1. PREAMBLE:

We live and practice our profession in a country in which the majority of our citizens are not able to access and afford the fees of private practitioners. Much of the animal welfare support and clinical services and care for this sector emanates from public initiatives provided by Animal Welfare Organisations which are dependent on public philanthropy and some local government support in the larger cities in South Africa.

Veterinary initiatives in this area are also pursued via the agency of low fee Community Veterinary Clinics through which education, preventative medicine and clinical services are rendered. The scale of these operations is however currently limited by funds and the professional resources that can be generated amongst veterinarians who essentially mostly contribute to these endeavours on a part time and often pro bono basis.

The owning and keeping of companion animals (mostly dogs) and livestock by the poorer and unemployed sector of our society are entrenched cultural practices, which will persist. Rights to own and keep animals (property) are entrenched in the Constitution in SA. The animal welfare problems (suffering) arising from the keeping of animals by the lower socio-economic sector of our society stem largely from ignorance and insensitivity and indigence. This cannot be resolved without education and socio-economic upliftment.

Presently the magnitude of these problems are overwhelming and give rise to a feeling amongst some veterinarians that there is no other option but to accept them and live with it. On the other hand, there are many veterinarians across our country who have risen to the challenge and have directed some of their energies into helping the indigent communities either through assisting animal welfare organisations or through their own initiatives.

Engaging with these issues is a challenging exercise and as a profession we need to appreciate that exercise and develop new abilities in order to communicate with and work amongst the members of these communities on their own turf. This kind of work is far removed from operating in state of the art animal hospitals with a plethora of facilities and human resources and a clientele that can afford to pay for them. Its practice requires compromise and creativity.

It is in essence, it is as a result of the public service that our profession exists but really cannot be adequately paid for. It is also not for every veterinarian. It is an activity of free choice that many of our colleagues enter into, motivated by a wish to serve our fellow man and promote humane care and use of animals. It is also opportunity to fly the flag for our profession and expand its influence by channeling resources into a sea of ignorance, apathy and neglect that is so pervasive in our country.

The documentation of these Sterilisation Outreach Guidelines is a further step by the South African Veterinary Council and the South African Veterinary Association to promote the establishment of low cost permanent veterinary facilities in disadvantaged areas in South Africa.

2. STANDARDS OF VETERINARY PRACTICE IN OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.

Veterinarians who do outreach work have to practice under field conditions in taking their services to communities. Working areas, facilities, staff support and finances often dictate that improvisation and adaptation strategies be devised.

This does not however absolve practitioners from practising both professionally and responsibly.
Veterinarians and Para-Veterinary professionals, registered with the SA Veterinary Council, are presumed to be aware of the rules and standards of their profession and to practice them with integrity i.e. with honesty, fairness, diligence and transparency.

All registered professionals are accountable to the Council on what they do and how they do it, if called upon to respond to any allegations of unprofessional conduct. The onus is clearly on all veterinary and para-veterinary professionals to reflect well on their responsibilities in this regard before undertaking outreach work either individually or as part of a team.

An ovario-hysterectomy is a complicated procedure that requires a high level of skill. Outreach activity is not a playground to gain experience or to participate for the sake of adventure. Outreach Activities should be performed by those who are focused on this and dedicated to making a difference to the bigger picture.

3. PROTOCOL GUIDELINES FOR STERILISATION CLINICS

- Animal Welfare Organisations
- Notification
- Staff
- Venue:
  - Identification
  - Admissions:
  - Pre-medication:
  - Dogs
  - Cats
  - The Prepping.
  - Surgery.
  - Post Operative.
  - Post Recovery & Owner Collection.
- Biological Waste and Carcass Disposal

Animal Welfare Organisation (AWO)
If a veterinarian is asked by an AWO to assist the AWO to organize a sterilisation campaign, the veterinarian must ensure that he/she organises and conducts the sterilisation campaign according to the Guidelines and understand that he/she is responsible for that sterilisation campaign.

Notification
The veterinarian organising the sterilisation campaign shall timeously inform all veterinarians in close proximity to the proposed sterilisation campaign of the venue and time that the sterilisation campaign will be conducted.

Staff
The veterinary team should be comprised of registered and suitably qualified of persons for the sterilisation campaign, and preferably who work in the same team position.

Venue:
1. Adequate lighting;
2. A surgical table with an impervious operating surface that can be easily cleaned and disinfected;
3. A gas anaesthetic apparatus or parenteral anaesthetic equipment;
4. An adequate supply of oxygen and intubation tubes;
5. Maintaining aseptic conditions, including the use of sterilised gloves, masks, caps and drapes, and the sterilisation and re-sterilisation of all surgical instruments;
6. Suitable scrubbing facilities; and
7. A microscope to identify internal diseases/parasites
Identification
- To be done in an area clearly separated from the premed/operating/recovery area.
- Clients may be given a clipboard and asked to fill in (Often need assistance) and sign the client information / consent / clinical examination form (See rule 26(1)).
- Each animal must be clearly identified.
- Animals under 5 months of age: The discretion lies with the veterinarian on whether the animal is too young to be sterilized.
- Animals that require special care e.g. bitches on heat must be identified.
- It is recognized that each Clinic will establish a documentation system that suits their purpose.

Admissions.
The following clinical examination must be recorded:
- Temperature, pulse and respiration.
- Weight
- Body condition
- Mucous membranes
- Hydration status
- Lymph nodes, abdominal palpation and thoracic auscultation. (Some animals are too aggressive to perform a proper abdominal palpation or to evaluate thoracic auscultation accurately.)
- Further tests at the discretion of the Veterinarian.

Once a patient has been found to be fit for surgery, it must be pre-mediated. Animals not fit for surgery must be identified and treated, and the owner advised of the reason for declining surgery.

Pre-medication
Animals must be weighed.

Dogs
- All dogs given pre-medication, as decided upon by the Veterinarian in charge. The pre-medicated dogs are preferably then put into holding pens to wait for the pre-medication to take effect. These pens should be situated inside the hall. Pre-medicated dogs can also be individually contained on leashes by animal welfare handlers who are familiar with the procedure. At the discretion of the veterinarian, a pre-medication can be done with the client present so it is not necessary to have a separate area.
- Once the animal is sufficiently sedated, it is taken to the induction table, accompanied by its record. Here it is induced with an intravenous catheter taped in place.
- Inductions are always performed by a veterinarian or qualified veterinary nurse. The prepping is performed by one of the animal welfare handlers who is familiar with the procedure. All patients should be intubated.

Cats
- Cats must be placed into baskets and taken directly to the induction area.
- Cats are anaesthetised as per the Veterinarian’s directions.
- Inductions are performed by a veterinarian or qualified veterinary nurse.
- Once anaesthetised, the animal transferred to the prep table where it is shaved and scrubbed.
- Prepping is performed by one of the animal welfare handlers who is familiar with the procedure.

Surgery
- Rule 28(1) provides that all equipment for anaesthesia and facilities must be adequate and appropriate for the needs of the relevant practice and veterinary facility, shall be provided at all times.
- Gas anaesthesia facilities and oxygen to be available at the discretion of the veterinarian.
- Theatre attire i.e. short sleeve theatre shirt (scrub), and long theatre pants or a gown should be worn.
Theatre caps and masks should be worn by the surgeon and those assisting him with surgery.

- Re-sterilisation of Surgery Kits: at the discretion of the veterinarian.
- Surgical gloves must be worn.
- A new drape should be used for each patient.
- Ear tipping of spayed cats.
- Accurate statistics off all operations to be kept as a permanent record.

**Post Operative Care**

- This area is always in the hall so that vets and vet nurses are available if any problem arises.
- This area should be equipped with of blankets/towels or suitable material laid on the floor on newspaper.
- The veterinarian must ensure that staff are available with one or two lay people turning the animals and keeping them warm.
- Emergency drugs and drip sets and intravenous catheters must always be on hand.

**Post Recovery & Owner Collection**

- Once the animal has recovered, the owner must be contacted, or the owner should return a few hours after dropping the animal off to collect the animal.
- Animals should only be discharged when they are fully awake, recovered and able to walk independently.
- One veterinarians must be present until the last animal has recovered.
- All clients must be given written as well as verbal discharge instructions. The owner must sign for:
  - The collection of the dog/cat;
  - A discharge sheet with appropriate instructions on the date and venue for suture removal; and
  - The veterinarian’s and animal welfare society’s contact number for cases of emergencies.

**Biological Waste and Carcass Disposal**

Disposal of waste and carcasses must be in an organised and acceptable manner in (accordance with relevant legislation) to ensure that the waste does not start to decompose before being disposed of.
Requirements for Application for Accreditation to Conduct Community Engagements

1. Name, details and experience of the registered veterinarian(s) who make application for accreditation to conduct sterilisation campaign/s;

2. Details and description of the venue(s) where sterilisations are to be performed and whether the venue has been accredited i.e conform with minimum requirements for sterilisation campaigns.

3. Indication of the period(s) (e.g one year) and dates (e.g from Jan 2012- December 2012) for which the applicant applies for accreditation to conduct engagement campaigns;

4. Indication of whether and when accreditation was previously afforded and/or refused by Council;

5. The motivation for the services for which exemption from the minimum requirements should be granted including:
   - The description (location(s)/ address(es)) and defined area(s) in which the campaign/s will be conducted;
   - Distance from fully registered practices;
   - Description of the facilities and equipment available and the availability of microscope(s) to identify internal disease/parasites;
   - Description of the community (e.g. indigent, rural farming, no services) in which the services will be rendered;

6. Confirmation that state veterinary services, private veterinary practitioner(s) or other animal welfare organisation(s) in the area are informed of the application and intended sterilisation campaign(s);

7. Details of all registered staff involved in the campaign (only registered or authorised person(s) may render veterinary or para-veterinary services);

8. Details of the registered facilities where patients are referred should it be required (becomes part of the discharge sheet); and

9. Details of the registered facilities or registered person(s) involved in the pre-campaign and post-campaign follow up.
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION TO CONDUCT STERILISATION CAMPAIGN(S)

I, (full name) _______________________________________________

Registration No. ________________________________________________________________________________

Qualifications: _____________________________________________________ _______________________________

as a veterinarian registered in terms of the Veterinary & Para-Veterinary Professions Act, No 19 of 1982, hereby
apply for accreditation to conduct sterilisation campaigns:

1. ACCREDITATION OF VETERINARIAN

a) Was accreditation previously granted by the SAVC? ________________________________ (YES/NO)
   If Yes, what was the duration of the accreditation? ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

b) Was accreditation previously refused by the SAVC? ________________________________ (YES/NO)
   If Yes, what were the reasons afforded for such refusal? ______________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________________________

c) Period of Accreditation Applied for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval Duration</th>
<th>Dates: (From – To)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Year (First Application)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Years (First Renewal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Years (Second Renewal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent (Third Renewal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d) Have the following documentation been submitted?

- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation showing a clear need for the veterinary service and for the community that you intend to serve

2. ACCREDITATION OF VENUE

a) Location/Address of Venue:

   ______________________________________________________________________________________

b) Description of Venue:

   ______________________________________________________________________________________
c) Distance from the nearest fully registered facility/facilities: ________________________________________________________________

d) Description of the Community in which the services will be rendered (eg. Indigent, rural farming, no services):

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
b) Details of the facility/facilities where patients will be referred to should be required when you are not available:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please submit written confirmation that a colleague will provide a back-up service if you are not available during normal hours/ or a back-up service to perform advanced surgery if you are only performing minor procedures (non-invasive).

c) Have the following persons or entities in the area of the venue been informed of the application and intended sterilisation campaign?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Veterinary Services</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Practitioner(s)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Animal Welfare organisations</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Tick which is applicable)

Please submit proof that such person(s) or entities have been informed.

4. LIST OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES THAT WILL BE RENDERED

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. DECLARATION

I declare that: -

(a) The venue at which the sterilisation campaign(s) is/are conducted complies with the Minimum Requirements for Sterilisation Campaigns laid down by the SAVC on 23 April 2010;

(b) Should the venue at which the sterilisation campaign(s) is/are conducted, once accredited, not comply, for a period exceeding 30 (thirty) days, I shall inform the SAVC thereof by registered post and within 30 (thirty) days of the occurrence;

(c) Should I retire from veterinary practice, I shall inform the SAVC thereof by registered post within 30 days of such an event;

(d) I accept that the SAVC through an authorised person has the right to inspect the venue at which the sterilisation campaign(s) is/are conducted at any reasonable time;

(e) I accept that the SAVC may at its discretion, but on condition that I am informed of the reasons, decide not to approve my application for accreditation or withdraw the application or suspend the accreditation thereof;
During completion of my application I considered the welfare of the patient and the quality of veterinary services and can confirm that these two aspects will not be compromised. **For example** if I am only performing minor surgery do I will have oxygen and endotracheal tubes available; and

The welfare of the patient and the quality of veterinary services should not be compromised.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
Your attention is drawn to Section 41 of the Veterinary & Para-Veterinary Professions Act, No 19 of 1982 when completing this form.


COMMISSIONER OF OATHS (Full Name And Surname Of Commissioner In Block Letters)

___________________________________________________________

BUSINESS ADDRESS OF COMMISSIONER

____________________________________________

DESIGNATION ____________________________ AREA

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

1. Date of Registration:_______________________________________________

2. Date of Approval of Name: ____________________________________________________________________

3. Date of Inspection of Facility:__________________________________________________________________

4. Name of Person who Inspected Facility:_________________________________________________________