities from which veterinary services are rendered MUST be registered with the SAVC. Mobile facilities (herd health visits, house and farm calls) must have a physically registered base in which medicines are stored and records are kept and from which a mobile service may be rendered.

PERMISSIONS AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Clear and continuous good communication is an essential tool in veterinary practice and will stand colleagues in good stead when a complaint is lodged with the SAVC.

Please remember to obtain permission, from the client for services before embarking on unexpected procedures not previously discussed with the client during the admission of a patient, and provide estimates for the services. In terms of the new rule 9 it is imperative to discuss fees with the client. An approximation of fees must be provided to the client as soon as practically possible after the patient has been examined, when a service is required in addition to the original service required or as soon as possible after a patient has been stabilised in the event of
an emergency. This is also an absolute requirement of the consumer Protection Act, Act 68 of 2008. Though standard fees may be prominently displayed in the reception area, it would be wise to discuss these with the client as well.

VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS

Diagnostic results must be communicated directly with the responsible veterinarian who then interprets these results. Only a veterinarian may interpret results, diagnose conditions and confirm diagnoses. The veterinarian remains responsible for what is communicated with the client.

EMPLYING UNREGISTERED PERSONS:

Several veterinarians in all sectors (animal welfare, private and state services) are the subject of investigation by the IC as they are employing unregistered persons to perform both veterinary and veterinary para-professional services.

Please ensure that only registered persons qualified to render veterinary services and veterinary para-professional services are employed, failure to do so could lead to being charged by the SAVC as well as lead to an investigation into the conduct of the employer or unregistered persons.

TRAINING LAY PERSONS TO RENDER VETERINARY SERVICES

This rule fell by the wayside in the new rules. It may need to be addressed in the second round of review in 2016.

Please do not train lay persons to perform any veterinary services. This has ethical and welfare implications and will lead to investigations under the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary professions Act, Act 19 of 1982 as well as lead to criminal investigations with the SAPS.

VETERINARY SERVICES

If a veterinarian or para-veterinarian renders veterinary or para-veterinary services in an incorporated company, they as directors must be registered with the SAVC. No veterinary services may be rendered, even in laboratories, if all the directors are not registered with the SAVC.

KEEPING AN OPEN SHOP AND PRESCRIBING

Section 34 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982, provides that a veterinarian may not keep an open shop and in addition, may only provide or prescribe medicines for animals under his/her professional care.

WHAT DOES KEEPING AN OPEN SHOP MEAN?

Simply put it means: providing medicines to any person who is not a client and for animals which are not under that veterinarian's direct professional care. The veterinarian has a duty in terms of rule 10 to ensure that the administration of a particular medicine is justified having regard to a number of factors, which means that the veterinarian must personally verify that the administration of a medicine is justified. To this end a veterinarian may not provide/dis pense medicine to any veterinarian or person with whom he/she is not in partnership, or associated as a principal or an assistant or a locum tenens, for treatment of an animal which is not under his/her professional care. This also holds true for compounded medicines and/or autogenous vaccines. It is considered a medicines related offence and constitutes serious unprofessional conduct, which may attract the maximum fine and/or removal from the register.

WHAT DOES “UNDER A VETERINARIAN’S PROFESSIONAL CARE” MEAN?

It means that the specific animal or group of animals must be under the direct care of that particular veterinarian who must satisfy him/herself that the administration of a particular medicine or treatment is justified, having regard to all the relevant facts. In addition, the new rules provide that “the dispensing, distribution, manufacturing, prescription or administration of any prescription medicine, or compounded vaccine or medicine, or any one or more medicines in combination, or the extra-label use of a medicine, in the absence of a “veterinarian-client-patient relationship” constitutes unprofessional conduct.

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GUILTY PLEAS

Council has recently been confronted by an argument that should a veterinarian plead guilty to a charge of unprofessional conduct and such plea is accepted by the Investigation Committee, that only a warning may be issued in terms of section 32 (6C), read with section 33(1)(a) of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982, irrespective of the seriousness of the unprofessional conduct committed.

The argument is opportunistic and disingenuous, as the legislator could never have intended such an unfortunate interpretation. It would also, of necessity, mean that no pleas of guilty would be entertained by the Investigation Committee (IC) in the event of serious unprofessional conduct and that the veterinarian has to go through the full inquiry, with its concomitant stress and legal costs, should a legal representative be appointed.

The process is as follows:

1. The plea of guilty is sent to IC for consideration and recommendation.
2. Should the IC decide to recommend the acceptance of the plea of guilty to the Inquiry Body (IB), it will consider an appropriate sentence.
3. Should the IC (the committee referred to in section 32(6A) of the Act) be of the opinion that only a warning is warranted, it will inform the Administration who will then issue the warning. In such an event the matter does not proceed to an inquiry.
4. Should the IC be of the opinion that the transgression warrants more than a warning, the plea of guilty will be referred to an IB (Inquiry Body) for consideration of the plea prior to conviction and for sentencing purposes.
5. The IB may or may not decide to accept the plea of guilty after a plea explanation is submitted.
6. If the plea of guilty is not accepted by the IB, the matter will proceed to an inquiry.
7. If the plea of guilty is accepted and the respondent convicted, the IB will decide on an appropriate sentence having regard to aggravating and mitigating circumstances presented.

PRACTICE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Council once again reminds members of the veterinary profession in SA that should they wish to practice in neighbouring countries that they would have to register with the registering authorities of those countries.

Council often receives requests from the Veterinary Councils of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia that the professions in South Africa be informed of the requirement of registration in those countries.

Please register before you embark on practicing in neighbouring or for that matter any other countries.

Export or import of medicines are regulated by the Medicines Control Council, Department of Health. Medicines may not be taken across to other countries without the required permits.
### Lay persons advertising

**How can you assist?**

Report: an advertisement where veterinary and para-veterinary services are being advertised by laypersons directly to the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa (ASA) e-mail complaints can be made at: http://www.asasa.org.za/complaints/. Please copy your complaint to legaldirector@savc.org.za

ASA Postal Address: P.O. Box 41555, Craighall, Johannesburg, 2024.

Telephone: (011) 781-2006, Fax: (011) 781-1616, info@asasa.org.za

**What should you complain about?**

ASA is an independent body set up and paid for by the marketing communications industry to regulate advertising in the public interest to ensure that the content of advertising meets the requirements of the Code of Advertising Practice.

Section 3.3 of this Code states:

“Advertisements should not contain anything which might lead or lend support to criminal or illegal activities, nor should they appear to condone such activities.”

In terms of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 19 of 1982 persons who are not registered with the SAVC may not perform veterinary and / or para-veterinary services and are contravening the Act therefore the advertisement could lead or lend support to criminal or illegal activities.

Section 4.2.1 of the Code prohibits misleading claims:

“Advertisements should not contain any statement or visual presentation which, directly or by implication, omission, ambiguity, inaccuracy, exaggerated claim or otherwise, is likely to mislead the consumer.”

Advertising of veterinary/ para-veterinary services by lay persons may mislead consumers that the advertisers have the necessary skills to perform the services. To protect consumers these advertisements should not be permitted.

**Why Should You Complain And Not Leave This To Council?**

Members of the profession are Council’s eyes and ears and participation by ALL will ensure that ALL advertisements are identified. It would also have a greater impact if a number of individuals complain as opposed to only the Council.

**What will Council do to assist?**

Once the Council administration has received a copy of your complaint the ASA will be contacted and it will be confirmed that the advertiser is not registered with Council and that the rendering of such a service will be in contravention of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act.

**Will this make a difference?**

This will only assist in part as not all advertisers subscribe to the Code. However: The Consumer Protection Act is in place and any person who makes a false, misleading or deceptive representation will be brought to book.

### Transporting animals by sea

The SAVC resolved to revise its original statement on the export of animals by sea. The abovementioned statement was issued after a discussion between various veterinary, animal welfare and state veterinary service stakeholders in July 2013. The health and welfare of the animals being transported are of primary concern to the SAVC. The SAVC therefore encourages members of the profession to strictly apply and constantly seek to improve these standards of animal health and welfare. Should any of these standards not be adhered to or compromised, veterinarians are encouraged to not sign any certification that would allow the release of these animals to be transported.

[Link to OIE guidelines](http://www.oie.int/en)

### Pitfalls in signing veterinary certificates

Council took cognisance of the problems arising from the issuing of veterinary certificates for the export and import of milk to South Africa and decided that the veterinary profession had to be informed of the pitfalls and inherent risks in signing these veterinary certificates.

Veterinarians (private and state) are often requested to sign certificates supplied by the receiving country that firstly certified that the animals from which the milk originated are free of any and/or all diseases and secondly, these certificates are sometimes presented in a language foreign to the certifying veterinarian.

It was unanimously decided by Council that a reasonable veterinarian cannot certify that such animals are free from any and/or all diseases. A reasonable veterinarian will state what specific diseases are being referred to, subsequent to taking reasonable steps, including testing if necessary, to ensure that the information being certified is indeed correct.

A reasonable veterinarian should also not sign a certificate in a foreign language, unless a proper translation is made available so that the veterinarian knows exactly what he/she is certifying.

General advice is that a veterinarian should only certify to that which he/she personally knows or establishes or tests (facts that are professionally verifiable), that which can be substantiated by other registered veterinarians or registered veterinary para-professionals, information that is not vague in any respect and in a language he/she understands (in a translation at hand when certifying).

Conduct to the contrary may be regarded as unprofessional conduct.

### Veterinary Certificates

The NSPCA would like to bring an urgent matter to the attention of the South African Veterinary Council. This matter involves many members of the veterinary profession. When issuing certificates stating that an animal is fit to compete in any organised working event, we believe that every effort should be made to ascertain what exactly the event entails and what effect it would have on that specific animal..... please read further on this link.

#### Certificate

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- [Link to OIE guidelines](http://www.oie.int/en)
Exploitation of veterinarians by employers and stress

Apart from long hours, owner expectations, business and staff issues, employers - especially non-veterinary employers - are often added to the list of stressors in the life of especially young veterinarians.

Some employers, despite being involved in the animal welfare sector, are often only interested in the income generated by the veterinarian and sometimes also misuse the veterinarian to gain illegal access to medicines (sometimes for purposes of substance abuse.)

Exploitation of veterinarians, especially young and inexperienced veterinarians, appears to becoming more and more prevalent. Non-veterinary employers that are the owners of the physical veterinary facilities are often under the wrong impression that they may dictate the terms of veterinary practice. Veterinary practice, including record keeping and practising the profession, as well as the control of medicines, are out of bounds for non-veterinary employers, whether they paid for any of the facilities, or the medicines that are used by the veterinarian, or not - these remain strictly the responsibility of the veterinarian. These employers may furthermore not be permitted to dictate the terms in any matters relating to the treatment of animals.

The same can be said for the wildlife industry. No employer may dictate the terms according to which a veterinarian must perform his/her treatment of an animal and/or prescribe and use medicines. The welfare of the animals must always be the ultimate consideration.

The relevant legislation is clear as to who may or who may not render veterinary services and use and be in possession of scheduled medicines. Employers may not order scheduled medicines on behalf of the veterinarian unless the veterinarian prescribed such medicines and upon receipt of the medicines open the delivery thereof themselves and are in control of the use of those medicines, neither may these employers be in personal possession of certain medicines.

Many employers appoint veterinarians without providing the veterinarian with an employment contract. Veterinarians have a right not to commence work without a signed contract. Please insist on an employment contract before you commence work. Ensure that the terms of the contract are clear and that you have inserted a clause which will protect you from performing work in contravention of any of the legislation governing veterinary practice and which clause will give you the final authority in all such matters.

Veterinarians are encouraged and advised to, when in doubt or for whatever reason, contact the SAVC’s Legal section or the Registrar for advice. Do not be the subject of exploitation as this will cause unnecessary stress!

A. You are invited to attend the following workshops. Their aim is to promote discussions on the review of the rules of the veterinary para professions.

Review of the rules workshops will be held as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATES AND TIMES:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop 1:</td>
<td>Veterinary Nursing Veterinary Physiotherapy [this profession will come on board in the beginning of 2016] Thursday, 28 January 2016 at 9:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop 2:</td>
<td>Animal Health Technicians Friday, 29 January 2016 at 9:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop 3:</td>
<td>Veterinary Technologists Laboratory Animal Technologists Thursday, 11 February 2016 at 9:00</td>
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Venue: SAVC Offices, 26 Victoria Link Street, Route 21 Corporate Park, Nellmapius Drive, Irene, Gauteng.

RSVP: Ms Sonia Nkwana at meetings@savc.org.za before or on Friday, 8 January 2016. If you cannot attend please work through your representative on Council.

B. DOCUMENTATION TO FORM THE BASIS OF WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

- You are invited to submit your input [including the business plans] on the review of the rules for discussion at the workshop pertaining to your profession.
- These inputs may be collated for the respective professions. Workshop discussions will be collated
- The Review Committee will review the rules [4 March 2016]
- Input will be invited by SMS and reviewed rules will be placed on the SAVC’s website for a period of approximately two months [end May 2016]
- The Review Committee will finalize the inputs

C. THE WAY FORWARD

- Input will be invited by SMS and reviewed rules will be placed on the SAVC’s website for a period of approximately two months [end May 2016]
- The Review Committee will finalize the inputs
- Input will be invited by SMS and reviewed rules will be placed on the SAVC’s website for a period of approximately two months [end May 2016]
- The Review Committee will finalize the inputs
- A meeting will be held between the Review Committee and representatives of associations (including the representatives serving on Council) for approval by Council [Tuesday, 24 May 2016]
- The rules should be approved by Council by the end of June 2016 for publication in Government Gazette. [A new term of office of Council will commence on 31 July 2016].
education and training courses should be based on international standards; existing courses provided by the Institute of Animal Technology (UK) should form the basis for theoretical training of Laboratory Animal Technologists, followed by practical training in South African institutions; it would be valuable to have internationally recognised, FELASA-accredited courses available in South Africa; specific courses should be established for animal ethics committees and animal caretakers; all persons who design animal experiments should undergo training; education and training in animal welfare and the 3Rs should be mandatory for all animal research personnel; and there should be specific laws in South Africa that govern the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

It was agreed that SAALAS should play a central role towards establishing education and training courses. Five SAALAS Working Groups, who report to the SAALAS Executive, were constituted to drive this forward for 1) Laboratory Animal Technologists, 2) Designated Veterinarians, 3) Scientists, 4) Animal Ethics Committees, and 5) Animal Welfare & The 3Rs. It is further envisioned that future SAALAS Scientific Conferences will incorporate “train the trainer” workshops, focused satellite meetings for these personnel classes, and offer opportunities for accredited Continuing Professional Development.

There was broad agreement that a pan-African initiative is required to ensure high quality education and training in laboratory animal science on the continent, a venture that could be driven in cooperation with ICLAS and other partner organisations.

The South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SAALAS) convened a special conference in Pretoria, South Africa, 25-27 November 2015, to establish the education and training needs in the field of Laboratory Animal Science in Southern Africa and to develop targeted solutions to address these needs. The conference was widely advertised and attended by 83 delegates (i.e., 72 national and 11 international).

A common education and training framework was sought to assure the competence of all persons involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, and to meet the requirements of regulatory and national standards, in order to ensure appropriate scientific quality, animal wellbeing and compliance.

Consideration was given to the education and training of veterinary professionals, laboratory animal technologists and other para-veterinary professionals, scientists and study directors, animal ethics committees, facility managers and animal caretakers. Solutions were approached in the context of national and African needs, accreditation and quality standards, available resources, animal welfare and the Three Rs (i.e. to Replace, Refine and Reduce the use of animals in research). Dynamic interactive discussion sessions were facilitated after each conference topic to ensure continuous stakeholder engagement.

Recognised international experts informed on current education and training structures and best practice recommendations – including the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA), the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS), the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs, UK), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Leeds University (UK), the University of Manouba (Tunisia), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) and the New University of Lisbon (Portugal).

Local speakers and delegates highlighted South African challenges, laws, policy and need – including the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), the National Council for the SPCAs (NSPCA), the National Department of Science & Technology (DST), the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC), South African universities, research councils, animal ethics committee chairpersons and members, animal facility directors and managers, veterinary and para-veterinary professionals, scientists, wildlife experts, technical staff, research organisations and industry.

The conference culminated in a workshop for stakeholder engagement to chart the way forward. There was unanimous agreement (100%) that there is a need today for education and training courses for animal research personnel; that government should invest in establishing courses to ensure high scientific quality; all researchers who perform procedures on animals should undergo competency training; and both basic and advanced-level courses are required for veterinary and para-veterinary professionals.

There was strong agreement (>95%) that South African
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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

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