1. WELCOME

Dr Clive Marwick welcomed everyone present to the workshop.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Facilitator: Adv Phelelani Khumalo [Acting CEO, HPCSA] was introduced by Dr Marwick.

3. ANIMAL WELFARE: PRESENTATIONS

3.1. INTRODUCTION TO SAVC PRINCIPLES IN ANIMAL WELFARE

Adv Khumalo asked what everyone’s expectation from the workshop was.

In summary the purpose and expectations from the workshop were as follows:

- To find common ground between the veterinary and para-veterinary professions and animal welfare organisations;
- An update on the establishment of the profession: Veterinary Welfare Assistants (VWA);
- Recognition of prior learning for VWA;
- Establishment of the National Animal Welfare Forum;
- Animal welfare networking;
- Uniformity of the approach to animal welfare;
- Food safety and security;
- Increased awareness of welfare issues in the trading of animals;
- Scope of Practice of VWA;
- Professionalism;
- Constructive agreement and consensus were desired;
- Common sense progress;
- Harmony between the different Animal Welfare Organisations (AWOs); and
- Legislative authority – what lies within the jurisdiction of the SAVC, and what lies within the jurisdiction of DAFF, the NSPCA and others?

3.2. THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARIAN IN ANIMAL WELFARE

Dr Clive Marwick presented the role of the veterinarian in the animal welfare. Emphasis was placed on ensuring good animal welfare.

Questions: Why does the benefit to society outweigh the benefits to animals?
Answer: It is important to educate society on their benefits and on the rights of animals.
Comment: Sr Lotter said that it was important to incorporate animal welfare principles in veterinary clinical environments.

3.3. ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Dr Bert Mohr presented on animals used for scientific research. There is a challenge in weighing the scientific value of the research against the potential effects on the welfare of the animals. There is an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) that is mandated to oversee the conduct of the institution’s care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

Comment: Cultural views in terms of slaughtering and handling of animals differ in South Africa and that poses a huge challenge.

3.4. REQUIREMENTS ITO MEDICINES ACT: ACT 101 OF 1965

Professor Vinny Naidoo presented on medicines’ related legislation. An emphasis was placed on staying within the law – for example expired medicines may not be used, not even for welfare purposes. It was clarified that according to Act 101, veterinarians have the right to break up packages into dispensing packages at the time of dispensing to a sick patient. Veterinarians are not permitted to pre-package medicines into patient ready packs.

3.5 ANIMAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION AS REGULATED IN SA: LEGISLATION UNDER AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES [DAFF]

Dr Emmanuel Mudzi presented legislation under auspices of the DAFF.

- Some members believed that there are conflicts in the legislation governing the veterinary profession.
- Dr Molefe clarified that there is no conflict or overlap between legislation in animal welfare legislation and the veterinary- and para-veterinary legislation.

3.6 INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: WORLD ANIMAL HEALTH ORGANISATION [OIE]

Dr Mike Modisane presented on international requirements on animal welfare i.e. animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives: World Animal Health Organisation [OIE]. He reiterated the five freedoms of animals. He mentioned that he his term as President of the OIE Council came to an end as from 26 May 2018.

3.7. ONE HEALTH CONCEPT AND ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE [AMR]

Professor Moritz Van Vuuren presented on the One Health concept and anti-microbial resistance.
4. BACKGROUND TO AUTHORISATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ASSISTANTS [AWAS]

Dr Ayoub Banderker presented the background to authorisation of animal welfare assistants

- No or limited veterinary services are available in poor and disadvantaged areas;
- AWOs provided veterinary services in those areas, often limited to veterinary nursing services and euthanasia;
- The profession of AHTs developed from the profession of livestock inspector;
- Salary expectations of animal health technicians present a challenge to animal welfare organisations in terms of employing AHTs;
- The course content at UNISA has been adapted and this is a continuous development; and
- AHTs are not trained to perform the services of a veterinary nurse and/or of a veterinarian, which are some of the services rendered by authorised animal welfare assistants.

5. THE ROLE OF VETERINARIANS:

Dr Anthea Fleming presented the role of private veterinarians in animal welfare work.

It was noted that the animal welfare work that private veterinarians perform, should be acknowledged, and that standards of care for animal welfare cases should not be compromised.

Question: Abattoirs receive requests for emergency slaughter of animals which the private veterinarian has recommended. Is there a standard procedure for dealing with that situation?

- Mr Zokufa said that every abattoir must have a Standard Operating Procedure in place.
- Dr Marwick said that there is no fixed procedure. Animals in huge distress or stress must receive immediate relief and be euthanased instantly.
- Abattoirs should follow the process of obtaining the by-products of the animals, where possible.
- Dr Fleming said that everyone must make a judgement call for the best interest of an animal.

5.1. INTRODUCTION TO VETERINARY NURSING:

Sr Theresa Lotter presented on the role of veterinary nursing profession and the foundation of the profession.

5.2. INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN:

Mr William Kutu presented on the history of the animal health technician, which regulatory body this profession is governed under and the institutions that offer the animal health qualifications.
5.3. INTRODUCTION TO VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY:

Mr Johann Müller presented the background to the veterinary technology profession and the requirements of CPD.

[LINK TO PRESENTATION]

5.4. INTRODUCTION TO LABORATORY ANIMAL TECHNOLOGY [LAT]:

Dr Bert Mohr presented on behalf of Mr Cor Bester [Council LAT representative] who was unable to attend the workshop. The roles and scope of practice of laboratory animal technologists.

[LINK TO PRESENTATION]

5.5. INTRODUCTION TO COMPULSORY VETERINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE [CCS]:

Dr Mphane Molefe presented the background and objectives of the CCS programme, which programme resorted under auspices of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF].

- A R140 m budget was allocated to fund the CCS programme [annually].
- Would it be possible to fund the placement of animal health technicians at the animal welfare organisations?
- DAFF does not have a budget to support AWOs. The AWOs are entirely privately funded.
- Animal health technicians are not prepared to accept the salaries offered by AWOs.
- DAFF should consider a programme to utilise animal health technicians and provide them with a similar programme such as a CCS programme.

[LINK TO PRESENTATION]

6. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNISA ONE-YEAR VETERINARY WELFARE ASSISTANT [WVA] CERTIFICATE

Mr Johan Oosthuizen presented the one-year veterinary welfare assistant (VWA) certificate course.

[LINK TO PRESENTATION]

7. EUTHANASIA

Sr Theresa Lötter & Professor Vinny Naidoo presented background on the challenges as follows:

- Challenges and risks in euthanasia;
- Deficiencies in the record keeping of medicines;
- Access to veterinarians; and
  - Access to medicines.

- The SAVC will draft a guideline and/or SOP ensuring that measures are put in place to prevent the risks of euthanasia and minimise pain and distress to animals.
- Council already sent out a survey on euthanasia. The administration was requested to email the survey again for completion by AWOs and the question will be included as follows: **What are you doing to avoid having to euthanase many animals? There are countries which are not permitting lay people to euthanase.**
- Comments can be sent to Dr Thireshni Chetty.
- The reality on the ground is that access to veterinarians is limited. A situation can arise where a patient
is in a critical situation and should be put down without a veterinarian present. Dr Banderker said that in many communities, the animal is put down inhumanely, for instance by drowning, therefore, the topic had to be approached with caution.

8. GUIDELINES TO BRINGING A NEW PROFESSION ON BOARD. VETERINARY WELFARE ASSISTANTS

Sr Theresa Lötter presented the guidelines on bringing the Veterinary Welfare Assistants profession on Board.

- The objective is to replace authorised animal welfare assistants and allow these people to come on board as a certified veterinary profession.

9. ANIMAL WELFARE: ALL CHALLENGES
NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND LAY PERSONS AND THE ELIGIBILITY FOR WELFARE AID

Mrs Dinamarie Stoltz presented on non-profit organisations, lay persons, and the eligibility for Welfare Aid.

- There is some conflict between veterinarians in private practice on the one hand, and between the AWOS and/or the State with its CCS programme on the other hand.
- The conflict arises as a result of the discounted/subsidised prices charged by the AWOS and the CCS veterinarians, which lured clients away from private practitioners, who lost the income that would have been generated by certain bread-and-butter services.
- The private veterinarians felt that they were disadvantaged as they could not compete with the subsidised services offered to clients who could actually pay for veterinary services and that it was “unfair” competition.
- Previously an almoning system was utilised by the AWOS. Some of them still do. The almoning system consisted of a sliding scale of fees to be charged per service, in relation to the client’s income. Animal welfare organisations should implement an almoning system, but simultaneously inform the client what the actual price for the service would have been if the price was not subsidised by welfare donations, etc. People need to be made aware of the real monetary value of the veterinary services provided, as the subsidised prices charged by the AWOS created the perception that veterinarians are overcharging the public in general. People also need to realise that the costs for rendering veterinary services are not cheaper because the services were provided to animals. The veterinarians had to pay for rent, staff, medicines, etc. The veterinarians did not receive preferential rates because they treated animals. A software system could be utilised with automated discounts according to the level of financial assistance required.
- Council engaged with the Competition Commission and had obtained an advisory opinion at that AWOS can be requested to implement the almoning system [sliding scale for fees based on income], but Council cannot enforce it.

10. CONSTITUTING A SUB-COMMITTEE TO BRING VETERINARY WELFARE ASSISTANTS ON BOARD
Sr Theresa Lötter facilitated the nominations of members to serve on this sub-committee.

- These members had to carry at their own cost and as such would be a voluntary process.
- The scope of practice, code of conduct and draft rules have been approved by the Council.
- These documents will go to the Review Committee for evaluation.
- VWA should form an association as soon as possible to make input to their own rules and standards.
- The currently authorised AWAs should be invited to a Facebook page to be able to comment on their scope of practice.
- Ms Meredith nominated: Dr Bryce Marock and Dr Ayoub Banderker to serve on the sub-committee.
- Sr Dawn Jones, Sr C Price, Dr Donnia Le Roux, and Mr Kabelo Nkoane were also nominated
- Senior AWAs working at the existing organisations must be nominated as soon as possible.
- Academic institutions should nominate their representatives.

**LINK TO PRESENTATION**

11. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE FORUM (ONLY FACILITATED BY SAVC)

Mr Tozie Zokufa presented the proposed National Animal Welfare Forum (NAWF)

- The aim is to facilitate a forum that will raise animal welfare issues with Council and government.
- National Animal Health Forum [NAHF] does address animal welfare matters but is only focusing on issues of production animals.
- The National Animal Welfare Forum [NAWF] will require the dedication and full support of DAFF.
- NAHF is financed by its members.

12. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS: CHALLENGES

12.1. EXPIRED MEDICINES

- Re-sterilising is permitted in the case of expired devices.
- It is illegal to use expired medicines, irrespective of whether these medicines are used for humans or for animals.
- If medicines (for example de-wormers) were received/donated close to their expiry date, they should be used or at least dispensed before that date, and discarded once expired.
- The potential threat to the animal must be considered, if expired medicines are used.

12.2. OVERPOPULATION [Dogs and cats]

- Market survey research must be done as to why people are not having their dogs/animals sterilised.
- Sterilisation cost is not perceived to be a major problem.
- Education is crucial to the local communities to understand the costs and responsibilities of pet ownership, and the rights of the animals.
- Many people in local communities want to sterilise their animals, but do not have access to veterinary services.
- Create a culture to promote animal well-being and welfare from a pre-school level.
- The question arose as to why welfare societies are not given priority during the placement process of the CCS veterinarians.
- CCS veterinarians were allocated based on the needs of DAFF.
- The purpose of the CCS programme was to provide more veterinary services, mainly Primary Animal Health Care in the deep rural areas, and not necessarily to provide veterinarians specifically for animal welfare work funded by the state.
- AWOs could apply to be registered as CCS veterinary facilities and could be allocated CCS veterinarians.

12.3. STUNNING OF ANIMALS AT THE ABATTOIR

- The legislation is not in conflict with each other.
- The Act which controls this is the Meat Safety Act.

13. CLOSURE

- Adv Khumalo thanked everyone, and suggested that all expectations had been covered and achieved.
- Dr Marwick thanked everyone and confirmed that all issues that were raised will be taken up by Council.
- Mr Zokufa will facilitate the formation/establishment of the forum.
- The attendance register was circulated to everyone who attended the workshop.

The workshop closed at 16.00 pm.