The President’s Message

Colleagues

The year is nearing an end and although many activities have taken place since the publication of our Newsletter in June/July 2016 we still need to do more work.

You were introduced to your new Councillors. Please contact any of us in the event that you wish to discuss matters with us. You will find our contact details published in every Newsletter.

I reported to you on the mini-congress held in June 2016 at the SAVC’s offices and invited you to provide us with your ideas by contacting the Business Analyst, Adv Lynette Myburgh who was appointed to assess whether Council and its Administration were performing according to the objectives of the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act and whether we were still relevant in these changing and challenging times.

We subsequently received Adv Myburgh’s Business Analysis report and the analysis was discussed in depth by the chairpersons of committees and members of Council on 13 September 2016. A report in response to the Business Analysis was produced and submitted to the full Council for discussion at its meeting which will be held on 25 and 26 October 2016. We will make the details available to all members of the veterinary professions once Council has deliberated on, and responded to the report.

“A report in response to the Business Analysis was produced and submitted to Council for discussion.”
In the interim, Council, in line with the schedule for review of the veterinary rules [announced on November 2015] and taking cognisance of your concerns, has taken the following steps:

• In the interest of transparency: ten seats available to the veterinary professions to attend Council meetings. The ten seats were taken up within a very short period of the publication of the first such invitation. Thank you for your response.

• In order to clarify a number of your concerns relating to the rules pertaining to medicines, especially in the wildlife field, a meeting was held with the Registrar of Medicines, Dr Joey Gouws on Wednesday, 5 October 2016. We will report on the outcome of this meeting.

• In order to obtain input from the veterinary profession [and legal representatives] on the Council’s so-called prosecuting attitude a workshop on the so-called prosecuting attitude a was held on Thursday, 10 November 2016. By now you should have received the invitation to attend this workshop.

• In order to obtain input from the veterinary profession on the practical implementation of the rules relating to laboratories a workshop is scheduled for Thursday, 10 November 2016 and you will receive an invitation to attend the workshop;

• Council sent out short information messages to the veterinary professions on developments affecting how you function in daily practice or employment. Amongst other messages we informed you about the new financial system, the fraudsters taking advantage of the veterinary professionals and of members of the professions, CPD defermont policy, CPD audits, and most recently Letters of Good Professional Standing and an explanation on routine inspections and inspection fees.

Please attend, where possible, all the events referred to above and/or make input on the rules for the veterinary profession as the outcomes will affect you.

I wish to thank my fellow Councillor and chairperson of the Review Committee, Dr Anne de Vos, as well as Mrs Dinamari Stoltz, Director Legal Affairs for the many hours spent on soliciting input from you, reviewing the rules and working tirelessly to redraft the rules in support of the changes.

Council was also affected by the recent student uprisings experienced by the Universities throughout the country, albeit marginally so, as the Council’s annual registration examinations are outsourced to the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP and Tshwane University of Technology with involvement of examiners from both academia and private practice. Possible challenges were foreseen with access to Onderstepoort and the Tshwane campus for both the examiners and the candidates. I wish to thank our colleagues, Prof Barrie Penhouri, Examination Officer and the moderators, Dr Rebone Moerane, Dr Thehelani Millo, Mr Johan Oosthuizen, Dr Keith Perrett, Mr Ester Botha, and Ms Carin Boshoff, all the examiners and Mrs Leonie Westcott, Director Examinations and her team, who ensured that the arrangements for the examinations ran smoothly. We are in support of speedy solutions to the impasse currently experienced at Universities, as our veterinary and para-veterinary students are affected by these detrimental events as they near the end of their academic years and need to progress either to graduation or to the next study year. We wish them all the best for the examinations and trust that you will be able to progress to the next level.

South Africa’s current economic challenges impact on our veterinary professions. Furthermore, taking into account the drought in the country and the impact thereof on farmers and their animals, our professions are in some way affected, to that extent, not least of all by the stress it causes. Council is cognisant of these challenges and your concerns. Again, I have to thank my colleague, Dr Anne De Vos who fulfils the responsibilities of chairperson of the stress portfolio and has invited a number of veterinary and para-veterinary professionals to attend a workshop on stress on Wednesday, 8 November 2016. There are limited seats available. Please attend the workshop if you need to either discuss your concerns or if you are able to offer your support and comment on what is required to provide support to the veterinary professions.

Prof Moritz van Vuuren, Director Food Safety and Security of the SAVC wrote an article for this Newsletter on the One Health Concept and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). These matters are essential to our role as the veterinary team. Please familiarise yourselves with these interesting concepts. We reported to Parliament on the annual financial statements 2015/2016 and activities of Council as per the integrated annual report on Tuesday, 18 October 2016 with emphasis on the matters raised in our presentations to the veterinary team in Food Safety and Security.

I thank my colleagues Drs John Adam and Peter Oberem and Mr Sive Nqawe, Deputy Director Finance for their support during my tenure as chairperson of the Finance Committee. I wish John all the best as chairperson of the new Finance Committee. We secured a bond over the SAVC’s property when it was purchased in 2000 but as it has not yet reached maturity we are currently looking at ensuring that the finances of Council are well run and that we will still have access thereto. The finances of Council are well run and the examinations ran smoothly. We reported to Parliament on the finalisation of the data base [IT] upgrade and the opening of the web portal to members of the veterinary professions before the end of this year. I will report on this matter in December 2016.

Regards,
Clive Marwick
President, SAVC

“The inspectorate is up and running and the first projects have been allocated to service providers.”

The inspectorate is up and running and the first projects have been allocated to service providers. Ms Mbal Nqobos, Deputy Director Investigations facilitates these investigations of alleged conduct of especially lay persons who render services impersonating veterinary professionals.

We are well on our way with the routine inspections of veterinary facilities and we have received positive reports from the inspectors. Sr Tere Lace, chairperson of the Inspections [routine] Committee and Dr Anthony Erasmus, member of the Inspections [routine] Committee and facilitator of inspectors’ training, are closely involved with these routine inspections. By now you should have received an explanation on the background leading up to these inspections and on how we arrived at the inspection fees. Please comment on these matters.

The facility inspection co-ordinator, Ms Minette Stijnemans can be contacted for any clarity on these inspections.

Finally, we are eagerly waiting for Council to finalise the new financial system and process about the recent upgrade of the SAVC’s data base system. You will usually receive only one statement per annum. However, should there be any movements other than maintenance on your account you will receive further statements to reflect the movements on your account.

CCS VETERINARIANS OF 2016

CCS veterinarians of the year 2016 who completed their CCS year and complied with all their employers’ contractual responsibilities may commence work in the veterinary field on 1 January 2017 without formal written confirmation of registration.

Veterinarians who did not complete the CCS year and/or did not comply with their employment contracts should not commence work on 1 January 2017.

THE SAVC EMBRACES ONE HEALTH

The traditional public health model used in food producing animals at all, unless the veterinarian can justify its use at the hand of a sensitivity test and as a very just resort to treat an animal.

AHS VACCINATION PERIOD...

A reminder that according to the Act every horse within the AHS infected area and the AHS protection zone MUST be vaccinated yearly against AHS according to the same Act.

A NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

A new financial system and process came about with the recent upgrade of the SAVC’s data base system.
The South African Veterinary Council embraces One Health

PROF MORITZ VAN VUUREN, DIRECTOR FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY, SAVC

The first global annual One Health Day is scheduled to take place on the 3rd of November 2016 to promote efforts around the world to bring together all human, animal and environmental health disciplines (www.onehealthday.org). The objective is to raise awareness about the One Health approach to complex health problems involving people, animals and the environment. In support of this initiative, it is appropriate for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions to be aware of the SAVC’s support for the One Health concept.

There are several definitions documented for One Health, but in its most basic description the One Health approach recognises the relationships between human, animal and environmental health, and applies interdisciplinary tools to solve complex public health problems. The traditional public health model deals with health issues in the context of animal and human populations and the environment in which they occur, with a recognition that there are interfaces where at times these domains may overlap. In contrast, the One Health concept supports a position that states that the health of animals, humans and the environment are interlinked and not limited to interfaces, and that disease problems impacting the health of humans, animals, and the environment must be solved through improved communication, cooperation, and collaboration across disciplines and institutions.

Why should the SAVC concern itself with the One Health concept?

Traditional approaches and past requisite skills and levels of knowledge may not be commensurate with the rapid changes and new demands of food-animal industries and the shifting requirements needed for public health, biomedical research and the global food system (KPMG study, 1999). It has been documented that of the 1,461 diseases now recognised in humans, approximately 60% are due to multi-host pathogens characterized by their movement across species lines (Torrey EF, Yolken RH, 2005. Beasts of the Earth, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press). In addition, over the last three decades, approximately 75% of new emerging human infectious diseases have been zoonotic (Taylor LH, Latham SM, Woolhouse ME, 2001. Risk factors for human disease emergence. Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci, 356: 983-989). More efforts are therefore made to address zoonotic diseases in an interdisciplinary way as exemplified by the recent diagnosis of human Brucella melitensis infection in the Western Cape (Wojno et al, 2016). The authors of this publication emphasised the need for strengthening integration between public health, medical and veterinary services and exposing deficiencies in public health, veterinary and laboratory practices.

The control of infectious diseases is central to One Health. Our increasing interdependence with animals and their products may well be the single most critical risk factor to our health and well-being with regard to infectious diseases. The One Health approach is not however, limited to infectious diseases, as non-communicable conditions are also crossing species with adverse effects to both animals and humans, e.g. climate change, agro- and bio-terrorism, obesity and toxicities.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN and the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasised in its tripartite 2010 policy statement that Member States must enhance and support the integration of animal, human and environmental health for the mutual benefit of all.

The SAVC as the statutory body for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions has a responsibility to ensure that veterinarians and para-veterinarians registered by the Council are sufficiently informed to be able to play meaningful roles in multidisciplinary teams dealing with high impact diseases at interfaces. To achieve this objective, the SAVC plays an oversight role to ensure that the One Health agenda is incorporated into the veterinary and para-veterinary curricula.

The SAVC also encourages veterinary interest groups and branches of the different veterinary associations to consider the participation of environmentalists, ecologists, health professionals in its meetings/conferences where aspects of One Health are included in the agenda. An excellent example of this approach is the upcoming World Small Animal Veterinary Association’s symposium entitled “Preventing obesity in people and their pets: a One Health approach” (www.wsava-obesity.com). The vision for the outcome of this meeting, is a world where regular activity, a balanced diet and healthy weight are part of every family’s life.

The South African Veterinary Council has also shown its commitment to the control of resistance to antimicrobial drugs when it signed the Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy Framework, thereby linking it with several organisations in the human health and environmental domains that will work towards resistance control in the future. Resistance to antimicrobial drugs is today arguably the biggest One Health issue on the globe, and the SAVC has positioned itself through its Food Safety and Food Security Committee to collaborate with other regulatory and professional organisations in activities that address the antimicrobial drug dispensing and prescribing behaviour of its members, including training opportunities as part of continuing professional development.

In the final analysis, the SAVC supports the expansion of the trans-disciplinary networks of all veterinarians and para-veterinarians, and a greater awareness of the interconnectivity of human, animal and environmental health.
Colistin use by Veterinarians

REGISTRAR OF MEDICINES

It is recommended that Colistin not be used in food producing animals at all, unless the veterinarian can justify its use at the hand of a sensitivity test and as a very last resort to treat an animal. Any conduct to the contrary would be regarded by Council as unprofessional conduct.

Please read the message from the Registrar of Medicines, Dr Joey Gouws, addressed to all veterinarians.

Antibiotics have played a vital role in human and animal health care for more than 50 years. There is growing awareness about bacterial resistance to antibiotics, and recently with a special focus on colistin. Until fairly recently, it was believed that Gram-negative bacteria develop resistance to colistin through mutation or adaptation mechanisms. Plasmid-induced resistance has been described early in 2016 following the discovery of the mcr-1 gene. The mcr-1-containing plasmid was found to have a high rate of in vitro transfer in E. coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. The gene was transferable via the food chain and via environmental contamination. The new mechanism of spread of resistance (plasmid-mediated) is a serious concern because of the potential spill-over between humans and animals.

The polymyxin group of antibiotics to which colistin belongs were replaced by other antibiotics in the 1970s as a result of concerns about nephro- and neurotoxicity. However, in the domain of animal health, colistin has been used for decades as an effective and relatively cheap antibiotic, especially in the feed and water of pigs and poultry. Poor absorption of colistin from the intestines precluded toxicity problems in animals.

The emergence of carbapenemase-producing bacteria (CPE) of the family Enterobacteriaceae globally and also in South African hospitals poses the greatest threat to patient safety in terms of antibiotic resistance. Treatment of CPE commonly necessitates use of the last line of antibiotic defense, namely colistin. Where resistance to colistin exists in CPE, it effectively renders the infection untreatable. CPE have now spread throughout South Africa.

At the Medicines Control Council meeting of April 2015, Council decided that there is a need for a broader consultation by setting up an MCC-driven Inter-departmental Joint Working Group for all different role players. During the first meeting of the Colistin Working Group on 20 April 2016, concerns were expressed about the compounding of colistin and its veterinary use in the feed and water of food-producing animals. Large quantities of colistin active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) are imported into the country and compounded. Recommendations from the Working Group on the future of colistin will be submitted to the MCC when all relevant information from stake holders have been reviewed.

In the interim, this communication is an appeal to the veterinary profession to stop using colistin altogether on a voluntary basis. Compliance with this request will indicate that the veterinary profession is serious about contributing to the control of resistance by applying responsible antibiotic stewardship for the benefit of humans and animals. In the event that colistin is prescribed, it should only be used based on susceptibility assays which show the drug to be the only effective molecule.

Dear Colleagues

Please see the letter received from OBP supporting the AHS vaccination restriction period, and reminding everyone in the infected area to have their horses vaccinated against AHS as soon as possible before the summer.

A reminder that within the controlled area vaccination CANNOT be done after the 31st October.

In the surveillance and free zones vaccination CANNOT occur without permission from the state PRIOR to vaccination. Please ensure clients realise this, and realise that vaccination outside after the 31st October will be in contravention of the Animal Diseases Act and therefore the owner and the veterinarian that gave the vaccine could be prosecuted under the Act.

A reminder that according to the Act every horse within the AHS infected area and the AHS protection zone MUST be vaccinated yearly against AHS according to the same Act.

OBP should be commended for their proactive and responsible approach in the issuing of this letter.

Dr Camilla Mehtar-Weyer
Equine Research Centre,
Cape Town,
DAFF authorised Veterinarian.

AHS vaccination restriction period

To: ALL Veterinarians
Date: 28 September 2016

RE: AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS) VACCINATION PERIOD

The AHS vaccination period is from June – October which is coming to an end. OBP has enough stock of AHS vaccine and we encourage all veterinarians to remind horse owners about the importance of AHS vaccination period.

For further details please contact us on the call centre number 012 522 1684 or email us on onderstec@obpvaccines.co.za

Yours sincerely

Dr Jacob Moduno
Business Development Officer

Die use

Dr Jacob Moduno
Business Development Officer
Veterinary Technologists in South Africa and their profession

RIETTE THERON, PRESIDENT OF THE SAAVT

Veterinary technology is a branch of veterinary science, the goal of which is the application of technology and laboratory techniques to analyse a diverse set of samples of animal origin to assist with the diagnosis, prevention, control, treatment and rehabilitation of illness and disease in animals. A veterinary technologist is a professional who applies these technologies and performs the laboratory techniques.

The veterinarian is the team leader in the veterinary health team. As team leader s/he is ultimately responsible for the diagnosis and treatment plan. The rest of the team may consist of any one or more of the following professionals, the veterinary nurse, the veterinary technologist, the animal health technician and the laboratory animal technologist.

A veterinary specialist is a veterinarian who has an advanced level of knowledge in one or more of the defined fields within the veterinary profession through post-graduate training and qualification.

A veterinary nurse assists a veterinarian to save lives, relieve suffering and promote health.

A veterinary technologist performs laboratory procedures for confirmation of diagnosis. They are trained to conduct the laboratory diagnostics and other biological sample procedures required by the veterinary team.

An animal health technician helps with the prevention of the spread of disease: disease surveillance, vaccination and parasite control programmes, abattoir inspections, meat inspections and community education.

A laboratory animal technologist provides comprehensive care for the welfare of animals used for scientific purposes including research, testing and teaching.

Training of Veterinary Technologists at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)

TUT is currently the only training institution which offers the prescribed qualification accepted by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) for purposes of automatic registration with the SAVC.

Entrance requirements to enrol for a qualification accepted by the SAVC for automatic registration

A National Senior Certificate with an endorsement of a bachelor’s degree or a diploma, or an equivalent qualification, with an achievement level of at least 4 for English (home language or first additional language), 3 for Life Sciences, 3 for Mathematics, and 3 for Physical Sciences. To be considered for this qualification, applicants must have an Admission Points Score (APS) of at least 19. Applicants with a score of 20 and more are invited for interviews. The APS contributes 40% to the final admission score and the interview contributes 20%. Applicants with a score of 19-25 are invited to perform the TUT potential assessments and interviews. The APS contributes 40% to the final admission score, the TUT potential assessments contributes 40% and the interviews contributes 20%.

The duration of the National Diploma Veterinary Technology is three and a half-years’ full time study. It consists of six semesters of formal training with one semester of suitable experiential training. A student is not permitted to enrol for the second-semester subjects unless he or she has passed at least four subjects in the first semester. A minimum of 90% attendance is compulsory for all practical sessions. A student is not permitted to register for Work Integrated Learning (WIL) if he or she has not passed all the subjects prescribed for the first six academic semesters. Work Integrated Learning is offered in-house at TUT in the Veterinary Skills Training Laboratory. All prescribed compulsory and chosen subjects (instructional offerings) as well as the Work Integrated Learning component must be passed in order to obtain sufficient credits to comply with the requirements of successful completion of the course/programme.

TUT has an Advisory Committee which meets annually. Industry members are always invited to attend these annual meetings, as this is the appropriate forum to discuss the improvements of training. Veterinary technologists are trained in various disciplines, and not only one, as requested by Industry. New subjects were added to the course in the past couple of years. Industry compiled the curriculum from the start of this profession around 1974, and TUT (previously Technikon Pretoria) continually adjusted the curriculum of this course having had regard for stakeholder inputs and the conducted “Day 1 competencies” approved by the SAVC, the Day 1 competencies are realistic outcomes for the holders of the National Diploma as offered by TUT. All the subjects are monitored on an annual basis by Council, using experts (including veterinarians) in the relevant fields to ensure the training remains relevant to market needs.

An internal audit was conducted by the Quality Department and an external audit was conducted by the SAVC in 2015. The SAVC recommended that the National Diploma be replaced with a professional degree. The SAVC will conduct a follow-up visit to TUT in the near future to monitor progress. The curriculum for the degree programme will involve collaboration with the Department of Higher Education (DHET). TUT commenced with the re-curriculum process.

TUT recently built a modern skills training or work integrated learning (WIL) laboratory, as well as purchased a mobile laboratory for student training and community engagement. TUT will embark on a road show in 2017 and visit all SAVC registered laboratories in order to obtain first-hand feedback from the veterinary profession and laboratory representatives who don’t necessarily attend the TUT advisory committee meetings or who do not have interaction with TUT. The groundwork for the road show is currently being looked into.

The profession of a Veterinary Technologist

Veterinary technologists play an important role in the maintenance of animal health and productivity in South Africa. This is mainly a laboratory orientated career and their tasks consist firstly, of diagnostic work to determine the cause of sickness or death of animals. Secondly, they are involved in technical and field studies in research, working with professional teams of researchers.

Veterinary technologists are also employed in quality control of veterinary products and the production of biological products such as antigens for diagnostic tests and vaccines for the prevention of disease. All of these duties are performed keeping the ethical code of the profession in mind. Veterinary technologists form part of animal health teams to achieve a high level of animal health care.

As stated above veterinary technologists are not trained in only one discipline, but in a combination of different fields. These fields are included in the Day 1 competencies and include the following fields: General laboratory practise and quality, Microbiology, Histology, Haematology, Biochemistry, Virology, Immunology & Serology, Entomology, Protozoology, Helminthology, Molecular Biology and Experimental animal technology.

The South African Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAAVT)

The SAAVT is currently investigating the possibility of recognising other qualifications for registration purposes with the SAVC. This however, has its own challenges, as the standard of training of these other qualifications would have to be monitored by the SAVC, which in effect would perhaps entail a rise in fees to cover the costs, should the holders of other qualifications and the institutions who offer these qualifications, as well as the relevant regulators of those professions be monitored for the SAVC. This however, has its own challenges, as the standard of training of these other qualifications would have to be monitored by the SAVC, which in effect would perhaps entail a rise in fees to cover the costs, should the holders of other qualifications and the institutions who offer these qualifications, as well as the relevant regulators of those professions be monitored for the SAVC.
IDENTIFY KIDNEY DISEASE SOONER, INTERVENE EARLIER

Experts call it revolutionary.
You’ll call it life changing

Dogs • On average, 9 months earlier than creatinine
Cats • On average, 17 months earlier than creatinine

As little as 25% of kidney function remaining at time of diagnosis with CREA
Up to 60% of kidney function remaining at time of diagnosis with SDMA

SAVC Guidelines for the Care and Use of Animals in Schools

DR BERT MOHR, COUNCILLOR AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIALISATION

All members and in particular veterinarians and para-veterinarians involved in research and laboratories are especially requested to comment on these proposed guidelines. Once these guidelines are finalised it will be submitted to the Department of Basic Education and Schools. Kindly send your input to this address: education@savc.org.za

Please click on this link for the full details on the proposed guidelines

Introduction

Educational institutions, including schools and agricultural colleges, should be aware of and comply with South African requirements for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, including for education, teaching, training and research. Requirements extend to the review and approval of animal care and use by Animal Ethics Committees (AECs); the housing, husbandry, care and standards of facilities or areas where animals are kept; oversight of animal welfare; and the competence of the persons who are involved.

Scientific purposes include imparting or demonstrating knowledge or techniques to achieve an educational outcome, as may be specified in the relevant curriculum or competency requirement. These guidelines apply to all primary and secondary educational institutions, and to all schools including agricultural schools.

It is expected that all animals used in educational activities will receive a high standard of care, that their wellbeing will be supported and safeguarded in accordance with the governing principles outlined in these guidelines, that their use will occur only in accordance with approval from an Animal Ethics Committee, and that the care, health and welfare of the animals will be guided under appropriate veterinary supervision.

www.idexxsdma.com

Dogs • On average, 9 months earlier than creatinine
Cats • On average, 17 months earlier than creatinine

25%
60%
Are you a compliant professional?

It has come to Council’s notice that several veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals are in default of the following requirements and may be unaware of the serious consequences.

Members of the veterinary and veterinary para-professions have certain obligations under the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982 and its regulations and rules.

This information is a quick summary as a reminder of these obligations:

- Registration must be maintained on an ongoing basis, which includes providing personal information including contact details and physical and postal addresses required annually by the SAVC, as well as prompt payment of your maintenance fee;
- Inform the SAVC within three months of changing your name and/or surname, as well as physical address or practice/employer;
- Comply with continuing professional development (CPD) requirements and submit proof of CPD activities undertaken in a particular cycle when requested to do so by the SAVC;
- Be registered as a specialist with the SAVC when advertising specialist services;
- Employ only registered professionals to perform the services of a veterinarian or the services of a veterinary para-professional;
- Render veterinary services from a registered veterinary facility at all times;
- Submit the clinical records of a particular case immediately upon request by the SAVC;
- Comply with decisions of an Inquiry Body and/or the SAVC relating to the sentence of and the penalty handed down following an investigation into your conduct;
- At all times act in a professional manner becoming of your profession;
- Be competent and fit to practice;
- Comply with all relevant South African legislation; and
- Do not train lay persons to perform veterinary or para-veterinary services.

Please contact the administration at legaldirector@savc.org.za should you require assistance with the interpretation of the above requirements.

Are you rendering services for which you need extension of your registration?

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 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.

Letters of Good Professional Standing (LOGS)

DR CLIVE MARWICK, PRESIDENT

Council resolved at its meeting held on 26 & 27 July 2016 to reflect only the following information on Letters of Good Professional Standing (LOGS) issued to other regulatory bodies in respect of unprofessional conduct:

1. Pending investigations; It will then be for the receiving body to decide whether to accept the LOGS;
2. Current suspended sanctions (sentences)- [after the period of suspension lapsed, the unprofessional conduct finding will not be mentioned in the LOGS]; and
3. Criminal offences.

It effectively means that previous findings will not be reflected in the LOGS, unless a suspension from the register, which was suspended for a particular period of time, subject to certain conditions, is still current on the date that the LOGS is requested.

In the past, all prior findings of guilty and the sanctions were recorded in a LOGS. Pending investigations were not recorded.
Concerns regarding Inspection fees: Veterinary Facilities

DR CLIVE MARWICK, PRESIDENT

Colleagues

I received only five responses to the previous request for input on inspection fees.

During the Council’s scheduling of the routine inspections for 2016 nine of our colleagues informed us that they (and other colleagues) were not consulted regarding the following points:

• the routine inspections;
• the costs of the inspections;
• the perception that large practices take more time to inspect than smaller practices and that smaller practices are subsidising large practice inspections;
• the remuneration for the inspector;
• who the inspectors would be for particular categories of facilities;
• whether the inspectors were competent to inspect the specific category of facility;
• what category of facility would be inspected;
• the reason for inspection of a particular category of facility when such a facility was exempted from certain requirements;
• exceptions made in terms of facilities that would not be inspected; and
• exemptions from compliance with the minimum standards granted in the past.

Our colleagues wanted an explanation as to how the Council arrived at the fees.

It was resolved that we should provide the explanation to all our colleagues as they may at some stage be affected as well.

Please click on this link for a full explanation.

Taking into account the information please provide us with your comments to this address: bookkeeper@savc.org.za.

A new financial system and process came about with the recent upgrade of the SAVC’s data base system. The new system was developed from an old Disk Operating System (DOS) to the latest technology, viz Microsoft SQL server and the platform, Microsoft.Netframework, C#.

As we have recently experienced some challenges with the new data base system we wish to explain the process to avoid frustrations and confusion in future about SAVC fees and your payments.

1. Every member will have an account with the SAVC.
2. Members will, as in the past, receive their invoices for annual maintenance fees in April every year.
3. However, no receipts will be issued as payments received for maintenance fees will reflect on your monthly statements.
4. No further statements will be issued if no further movements take place on your accounts.
5. Should further movements take place invoices will be issued, for example, for a letter of good standing, a change of surname, an inscription into the register or an inspection fee. In such cases statements will be issued reflecting the outstanding amount and/or reflecting the payments received.
6. You will thus usually receive only one statement per annum. However, should there be any movements other than maintenance on your account you will receive further statements to reflect the movements on your account.
7. Members are advised to retain their statements as they serve as proof of payments made for maintenance fees and/or any other fees.

We trust that our future correspondence addressed to you relating to statements (and invoices) will run more smoothly. Please contact us if you experience any difficulties with regards to your accounts [invoices and statements] at bookkeeper@savc.org.za.
News Letter 86, September 2016
Official Newsletter of the South African Veterinary Council

Recent Stakeholder Interactions


The South African Veterinary Council invited members to attend a workshop on the Review of the Disciplinary process of the SAVC.

Stakeholders and members involved with the disciplinary process during the past three years; either as a respondent, respondent’s legal advisor, as a member of a panel of peers (hearings); members of the Investigation Committee of Council; mediators and the veterinary professions were invited.

Invitation to:

Workshop on the Rules Pertaining to Veterinary Medicines

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) hereby cordially invites you to attend a Workshop on the Rules pertaining to Veterinary Medicines, scheduled as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 9 November 2016
Time: 9h00
Venue: SAVC offices

Thirty seats were available and were allocated on a first come first served basis.

A document on the rules pertaining to medicines will form the basis of discussion and will be made available to the attendees prior to the workshop.

Workshop on the Rules Pertaining to Laboratories

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) hereby cordially invites you to attend a Workshop on the Rules pertaining to Laboratories, scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, 10 November 2016
Time: 9h00
Venue: SAVC offices

Twenty five seats were available and were allocated on a first come first served basis.

A document on the rules relating to laboratories will form the basis of discussion and will be made available to the attendees prior to the workshop.

Attend the Full Council Meeting 25-26 October 2016

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) invited members to attend the Council Meeting as observers. The meeting was scheduled as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 25 and Wednesday, 26 October 2016
Time: 9:00
Venue: SAVC offices

Ten seats were available and had been allocated on a first come first serve basis for the attendance of the meeting as observers only. and at their own costs. Although Council aims to be as transparent as possible, it must be borne in mind that certain agenda items will not be discussed by Council in an open forum as those items may be privileged and can only be discussed in a closed session.
Workshop on stress

Colleagues

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend a workshop, dealing with veterinary and para-veterinary professionals suffering from stress to be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 8 November 2016
Time: 9:00
Venue: SAVC Boardroom, 28 Victoria Link Street, Corporate Park, Nellmapius Drive, Irene, Ext 2
Facilitator: Prof Ken Pettey

Agenda:

The items provisionally identified for discussion are as follows:

1. How can we work together - in everybody’s best interests;
2. What is in place - SAVA, life line, professional referral services, CCS psychiatrists;
3. How best to use what is in place to the benefit of all the professions;
4. How best to build the TEAM spirit as suicide prevention:
5. The use of the newsletter on how to handle stress; what is done already (SAVA; VDA; BVF);
6. The dissemination of phone-in numbers: known councillors or anonymous?
7. When and how to teach Counsellors how to handle stress calls;
8. Where/ how to refer problems;
9. Chaplains/ spiritual leaders as in the SANDF (Dr Banderker proposed that we look into it because many emotional problems stem from a spiritual need: The Army has a Christian, Jewish and Muslim chaplain);
10. Increased access to support services;
11. Universities to focus more on teaching communication skills;
12. Social workers dealing with animal carers need to get better instruction (done overseas);
13. What else? - Vetlife Helpline of the RCVS etc;

Please view the link of the video clip by Andy Roark

RSVP: Ms Neo Tsumaki at meetings@savc.org.za by Tuesday; 4 November 2016

Dr Anne de Vos, SAVC’s Portfolio on Stress

VETERINARY HERITAGE

Nenta or Krimpsiekte

DR AJ SNIJDERS, MEMBER OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE

A plant poisoning called nenta was first recorded in 1778 and has persisted into the 21st century.

The Swedish traveller, CP Thunberg, medic, surgeon and botanist recorded as follows: “The Hottentots called by the name of ‘nenta’, a plant (Zygophyllum herbarium repens) which was said to be poisonous to sheep.”

(Footnote: Zygophyllum spp are toxic but has not been associated with krimpsiekte)

Thus the word ‘nenta’ described a plant and ‘nenta’ is krimpsiektebos’ in Afrikaans. Alternative spellings are: c’nenta, l’nenta, t’nenta, n’enta, nenta, cneuto and rita. It is not clear whether these are phonetic or linguistically derived. As examples Hutcheon (CVS) used the word ‘cneuta’ to describe a cerebrospinal meningitis in goats while Soga, Assistant Veterinary Surgeon named the disease both Ncenta and Nenta.

The sheep mentioned by Thunberg were of the ‘Cape’ type viz. hairy and with degrees of fat tails while the ‘goats’ were kept for milk and meat.

Please click on these links:

HISTORICAL
VETERINARIANS
HUTCHEON
SOGA
20TH CENTURY
21ST CENTURY

CONCLUSION

Nenta is a Khoi word and demonstrates the communication between Khoi and European pastoralists.

Botha considers that Krimpsiekte is arguably the most important plant poisoning of small stock in the Little and southern Great Karoo.

Soga’s efforts of 1890 have withstood the test of time and he should be considered as one of the veterinary pioneers who provide the shoulders for veterinarians to stand upon.

This brief review does not do justice to this novel affliction and the science involved.
Concerns regarding commencement of work in the Veterinary field on 1 January 2017

It has come to our attention that some CCS veterinarians may have concerns with regards to their commencement of work in the veterinary field in South Africa (whether in private practice or elsewhere) without having received confirmation of their registration from the SAVC in time to start new employment on 1 January 2017.

These concerns are valid as CCS veterinarians only complete the CCS year on 31 December 2016. Confirmation that they completed the CCS year can therefore realistically only be made available after the said date. Such confirmation will be channelled by state veterinary services of the various provinces to the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), who in turn will submit confirmation to the SAVC.

The SAVC will, only after receipt of confirmation that CCS veterinarians completed their CCS contracts, be able to confirm full registration with the SAVC in writing. The SAVC will prepare confirmation of registration in advance of the closure of the SAVC’s office on 15 December 2016. Confirmation letters will be sent off as attachments by email to each CCS veterinarian immediately upon receipt of confirmation that the CCS year was satisfactorily completed.

However, CCS veterinarians of the year 2016 who completed their CCS year and complied with all their employers’ contractual responsibilities may commence work in the veterinary field on 1 January 2017 without formal written confirmation of registration as the intention is to merely formalise the process of confirmation and no action will be taken against veterinarians who do commence work in the veterinary field having completed their CCS year in 2016.

Veterinarians who did not complete the CCS year and/or did not comply with their employment contracts should not commence work on 1 January 2017.

Furthermore, please note that in April 2017 you will receive an invoice for payment of the maintenance fees for maintenance of registration for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018. You will not be required to pay another registration fee in 2017.

Please contact our office should you require further clarity. Please ensure that you update your contact details with the SAVC’s office on 15 December 2016. Confirmation letters will be sent off as attachments by email to each CCS veterinarian immediately upon receipt of confirmation that the CCS year was satisfactorily completed.

2017 CCS VETERINARIANS

How to submit an application to the SAVC to locum whilst you are performing Compulsory Veterinary Community Service (CCS) in SA.

Locum Application Form

Quotations prepared for clients

ANNIE DE VOS, CHAIRPERSON, REVIEW COMMITTEE

In terms of the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, Act 68 of 2008 (the Act), you as the provider of private veterinary services, is a service provider providing services in terms of the Act. You should therefore provide a client with an estimate of costs (section 20 of the Act).

In order to accommodate the peculiar requirements of the veterinary profession, the rules for the veterinary profession which came into effect on 9 November 2015, rule 9 was drafted to ensure that the veterinarian does not fall foul of the requirements of the Act.

Summary of Judgement

in the High Court Application by a foreign qualified veterinarian against the SAVC

The Applicant, subsequent to failing the Council examination for the third time in 2014, brought an application in the High Court (North Gauteng Division) to set aside Council’s decision that she did not pass the examination and to compel the Council to register her as a veterinarian in order to allow her to practise in South Africa.

The application was based on the following grounds:

1. After writing the Computer Based Examination (CBE) the Applicant was handed a hand written slip with her name, photograph and the word “pass” on it [erroneously so, according to the judgment];
2. Two days later the Applicant received an e-mail from the SAVC notifying her that she will be attending the oral/practical examination (oral examination);
3. The e-mail further contained a note as follows: “Note: Only candidates who passed the CBE will be allowed to enter this examination. Candidates will be advised once the results of the CBE are available.”;
4. The Applicant passed the oral/practical examination with an average of 69% and obtained a distinction in one of the panels;
5. The Applicant was informed, after the results of both the CBE and the oral/practical examination were submitted to full Council that she did not pass the examination, as the Examination Officer allowed her to, despite failing the CBE with a result below the sub-minimum, but with an aggregate mark of 50%, to proceed to the oral examination;
6. The Applicant was informed that, subsequent to considering all the facts and notwithstanding the fact that she may have passed the oral/practical examination, and in line with the rules pertaining to the 2014 Examination, she did not pass the examination as she achieved 27% in the Epidemiology sub-section, and not 40% as was required; and
7. The Applicant submitted that she had a legitimate expectation that she passed the CBE, as she was informed accordingly in writing and that she completed the oral examination with success, amongst others, and that the Examination Officer had a discretion to exercise when allowing her to proceed to the oral examination, despite not achieving the required sub-minimum in accordance with the 2014 examination rules.

The application was opposed on the following grounds:

1. The Applicant was provided with a copy of the 2014 examination rules prior to writing the examination, which informed her of the sub-minimum requirements;
2. The Applicant was informed in writing by the Council that, the Examination Officer did not adhere to the examination rule 3.11 when, he acted within his own discretion, and decided to allow her to enter the oral examination, notwithstanding the fact that she did not comply with the sub-minimum requirements set out in the 2014 examination rules;
3. The duties and responsibilities of the Examination Officer are clearly set out in the examination rules;
4. The Examination Officer and/or the Examination Officials had no authority or discretion to amend the examination rules; and
5. The examination rules provided that Council had to ratify all examination results and that no results made available by any other person (other than those ratified and communicated by Council itself) will be valid.
6. Rule 3.15 reads as follows:

The High Court found as follows:

PLEASE READ FURTHER
It is important to acknowledge and celebrate International Animal Week. It is even more important to make a long-term commitment to improving the welfare of animals and distancing ourselves from any form of animal exploitation.

This was the strong message from the National Council of SPCAs as World Animal Day and International Animal Week approached: 04 October and 04 to 10 October, respectively.

The caring side of South African people is usually demonstrated when they support their local SPCA at these times and take part in the activities in their own area. This is welcomed and acknowledged with appreciation.

Yet to make a lasting difference, a sustained effort is required and an appeal goes out at this time for everyone to consider and commit to making a lasting difference. Supporting your local SPCA on an ongoing basis is a fine start. Many find themselves in dire financial straits and need people to assist in any way they can to enable funds to be raised and used to help animals.

All animals deserve protection. Specific issues may hit headlines from time to time yet we must not forget that even though matters are out of sight or out of the media, they may not have been resolved. Not only rhino are poached. Not only lion are trophy-hunted. Large-scale commercial farms keep animals confined in spaces that would cause outrage if the same conditions were applied to dogs and cats. The NSPCA investigates all the above and works tirelessly to improve conditions.

To give one example, relating to education, which equally applies to all species. The NSPCA’s Animal Ethics Unit serves on 42 Animal Ethics Committees nationally and personnel have to travel to meetings all around the country. Personnel from this Unit play a major role in education/training the scientific community especially Animal Ethics Committee members as well as playing a major role in developing the Standards (SABS) of scientific research in the country.

Everyone can help by supporting this work, in principle and in practice.

Above all, report cruelty. Keep the number of your local SPCA on your cell phone. Each SPCA has an around-the-clock emergency service and will either respond to calls relating to animals needing assistance or will forward the information to the nearest SPCA.

www.nspca.co.za has details of how everyone can all help on an ongoing basis.

What else can you celebrate?

World One Health Day - to be celebrated on Friday, 3 November 2016
World Veterinary Day - to be celebrated on Saturday, 29 April 2017
World Rabies Day - to be celebrated on Tuesday, 28 September 2017
World Animal Welfare Day - to be celebrated on Wednesday, 4 October 2017
Animal Week - to be celebrated during October 2017
Veterinary Nurse Day - to be celebrated during October 2017
World Antibiotic Awareness Week - to be celebrated during November 2017

“Surround sound.”  
“Cable’s out.”

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Warning to veterinarians and para-veterinarians!

On 11 April 2016, a staff member of the SAVC’s Registration section received a phone call from a lady who called herself “Romayne Midgley”. Ms Midgley advised the staff member that she was a registered veterinary nurse and wanted confirmation of her registration for employment purposes. It is Council’s policy to never confirm registration without any proof of identity [i.e. a copy of the identification document and a passport photo to allow for positive identification]. Ms Midgley was requested to submit a certified copy of her identity document before her registration could be confirmed.

PLEASE READ FURTHER

Fraud alert!

Please take careful note of this e-mail and ensure that all your staff members are alerted to the scam.

Council received the following e-mail from a colleague:

“I wish to warn the SAVC and my colleagues about a fraud I was victim to:

Steven Jacobs of DDF Construction phoned to book in his Bulldog “Billy” for castration.

He asked me for a quote by e-mail. He knew the whereabouts of the practice and his staff would drop off the dog when they have work to do in the area.

I checked the company and they have a “legitimate” website.

The next day he sends me proof of payment, however, he pays R 39,620.00 instead of R 1,540.00 for the procedure.

“I had exactly the same experience working as receptionist. However, when he wanted 5 dogs castrated and wanted to pay in advance by eft. I got suspicious and alerted the vets who then alerted the police. We had been done in before.”

“Fraudulent client information. Web pages are not reliable sources of obtaining client information.”

“A scheme for the past 15 years I know of.”

WHERE CAN YOU OBTAIN CPD POINTS and speak to a Councillor?

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<td>Wildlife Group</td>
<td>Onderstepoort 22 - 25 February 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Veterinary Practitioners Group</td>
<td>To be confirmed 6 - 18 March 2017 or 25 March - 8 April 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange Vaal</td>
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<td>LIVASA</td>
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<td>SAVA Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
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