REGISTRAR’S REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

We often hear that members do not understand why they have to pay maintenance fees and/or they don’t see any value. This report provides the information on Council’s activities and the work in progress which may answer the questions and concerns of members. It may be regarded as a comprehensive report and too lengthy for publication in the Newsletter as members do not have time to read all of it. However, due to the severe and often uninformed criticisms expressed against the Council for its perceived lack of action the report is published in part in the Newsletter and in its entirety on the website under the members’ area.

The 2012 strategic plan was developed in 2012 with restructuring of the administration to where it is currently. It is envisaged that more changes in the structure will take place in the foreseeable future; the investigation into the transformation of IT system and investigations into the development of a marketing plan took place and the budget was accordingly adjusted for 2013-2014. Please read further on the budget process in the Newsletter on pages 11 & 20.

The 2010-2012 strategic plans were an ongoing concern and were also pursued. The report on the implementation of those identified activities is included here.

Administration
Six main structures and positions to support the functions of the Council have been implemented or will be further developed. These structures are:

Director Finance
The Director Finance is responsible for all moneys received and expended. Additional functions are: support to the Registrar in the submission of a budget; submission to Council of the cash flow statements and projections; and acts as administrator for the Committee on Fees [Guideline of Tariffs].

Mr Sive Nqawe has been fulfilling the position of Junior Director Finance, but was initially employed in 2007 as the SAVC’s bookkeeper. Mr Nqawe is currently assisted by Mr S Mkhatshwa as debtors’ clerk and registry official.

Director Legal Affairs/ Company Secretary
The Director Legal Affairs acts as company secretary and provides legal advice to the Council, the Registrar and acts as administrator for Council meetings. Additional functions are legal writing [new or amendments to the Act, the regulations and the rules]; the execution of disciplinary inquiries; the implementation of the Inspectorate [once the Bill has been assented to] and appointment of investigators.

Mrs Shikshah Dowlath-Singh resigned in October 2012 to pursue her career in private practice. Mrs Dowlath-Singh served in the position as Director Legal Affairs for approximately four years and we wish her well in her endeavours. The position will be reviewed and will be advertised in 2013.
Legal Administrator
The administrator is responsible for the “first entry” complaints [both veterinary professionals and lay persons] and acts as the administrator and advisor to the Investigation Committee. Additional functions are: approval of advertisements; interpretation of the rules; contraventions by lay persons reported to the SAPS; liaison with prosecutors both in Council’s own cases [members of the professions] and in criminal cases [lay persons performing veterinary services]; and ad hoc and routine inspections administrator for the Inspections Committee.

Mr Thomas Modiba has been fulfilling these functions since 3 May 2012. During this period he became familiar with the illegal activities of lay persons and has been instrumental in pursuance of the complaints laid against Mr A Balemenos, Mr A van der Walt and foreign veterinarians who render equine veterinary services in the Midrand area without registration and a approximately forty other complaints, including complaints relating to the vaccination of animals by a husband-and-wife team in the Western Cape.

Mr Modiba is supported by Ms Charmaine Block who acts as the facility registration clerk and who conducted an audit of nine hundred and five facilities to ensure that the Council’s records are up to date prior to the implementation of routine inspections in 2013. Additional administrative support may be required to manage the one hundred and fifty routine inspections per annum [each facility will be inspected once in a six-year cycle].

Head of Education
The Head of Education manages all matters relating to standards of training and in particular the annual monitoring process; registration examinations; programme co-ordinator for visitations to institutions; specialisation and acts as the administrator for the Education Committee and the Committee on Specialisation. Additional functions include liaison with the Council on Higher Education [CHE], South African Quality Assurance Act [SAQA], Department of Higher Education [DHET] and Professional Boards Forums; and Global Accreditation Activities. The Global Accreditation Activities will increase due to the agreements into which the SAVC will enter with other registering authorities [e.g. Australian Veterinary Boards Council; Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons] to recognise the training, of the veterinary schools in their regions, for registration purposes in SA having attended the visitations of the foreign institutions who offer the qualifications accepted for automatic registration. The SAVC visited two schools in Australia since 2009 and resolved to enter into an agreement with the AVBC to accept their qualifications for automatic registration. The signing of the agreement may in all probability take place in the first six months of 2013.

The position of the Head of Education has been filled by Mrs Leonie Westcott since 3 May 2012 and she is supported by Mrs Lenora Erasmus who acts as Monitoring and Examination Co-ordinator but who is also responsible for the CPD accreditation applications and who provides support to the CPD Accreditation Committee for veterinarians.

Head of Registrations and Authorisations
The Head of Registrations manages all applications for registration or authorisation, maintains the register, manages the sale of the register and acts as the administrator for the Registration and Authorisation Committee. Additional functions include grass roots liaison
and presentations, on the relationship between professionals and the statutory body, to students of four institutions; presentation at the Oath taking ceremony of foreign graduates and liaison with training institutions, members of the public on requirements for registration and career guidance information.

The position has been filled by the Senior Registration and Authorisation co-ordinator, Ms Talita Coetzee who is supported by Ms Charmaine Block [facility registration] Mr Sipho Mkhatshwa and Ms Juliet Mokoka. Ms Mokoka also acts as receptionist and telephonist.

**Marketing and Systems Administrator**

The Marketing and Systems administrator with design capabilities will be responsible for the design of the newsletter, bulletins, SAVC stands at events, marketing material, telecommunications, SAVC stationery and for the administration of the data systems of the Council. The position was initially advertised as Data and Design manager and was reviewed by Council and re-advertised. Additional responsibilities will include control of the index system and overseeing the scanning and electronic uploading of more than 6000 personal files and all correspondence files. The position should be filled within the next two months.

Ms Sonia Nkwana is a professional assistant and will act as support for the Marketing and Systems Administrator. She currently acts as meeting support official, processes all attendance registers, book venues, issues claim forms and ensures that all travel and accommodation arrangements are made; receives all incoming mail which is electronically uploaded and she is currently responsible for the CPD logging for all veterinarians which will change in 2013 when there will be a random selection of 250 names and only those records will be assessed. The IT transformation process will enable veterinarians to log their own CPD points online in future.

Ms Johanna Manabile processes outgoing surface mail and ensures that the office appearance and refreshments at meetings are of an acceptable professional standard.

**Information Technology [IT] Transformation**

The requirements to transform the SAVC’s data base, the provision for interfaces between the data base and the SAVC’s website as well as the Requests for Proposals [RFP] were drafted during the months of May to October 2012 by an IT service provider in liaison with the Council’s ad hoc IT transformation work group and the administration. The project is a large financial and labour intensive project which may span more than two to three years. The intention is to appoint an IT expert to evaluate the proposals [tenders] and make recommendations to Council thereon. It is foreseen that once the transformation has taken place that there will be a vast improvement in communication with members. It is important to mention a few aspects that will improve the communication with members: Members will-

- Have access to their personal data and will be able to change their own contact details online;
- Receive automated notifications and alerts about registration matters as well as matters that are important to the professions and impact on practise;
• Receive online invoices and statements and be able to access these at any time of the year; and make electronic payments;
• Be able to indicate online how they wish to receive their mail e.g. newsletters either online, by email or surface mail;
• Provide the details of their sector employment; and
• Receive regular email correspondence.

Marketing strategy
The Council requested the Centre for Communication and Reputation Management of the University of Pretoria to compile a proposal on the future marketing strategy and reputation damage control for the stakeholders within the veterinary professions including the training institutions and the associations and DAFF jointly and the Council separately. The SAVC submitted the proposal to all stakeholders for input and has to date only received a response from the South African Veterinary Association. The finalisation of a marketing strategy will be pursued in 2013.

The Budget on the way forward
The provisional draft budget 2013.2014 has been submitted to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Dr Clive Marwick. The Finance Committee will meet on 30 January 2013 to make recommendations to Council. The Finance committee is a new introduction of the Council as from 23 October 2012. The previous request for input on the way forward solicited only one response to the specific points in the budget and another on cosmetic surgery. Council received a number of complaints with regard to the increase of the maintenance fees in 2012 and specifically as to why the veterinary profession had not been forewarned of the intended increase. The main votes for 2013.2014 appear on pages 11 and 20 on which members are requested to make input. Council will proceed with its budget process however the process can be better managed if valuable and constructive input is received from the members.
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE MAIN POINTS AS REFLECTED IN THE SAVC’S 2010-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN AS AMENDED ON 30 JULY 2010 & 8 JUNE 2011 ARE REPORTED ON

1. Effective Administration, including the administration of Council and Revision of the Act, Rules and Regulations

It is believed that the restructuring of the Administration has already made improvements to the services rendered in particular the complaints against lay persons are being vigorously pursued and the CPD accreditation process improved with greater speed.

The profession requested Council to introduce an inspectorate. A workshop was held on 27 July 2012 and valuable contacts were made with *inter alia* National Prosecuting Authority, the Inspectorate of the Medicines Control Council, the Pharmacy Council and the SAPS. The appointment of investigators to obtain evidence will commence once the Act has been assented to.

The Review of the rules *in toto* need new impetus as very little response was received from the veterinary profession on a request published in the Newsletter. The Fees Committee under Chairmanship of Dr John Adam will meet on 31 January 2013 to commence with a review of the rules pertaining to advertising. Expertise may be co-opted to advise the committee on the process.

A meeting was held on 6 June 2012 with the Laboratory Scientific Forum of SA and representatives from DAFF. The registration and regulation of Laboratories remain under auspices of the regulator of Animal Diseases. A proposal is awaited from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as to how the regulation of laboratories will take place.

The SAVC has been in contact with Prof Mohammad Karaan, portfolio Agriculture on the National Planning Commission [NPC] to expose him to the veterinary professions and their role in the country. Council submitted input to the NPC in 2011 and the article is available for perusal in the Newsletter 66 of September 2011.

The Executive Committee and chairpersons of committees met twice with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Dr Pieter Mulder and he addressed the SAVC on 23 Oct 2012. The Deputy Minister’s address appears on page 5 of Newsletter 71.

The Executive Committee and Dr Joseph van Heerden eventually met with the Director General [DG] of the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA], Ms N Nqaba after a long struggle to secure a meeting, on 17 July 2012. The DG has to date not confirmed the contents of the minutes submitted to her and/or confirmed the proposal that an agreement should be entered into between the DEA and the SAVC that: *veterinarians would not be subjected to the permit system in addition to registration with the SAVC, however veterinarians will ensure that they do not treat Threatened or Protected Species if the owners are not in possession of the required permits.* Dr Van Heerden had in addition made a presentation to the provinces on 24 July 2012. As Council was informed that another workshop will be held between the DEA and the provinces in January or February 2013 the DG of the DEA was requested on 22 November 2012 to advise what her directive to the provinces is and if it supports the SAVC then the SAVC wishes to be present at the
workshops. The SAVC intends to ensure that the veterinary profession is not subjected to any permit system and prior to the meeting with the DG obtained legal opinion which was submitted to the DG of the DEA.

The Executive Committee, Drs Joseph van Heerden and John Adam met with the Registrar of Medicines and the two meetings held paved the way for regular annual meetings with the Registrar of Medicines. Another meeting is scheduled to take place on 11 February 2013. The Registrar of Medicines supports the SAVC in the implementation of Rule 10 [Use of medicines]. A meeting is also scheduled to take place between the Wildlife Ranching SA [WRSA] and the Executive Committee and Drs Jana Pretorius and Joseph van Heerden on 11 December 2012. A report on this meeting will follow. The Council is of the opinion that veterinarians should not be subjected to the prescribing and dispensing of highly scheduled medicines to owners to chemically immobilise their own animals.

Complaints are being received from the members of the profession on the lack of action by the SAVC against members of the profession who continually cause reputation damage to the veterinary profession. Statements have been made that the SAVC has no powers and is not performing its duties. There have been a number of reports in the media on a variety of matters in which the image of the profession suffered severe blows. Some members of the profession reported that they are being informed by members of the public that they will no longer make use of veterinarians as a result of these media reports. Veterinarians are now often regarded with suspicion. Council is aware of these matters and will in the near future and in line with the Amendments to the Act be able to, where the evidence can be obtained, suspend members until complaints are finalised. Full details on the Amendments to the Act appear on page 13 of NL 71.

2. Communication and Awareness, regionally and internationally

The President attended the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Congress in September 2012 and addressed members at the SA Veterinary Association’s General Annual Meeting. Councillors attended eighteen events in 2012 and addressed members of the profession during these events on matters important to the members. Please see the annual schedule for 2013 as published on the website at: http://www.savc.org.za/pdf_docs/meeting_dates_2013.2014.pdf . The President and Acting Registrar attended the Joint Public Relations meetings consisting of all veterinary associations and training institutions and/or made input to the agenda and minutes during 2012.

A presentation “I want to be a veterinarian” is available on the SAVC’s website to enable the members of the profession to present at schools and to create awareness.

Members received alerts via sms in 2011 and 2012 as an additional means to communicate with the professions.

The IT transformation process has been investigated during 2012 and the matter is in progress. It is intended to improve communication and improve services to the members. The website; newsletter and all marketing material are under review in the IT Transformation process and within the marketing plan.
Grass roots student liaison has been introduced since 2010 and positive feedback has been received.

Members in private practice are requested to invite state veterinarians to their regular CPD and other activities. Private and state liaison has not been specifically targeted and will be scheduled for 2012/2013. The Executive Committee met with the World Animal Health Organisation [OIE] and the message was communicated from both sides in support of public/private partnerships.

The budget 2012 budget and onwards was published in the June 2012 Newsletter for comment and the draft main votes are published on pages 11 & 20 as amended in this Newsletter for comment.

The SAVC has been involved in the aligning of standards and global accreditation activities. The Veterinary Statutory Boards [VSBs] Forum in Southern and Eastern Africa needs new impetus as the process to align standards regionally should take place in line with the Global Accreditation strategies and the OIE strategies relating to training and registration.

A Zambian delegation visited the SAVC in August 2012 with a view to establish its own Council. A delegation of the Namibian Veterinary Council attended the SAVC’s registration examination with a view to observe and establish whether its examination standard was comparable.

3. Ensuring the Provision of Health Care services and improving the status of veterinary services in South Africa (combination of former strategic objectives 3 and 4);

A meeting of the Food Safety Committee took place on 6 February 2012, the Committee again met with the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 on 31 August 2012 and subsequently issued a memorandum to the Registrar.

Challenges in state veterinary services e.g. access to equipment, medicines and vehicles and Occupation Specific Dispensation [OSD] was drawn to the attention of the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister advised DAFF to look into the matter. No report has been forthcoming on the outcomes.

The OIE conducted an evaluation of services in SA and the SAVC played a key role in the initiation of the process. The SAVC delegation also met with the OIE delegation during their visit to SA.

Concerns relating to service delivery in state veterinary services were addressed either at the DAFF Workshop in July 2011 or during the meetings held with the Deputy Minister on 10 August 2011 and 3 February 2012.

The SAVC met with a representative of DAFF in November 2011 to clarify aspects of Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS] and the SAVC intends to meet again with DAFF on 8 February 2013 to discuss the way forward and to plan routine inspections of veterinary clinical facilities.
**Medicines:** All concerns relating to medicines were communicated to the Deputy Minister, Dr P Mulder. Meetings are scheduled to be held with the Registrar of Medicines annually [a meeting took place on 7 February 2012]. Meetings did take place with the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 and paved the way for annual meetings. A meeting is scheduled for 11 February 2013 and the Registrar of Livestock Improvement has also been requested to attend the meeting.

**Veterinary Para Professionals:** A number of veterinary para professions have been identified for future registration with the SAVC.

The Veterinary Welfare Assistants [previously Animal Welfare Assistants] programme is in the process and this profession will come on board within the next few years.

A workshop was facilitated for stakeholders involved in animal rehabilitators [physiotherapy] took place on 17 Oct 2012. Read more about this later in this report.

Meat inspectors indicated that they wish to be registered with the SAVC and dental technicians are in process to come on board.

4. **Develop future visions for Professions including: -Address the Shortages of all professionals and - the Provision of Services to all Communities**

Bridging programmes for students who do not have the required level of training or lack the required subjects are discussed and promoted in various forums.

Liaison with the Department of Higher Education and training has been established towards this goal but the work of identifying the shortage [whether the shortage relates to the numbers, skills within the professions or whether there are other factors impacting on the availability of professionals] and the nature of the shortages in each of the professions of the veterinary health team has not been done yet.

The programme “Adopt a Learner” has not been undertaken but a notice will be published in the future Newsletters in 2012/2013. Members are encouraged to take learners to work or to veterinary practices to expose them to the world of the Veterinary Health Team.

Some activities [provision of marketing material] were supported through the Joint Public Relations Committee.
WHAT IMPACT WILL THE AMENDMENTS OF 2012 TO THE VETERINARY AND PARA VETERINARY PROFESSIONS ACT HAVE ON THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONS?

Introduction of an Appeals Committee: An ad hoc Appeals Committee will review the decisions of the Inquiry Body and the next recourse will be the High Court. The Appeals Committee will have the powers to:
- confirm the decision;
- amend, vary or set aside the decision;
- remit the matter back to the council or a committee with such instructions as it may consider necessary; or
- make such other order, including an order for cost, as it considers appropriate.

Introduction of Compulsory Veterinary and Para Veterinary Community Service [CCS]:
any person who for the first time registers to practise a veterinary or para-veterinary profession in terms of this Act, shall perform in the prescribed manner compulsory community service for a period of one year and shall, upon completion of such service, be entitled to practise the profession for which he or she is registered.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF] is responsible for the implementation of CCS. A stakeholder forum is to be established to ensure that CCS is smoothly implemented and that the following matters are addressed in time and before implementation:
- Proper registered facilities must be in place;
- Veterinary functions have to be performed in a professional manner and within the confines of the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, Act no 19 of 1982. Veterinarians cannot conform to the requirements of the Act if facilities are inadequate;
- Adequate security arrangements have to be put in place and veterinarians rendering community service should not be placed at risk;
- Accommodation and payment have to be provided for;
- Veterinarians in community service have to be gainfully employed and not sit and do nothing as this would be counterproductive; and
- CPD has to be complied with.

Addition of the word “physiological”:
performing any act which has as its purpose diagnosing, treating or preventing any pathological or physiological condition in any animal or which constitutes a surgical operation on any animal and is deemed in terms of the rules to pertain specially to a veterinary profession.”

This amendment implies that scanning of animals for purposes of pregnancy diagnosis would require that a person who intends to render the service would have to apply for authorisation with the SAVC.
Registration when the academic requirements of a qualification have been met: Registration of graduates who have completed the academic requirements of a qualification, but which qualification has not yet been conferred will enable the graduate to register and work, pay the outstanding study debt and then receive the certificate.

Permanent residence as opposed to citizenship: Foreign veterinarians who passed the SAVC’s examination and registered with Council will no longer be required to obtain citizenship, but will continue to practice with permanent residence status.

Suspension of registration and termination of such suspension: The Suspension committee may authorise the registrar to suspend the registration of any person who is registered or deemed to be registered in terms of this Act and who—

a) has failed to comply with the requirements in respect of continuing professional development as prescribed; or
b) on the basis of a complaint lodged with the council or information available at the disposal of council, is posing an imminent threat or danger to the public or any animal in terms of his or her professional practice.

Powers of officers and other persons (new): Any officer appointed in terms of this Act and who is required or authorised to perform any duty on behalf of the council, or any person appointed to conduct any inspection, may, without a warrant, enter any veterinary facility at any time reasonable for the proper performance of such duty or to conduct an inspection, and perform such duty or conduct such inspection.

How the investigations may be instituted: If the registrar deems it necessary for the achievement of the objects of this Act and to establish more facts, he or she may institute or cause to be instituted an investigation—

(a) into any alleged contravention of, or failure to comply with, any provision of this Act;  
(b) in order to determine if any provision of this Act applies to or has been contravened by any registered person; and

into any charge, complaint or allegation of unprofessional conduct by any registered person.

These components of the Amendments will enable council to investigate the alleged conduct of lay persons who allegedly render the services of the veterinary professions.

An investigation officer may, on the authority of a warrant without prior notice—

(a) at any time reasonable for the proper performance of his or her duties in terms of this Act, enter upon and search any premises or veterinary facility where clinical veterinary services are rendered and specified in the warrant to carry out an investigation and make any enquiry, as he or she deem necessary;  
(b) while he or she is on the premises or at any other time request the person whose conduct is being investigated to immediately or at a time and place determined by him or her or the registrar—
(i) produce to him or her **such records or electronic data or both relating** to, or which he or she on reasonable grounds believes to relate to, the matter which he or she is investigating, and such records or electronic data or both are or were present on the premises, or are or were in the possession or custody or under the control of that person or his or her employee or agent; and

(ii) furnish such explanations to him or her as he or she may require in respect of any such records or electronic data or both;

(c) at any time and at any place—

(i) request any person who has or is suspected on reasonable grounds of having in his or her possession or custody or under his or her control any records or electronic data or both relating to the matter which is being investigated to produce such records or electronic data or both immediately or at a time and place determined by the registrar or him or her;

(ii) examine such records or electronic data or both;

(iii) make extracts from and copies of such records or electronic data or both; and

(iv) request any person to furnish such explanations to him or her as he or she may require.

**Cost Orders**

The council may make an order as regards the costs incurred by the council or committee, as the case may be, relating to an inquiry or investigation to the conduct of a person registered or deemed to be registered in terms of this Act, of an amount not exceeding the amount determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette. The aim of this amendment was to improve the turn- around time for investigations.
WHAT TO CONSIDER AND EXPECT WHEN YOU ACCEPT A NOMINATION TO SERVE ON COUNCIL

- Be prepared to sacrifice time and effort in perusing documents and make input thereon whether electronically or at meetings [Councillors received an agenda with 165 documents to peruse for the meeting held on 23 October 2012 as well as a range of other documents not included in the agenda];
- Take cognisance of the Roles and Responsibilities guideline for Councillors;
- Sign a declaration stating that you do not have a conflict of interest serving as a member of Council;
- Excuse yourself from taking part in discussion of matters when you do have a personal interest in the matter;
- Act in a professional manner with integrity and honesty at all times;
- Act in the interest of the veterinary professions, the public and animals;
- Obtain input from your constituency before making input to Council;
- Attend three Council meetings per annum, [each meeting is spread over two days];
- Attend an annual two-day Council strategic planning meeting;
- Be prepared to serve as a chairperson of at least one committee. [There are currently nine standing committees and three ad hoc committees];
- Be prepared to serve on at least one committee;
- Attend committee meetings, see the Annual Schedule of meetings of the full Council and Committees for 2013.2014 at this link: http://www.savc.org.za/pdf_docs/meeting_dates_2013.2014.pdf;
- Be prepared to serve on Inquiry Bodies as chairperson guided by a legal advisor;
- Work in liaison with the administration and in particular the head of the relevant section within the administration either as a chairperson or member of a committee or as a member of Council to ensure that there is continuity in the transfer of matters from one Council to another and that the activities of the committee are appropriately recorded;
- Respond timeously when requested to submit travel and accommodation requirements for meetings;
- Respond within the required period when agenda matters are dealt with electronically;
- Provide a written motivation to the relevant chairperson when you are not available to attend meetings;
- In the event that you are the chairperson and cannot attend the meeting ensure that there is another Councillor prepared to serve as chairperson by liaison with the administration and securing a decision through the Executive Committee of Council in this regard;
- Provide written input on the agenda when you are unable to attend meetings;
- Attend public relations events on behalf of Council, present Council’s activities and policies and answer questions;
- Attend the Council office and liaise with the administration;
• Attend formal and informal functions of the Council and its administration.

• Members who attend Council and committee meetings receive a day fee [currently R 2300 excl VAT with a proposal to increase the fee by 8% in 2013 as members have to spend time for preparation which is not remunerated.] The Council meetings have been changed from a one-day meeting to a two-day meeting and the second day provides for travel time.
• Members are remunerated for travel and accommodation expenses.
• Chairpersons receive honorariums based on the number of meetings chaired.
FOOD SAFETY: MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR OF ACT 36 OF 1947 FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION WITH THE REGISTRAR ON 31 AUGUST 2012

The Food Safety and Security Committee (FSS) of Council made recommendations to the Registrar of Act 36 so that amendments and improvements can be implemented to bring Act 36 in line with international standards of food safety.

We realise that changes will have to be phased in over a period of time in consultation with stakeholders.

The Veterinary Industry is in a state of flux especially with regard to the availability and training of production animal veterinarians in South Africa. This situation is in our opinion in a positive phase at the moment for various reasons including the following:

1. The imminent implementation of the Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS] whereby new graduates (both veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals) will be deployed in rural areas. This will immediately ensure far wider access to animal medicines in remote and un-serviced areas;
2. The knock-on effect of this scheme whereby graduates who take part in CCS may develop an interest in Production Animal medicine;
3. The rationalization by the concerned authorities to ensure that more students are attracted to the profession who will enter the Production Animal industry. This includes the University of Pretoria, SAVC, SAVA and DAFF;
4. The increase in students from backgrounds that did not previously enter this profession and their possible potential to enter the Production animal industry; and
5. The training of Animal Health Technicians in the use of veterinary medicines under the supervision of veterinarians is an area of big potential and needs to be looked into.

One of the main reasons for certain medicines to be under the control of Act 36 was the non-availability of suitable distribution through veterinarians. This will hopefully change in the coming years especially taking the above points into account.

The main area of concern is that antibiotics and vaccines are open to misuse and abuse leading to a major threat to Food Safety and Security. Reports from the various role players on the ground indicate that

- Even though the intention was to promote access of the indicated products to the farmers, there is insufficient control of the distribution and use thereof;
- Any person with no specific training can sell the products to the members of the public;
- The current situation will lead to various people within the food chain being held accountable for any mishap under the auspices of the Consumer Protection Act;

We believe that through inclusive negotiations a timetable should be drawn up whereby antibiotics will all resort under Act 101. The situation with vaccine distribution and sales must
also be looked into. Factors identified by the FSS and recommendations on their solutions are:

1. **The implementation and control of Act 36 Animal Medicines.** This is a very broad point and specific needs must be identified. The most important here is to identify those medicines that need be rescheduled to Act 101 and a time frame for the implementation. However there are basic issues which must be reviewed namely:
   - Control measures and rules for manufacturers;
   - Control measures and rules for distributors;
   - Rules for retailers (cooperatives, chemists/pharmacies); and
   - Rules for end users.

2. **The regulation of persons who may sell and or distribute animal remedies, medicines and vaccines that resort under Act 36.** This will entail regulations being put in place to ensure that only suitably qualified and trained personnel will be involved in the distribution of Act 36 products. Once again a time frame will have to be drawn up for implementation of these regulations. Once in place there will be a major improvement in the control of these substances as well as ensuring correct use and advice for the farmer as well as going a long way to ensure Food Safety and Security for the consumers. Proposals include:
   - Minimum school level – Grade 12; and
   - A tertiary qualification – Animal Health or Animal Production (NQF level to be determined);
   - A certificate from an accredited institution – on products and their use; and
   - Must belong to a professional body that is mandated to deal with misconduct/unprofessionalism;

3. **Minimum standards of distribution and sales outlets.** This is critical to ensure that end- users are sold a product that has been properly stored and handled. Many of the medicines and vaccines need special handling and this must be regulated to protect the consumer. Guidelines need to be drawn up and only licensed outlets must be permitted to distribute Act 36 products.

4. **Compliance with Act 36 regulations.** A system of inspection must be in place to ensure compliance with the Act. This must include a clear organogram indicating availability of inspectors per municipality. If DAFF cannot appoint people permanently, then certain professionals (Veterinarians, Animal health technicians, Veterinary Technologists, Medical professionals, Veterinary nurses) must be trained and authorised under Act 36.

5. **Food safety.** The emphasis should be that the adequate regulation of all animal medicine, vaccines, and stock remedies will ensure levels of control in South Africa that are comparable with international standards. This will ensure that our animal products may be exported and safely consumed by the public.
1. Veterinary & Para-Veterinary Professions Amendment Bill, 2012

There was appreciation for the SAVC’s support with the presentation of the Amendment Bill, 2012 at Parliament, and especially the support for Compulsory Veterinary Community Service [CCS].

2. Review of Veterinary Services

- The veterinary services and structure in the country was being reviewed by the World Animal Health Organisation [OIE];
- The input of the SAVC was welcomed; and
- The delegation met twice with the Deputy Minister.

3. Veterinary Medicine and Stock Remedies

- The supply of unregistered, unsafe and cheap medicines presented a problem;
- Food safety and the impact thereof on humans was acknowledged and was a concern; and
- It was also noted that some members of the veterinary profession supplied medicines illegally.

4. Rural Problems

- The veterinary profession was encouraged to listen carefully and critically give input on solutions to the problems of rural development in particular solutions to the lack of veterinary services in rural areas;
- The implementation of Public-Private Partnerships [PPP] was one of the possible solutions identified;
- The rural-urban divide made it evident that access to veterinary services in rural areas was a problem and that more rural veterinarians were needed in South Africa;
- The ideal was the availability of veterinary services for all people and animals in the country; and
- There was appreciation for the SAVC’s positive attitude towards CCS. There was however concern that the positive attitude may be lost depending on how CCS would be implemented.

5. Rhino Poaching

- The situation of the rhino poaching was spiralling out of control;
- The involvement of game rangers and veterinarians in incidents of poaching was unfortunate; and
- The SAVC had to think on what more could be done to resolve the matter.
6. **Veterinary Specialisation**

- New areas of specialist training and new types of specialisation were required as only 10% of the veterinary profession were currently trained and registered as specialists;
- For example, specialisation was needed in aquaculture and fish; and
- The supply and demand and job creation had to be investigated.

7. **Rabies**

- There was concern with the outbreak and control of rabies especially in the KwaZulu Natal Province;
- The Deputy Minister received Dr Moerane’s recent correspondence relating to the rabies problems, however it was as yet not discussed with the Minister;
- There was good co-operation with the Department of Health in respect of zoonotic diseases however officials sometimes made bad decisions and it was all about education of both officials and members of the public;
- KZN and Gauteng did invest funds into the problem however other provinces were not as fortunate to receive funding for this problem; and
- The publication of the Rabies Guide which was a collaborated effort between various parties including the veterinary profession, had been distributed to all registered veterinary professionals and would be distributed to all healthcare practitioners.

After delivery of the message the Deputy Minister and Councillors discussed the following pertinent matters as summarised -

- Game farming should resort under the ambit of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) rather than the Department of Environmental Affairs;
- The SAVC should make proposals for debate in a wider forum as to where game farming should resort and should get more stakeholders involved in the debate;
- A major issue of frustration for the veterinary profession is the requirement of a provincial permit issued by the Departments of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to dart an animal for any kind of treatment;
- The rhino poaching situation complicates the acceptance of the SAVC’s argument and therefore the climate was not conducive for a positive outcome;
- There is a perception within government circles that companion animal practise is not considered an important sector in South Africa, especially with regard to training, and it is questioned whether there indeed is a drive to promote production animal practice as opposed to companion animal practice;
- It was confirmed that there is indeed a drive to promote the recruitment of veterinarians into the field of animal production as it forms part thereof to address the lack of services in the production animal field;
- The matter is not simple as female veterinarians prefer to work in urban areas. There is an imbalance in training and service provision which needs to be addressed; and it is anticipated that CCS may address the shortage of rural and/or production animal veterinarians;
- Only 200 (out of the 2900 registered veterinarians) are employed in state veterinary services;
• Various meetings are being held with different organisations and different stakeholders, with little progress on crucial issues; therefore what can be done by the SAVC to reach influential parties and fast track issues?
• The SAVC may work through the Deputy Minister’s office; the memorandum addressed to the Registrar of Act 36 was subsequently forwarded to the Deputy Minister who will facilitate matters. A number of other avenues were advised and Council will pursue these avenues;
• Council is concerned that the perception is created that veterinarians generally are involved in rhino poaching incidents and that in fact the number of veterinarians involved in rhino poaching is minimal and that the figures are sensationalised by the media;
• The TOPS permit system is implemented to the detriment of disease control as veterinarians are not permitted to even collect specimens without permits; and
• It was agreed that the media could create a certain perception, and therefore it was preferred to get all the facts first.
BUDGET 2013.2014: MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE INPUT ON THE BUDGET BUDGET MAIN VOTES UNDER EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration [salaries] 16 staff members in line with the current structure.</td>
<td>3 703 375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciplinary Inquiries 15 per annum</td>
<td>424 780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations [costs should be covered by the application fees]</td>
<td>408 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Accreditation [three visits abroad]</td>
<td>180 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Meetings [remuneration for full Council &amp; committee members including honorariums, monitors of subjects and CPD accreditation committee]</td>
<td>1 369 570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspections routine [150 facilities per annum] plus ad hoc inspections</td>
<td>404 070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspectorate [Appointment of investigators in 8-10 investigations]</td>
<td>800 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT transformation [future incremental implementation in line with the 2012 strategic plan]</td>
<td>763 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees [High court action]</td>
<td>1 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public relations in line with strategic plans</td>
<td>265 315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Accommodation</td>
<td>990 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other expenses: Asset acquisition and depreciation, Operating costs including [rates, taxes, bank &amp; audit], Elections, Examinations, Internet, Insurance, IT costs [current], Office supplies, Postage, Printing, Refreshments, Repairs &amp; Maintenance, HR services, Skills Development, Telephone, Visitations &amp; Global accreditation</td>
<td>4 140 874</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET- DO YOU AGREE WITH THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPLIED?

- The **Guideline of Tariffs** 2013 increased by 8% overall.
- **Staff Salaries** increased by 7.5% in line with the public service increase of 7% with a housing allowance.
- **Meeting fee** increased by 8% on the basis that preparation time is not covered and travel time needs to be provided for. The second day Council meeting is remunerated; ends at 12:00 and provides for travel time.
- **Member maintenance fees** increase by 5% in line with the percentage calculated by the Minister of Finance on cost-of-living, namely 5%.
- Expenses increased generally by 10%.
- It is expected that Council will have to use **capital reserves** to fund the **IT transformation project** and any **High court cases** if proceeded with.
- **Examinations and Routine Inspections** will fund themselves as they are based on the user-pays principle.
- **Income** may also be generated by **fines paid** however it is difficult to predict whether any income will be generated.

**INCOME 2013/2014 – IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE FEES ARE INCREASED BY 5% DO YOU AGREE OR DO YOU HAVE PROPOSALS ON THIS MATTER**

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veterinarians</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>66 480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance fees</td>
<td>7 074 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veterinarians</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income generated by a portion of the maintenance fees for the Inspectorate</td>
<td>294 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income generated by a portion of the maintenance fees for the CPD</td>
<td>155 820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pensioners</td>
<td>23 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialists</td>
<td>289 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Para Veterinary Professions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>29 680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance fees</td>
<td>1 004 432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorisations; Companies; Advertising</td>
<td>620 654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations to fund the process as it is based on the user-pays principle</td>
<td>450 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspections to fund the process as it is based on the user-pays principle</td>
<td>450 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>160 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE AND INCOME WILL BE
VETERINARY REHABILITATION WORKSHOP
17 OCTOBER 2012

The first Veterinary Rehabilitation Workshop was held at Vet House on 17 October 2012. This was a Veterinary Council initiative to bring various stakeholders together to formulate a way forward for the field of Animal Rehabilitation.

The workshop was professionally facilitated by Mr Llewellyn Sinclair and attended by the following stakeholders:

1. Dr. A. De Vos – Chairperson of the SAVC Education Committee
2. Sr. A. Fantin – Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner
3. Ms. M. Fourie – Chairperson of the Professional Development Portfolio of SASP
4. Sr. T. Frias – Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner - Onderstepoort
5. Sr. D. Jones – Working group and Animal Rehabilitation Practitioner
6. Dr. D. Kenyon – Private Veterinarian
7. Sr. R. Kenyon- Veterinary Nurse in Rehabilitation
8. Sr. T. Lotter – Veterinary Nurse Association/ SAVC Representative
9. Dr. L. Mullinder – Registrar AHPCSA
10. Dr. L. Steyn – Deputy President SASP
12. Ms R Van de Sijde – Equine-Librium
13. Ms A. Van der Walt – APGSA
15. Dr. J. Viljoen – Private Veterinarian
16. Ms. T. Coetzee – SAVC Senior Registration Official
17. Mrs. L. Havinga – SAVC Acting Registrar

The aims of the workshop were to establish the following:

- If there are grounds for the need for veterinary rehabilitation services and if it can be motivated for.
- To determine if there is a need for a separate Para-Veterinary Profession
- To draw up a draft of Scope of Practice
- To elect a working group from the group of stakeholders present

The meeting began with an informal lunch and was then officially opened by Llewellyn Sinclair. Each delegate was given an opportunity to introduce themselves and the role they played within the field of veterinary rehabilitation. Mr. Sinclair then presented a brief overview of the current status quo and the objectives of the workshop.
In order to establish if there was a need for veterinary rehabilitation services, each of the stakeholder groups were requested to do a short presentation relating to the role played by their respective groups within the sector of veterinary rehabilitation. Furthermore, each group was asked to present what they thought would be the way forward. Presentations were made by Magda Fourie (SASP), Ronel van der Sijde (Equine-Librium), Ansie van der Walt (CARTASA and APGSA), Theresa Friars (Vet Nurses) and Dawn Jones (SAAPRA).

At the end of each presentation, delegates were given the opportunity to address the presenter with any comments or concerns. This process assisted in getting the various stakeholders talking and also identifying common ground.

After much discussion, consensus was reached that there is definitely a need for veterinary rehabilitation services. With regards to the way forward, the majority of delegates voted in favour of establishing a new para-veterinary profession, the name of which is still to be decided upon. Once the para-veterinary profession is successfully promulgated, all persons currently working in the field of veterinary rehabilitation will have to achieve registration with the SAVC in terms of the new profession.

The selected task group who will take this project forward is as follows:

1. Sr. T. Lotter (SAVC Representative)
2. Sr. D. Jones (Animal Rehabilitation Practitioner and SAAPRA)
3. Sr. T. Frias (Rehabilitation Practitioner - Onderstepoort)
4. Dr. L. Mullinder (AHPCSA Registrar)
5. Ms. M. Fourie (SASP)
6. Ms A. Van der Walt (APGSA and CARTASA)
7. Ms. M. Teeling (Equine-Librium)
8. Prof S S van den berg (Work group, Equine Practitioner)

It was decided by this working group to co-opt some stakeholders who were not present at the meeting and the following people will also play a role:

1. Dr. Tanya Grantham (CVMG)
2. Dr. Tammy Loots (Chiropractor)
3. Dr. Neels du Plessis (Small Animal Specialist Surgeon)
4. Dr. Elize van Vollenhoven (Veterinary Law and Ethics)
5. Natasha Lotter (EquiworkSA and CanineworkSA)
6. Heather Whitfield (Canine Hydrotherapy)
7. Representative of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)

It is the role of this working group to follow the guidelines to forming a new para-veterinary profession, as laid out by the South African Veterinary Council. This will involve the following:

- liasing with the SAVC
- formulating the final scope of practice
- developing a curriculum
- developing day 1 skills
- developing minimum requirements
- evaluating current local qualifications
- considering different training institutions for training and assessment
The challenges that lie ahead of the working group include, but are not limited to, integrating the current practitioners who work in the field of veterinary rehabilitation as there is wide variety of training and expertise that need to be considered. The group will look at using a Grandfather Clause to include those that meet the minimum requirements and will decide on a training route for future students wanting to qualify to work in this field.

In 2008, Dawn Jones and Megan Kanz initiated the South African Animal Physical Rehabilitation Association (SAAPRA) with the goal of recognition, regulation and registration of veterinary rehabilitation practitioners. In March 2012, the Clinical Animal Rehabilitation and Therapy Association of South Africa (CARTASA) was formed in Gauteng. Both associations have similar goals. The working group will look at the merging of these two associations into one. We encourage interested people to join as members; to support this initiative and process and to be able to voice an opinion and to be kept informed of progress. The primary goal of the association will be to promulgate the new para-veterinary profession as well as keeping members up to date with progress in the field.

Team work was begun at the workshop, looking at Scope of Practice and the working group will take this brainstorming session further and formalise the ideas.

This is the beginning of an exciting project that on completion will, I am sure, enhance the level of care that can be offered to veterinary clients and their animals around the country.

The working group are having their inaugural meeting on 21 November 2012.

If you are interested in supporting this process, or giving input, please contact Dawn Jones via email at dawnjones@pobox.com. We would like to identify all stakeholders in the early stages, so if you feel that your scope of work falls into the veterinary rehabilitation sphere, we would like to hear from you.

Sr. Dawn Jones (Veterinary Rehabilitation Working Group)