Response to requests by the veterinary profession

Requests have been forthcoming from the veterinary profession requesting Council’s intervention regarding statements made by the Veterinary Defence Association [VDA]. Council takes note of the defamatory allegations by the VDA and its attempts to negatively influence possible proceedings. The SAVC as an independent statutory body is responsible for looking after the interests of the public, animals, the profession and para veterinary professions.

Both sides of the story [complainant and veterinarian] must be considered, and be given a fair opportunity to be heard. Thus a hearing by an Inquiry body (IB) is held to determine the exact facts. No one may pre-empt the decision of the Inquiry Body. The Inquiry Body must determine the facts independently and autonomously. Whether the Inquiry Body finds that the respondent acted as a ‘reasonable veterinarian’ would have under similar circumstances, or not, will have to be decided by the Inquiry Body. The Investigation Committee [IC] is independent of the Inquiry Body, and refers matters to the Inquiry Body. The charges to which the veterinarian must answer are formulated based on the available information at the time when the Investigation Committee sat, evaluated and screened the complaint and response.

The matter discussed by the VDA is sub-judice and as such it would be improper for Council to comment, save to state that the VDAs attempt to influence the outcome of the inquiry is unbecoming and may be deemed as an attempt to obstruct Council from fulfilling its statutory obligations towards the public, the animals and the professions.

Dr Glen Carlisle
Chairperson, Investigation Committee