7. **Acceptance and payment of commission**

(1) Subject to Rule 7(2) a veterinary professional may not -

   (a) Accept any commission from any person as a consideration for referrals of any clients by such veterinary professional to such person;

   (b) Share with any person, fees charged for a service unless -

      (i) Such sharing is commensurate with the extent of such other person's participation in the rendering of the service concerned; or

      (ii) He/she is a veterinary professional associated with the veterinary professional as a partner, shareholder, employee or *locum tenens*; and/or

   (c) Charge or accept any fee for the same examination of or work on an animal from both the buyer and the seller of that animal or both the insurer and the owner of that animal.

(2) The provisions of Rule 7(1) shall not be so construed as to prohibit a veterinary professional -

   (a) From introducing a loyalty scheme for a particular practice, provided that the loyalty scheme does not include the payment of money;

   (b) From paying to a debt collection agency any commission in respect of debts which are collected by such agency on his/her behalf; or

   (c) From accepting any royalty or similar compensation in respect of an article or product to which he/she holds the patent rights or registration under the Medicines Act or Stock Remedy Act.

8. **Covering**

(1) A veterinary professional may not enter into a partnership or allow any shareholding or interest in his/her practice with another person, unless that person is registered with Council as a veterinary professional or para-veterinary professional.

(2) A veterinary professional may:

   (a) Offer an appointment in his/her practice to another professional;

   (b) Employ another person in a professional capacity at his/her practice; or

   (c) Share his/her waiting and consulting rooms with another person involved in practising in the veterinary field.
(3) Any appointment, employment or sharing anticipated in Rule 8(2) is subject to the condition that:

(a) Patients may not be over-serviced for the purposes of increasing any commission, benefit or incentive to the veterinarian; and

(b) Sufficient bio-security measures, according to relevant health and safety legislation and including isolation facilities, are in place to ensure that the wellbeing of humans and animals are not at risk.