



Namibian Veterinary Council

The role of Statutory Bodies in registration of Veterinary Para-professionals

South Africa, October 2015

Anna Marais, Registrar NVC

The Namibian Perspective: Functions of the Veterinary Council

- Statutory Body, Autonomous
- Consists of elected and appointed members
- Main function is to serve the Namibian public by guaranteeing that animal health practitioners (Vets and Vet para-professionals) are adequately qualified and proficient to do their jobs.
- Unregistered persons are legally not permitted to do the work of any animal health professional or para-professional.

Act 1 of 2013 replaced Proclamation AG 14 of 1984

- New provisions:
- Registration of veterinary para-professionals
- Compulsory CPD
- Council composition changes to include 2 para-professionals elected by the registered para-professionals in Namibia
- Modern relevant legislation in place
- Act, Regulations, Rules

Arrangement of Regulations

- Part I: nomination of candidates and election of members of council
- **Part II: registration of persons**, close corporations and private companies
- Part III: summons to appear at inquiries
- Part IV: continuing Professional development
- Part V: registration of practices
- Part VI: general

Part II: registration of persons, close corporations and private companies

Definition:

"veterinary para-professional" means any person who is registered or deemed to be registered in terms of this Act to practise a veterinary para-profession which has as its object the rendering of services supplementing the services deemed in terms of the rules to pertain specially to a veterinary profession, working under direction of a veterinarian.

- Until 2013, there was no specific training available in Namibia for para-professionals
- Now this is offered by the University of Namibia, who work closely with the Council to ensure minimum standards
- All the para-professionals currently working in Namibia were trained outside the country, or after initial agriculture diploma, received on the job training

Veterinary para-professionals: 8 categories

- Veterinary Nurse
- Veterinary (Animal) Health Technician
- Veterinary Technologist
- Veterinary Laboratory Scientist
- Wildlife veterinary para-professional
- Equine dental technician
- Veterinary physiotherapist
- Veterinary para-professional in assisted livestock reproduction

1. Veterinary nurse

- Table 6: curriculum requirements
- 2 year diploma
- NB pharmacology, theatre practice, monitoring of anaesthesia, radiography, medical and surgical nursing etc
- Works under direction of a vet
- May not certify a document

2. Veterinary (animal) health technician

- Table 7: 3 year diploma
- Basic anatomy, physiology, pharmacology
- Animal science: genetics, housing, management and care of livestock species, primary health care, pastures, nutrition
- relevant viral, bacterial, protozoal, fungal diseases, helminthology, ectoparasites
- PM techniques and sample handling
- Practical component: vaccination, castration, wound care, dehorning
- Relevant legislation

3 Veterinary Technologist

- Similar training to AHT
- Additional requirements in laboratory techniques
- Evaluation and interpretation of laboratory results
- Media preparation, reagents, staining techniques
- Monitoring of Quality Assurance procedures in a laboratory

4. Veterinary laboratory scientist

- Table 8
- At least four academic years of study BSc(Hons) or MSc
- Basic sciences (chemistry, physics, maths, biology)
- Applied sciences (microbiology, physiology, biochemistry, zoology, organic chemistry, animal diseases, statistics)
- Honours or Masters level research project

5. Wildlife para-professional

- Employees in game reserves, research stations etc
- Directed by Veterinarian, when vet not available
- Accredited course in wildlife immobilisation
- May not use Schedule 5 medicines

8. Assisted animal reproduction

- Table 12: 1 year specialisation in addition to or included in diploma
- Pre-requisite: registration as a Registered Inseminator under Livestock Improvement Act
- Livestock species limited to bovine, ovine, porcine, caprine
- Synchronisation and any used of scheduled medicines or hormones to be done under direction of a vet
- Pregnancy assessment as part of the AI process, not as general PD.

Application form

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

NVC Reg #:

Receipt #:

Photo



NAMIBIAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

PO Box 20307, Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: +264-61-305 643

Fax: +264-61-305 643

E-mail: ycn@africa.com.na

President: Dr Rainer Hassel

Registrar: Dr Anna Marais

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION:

VETERINARY PARA-PROFFESIONAL (VETERINARY HEALTH TECHNICIAN)

Please note that only original forms, fully completed in your own hand, will be accepted. Scanned and/or faxed copies are not acceptable. Completed forms with all required certified documents must be posted to PO Box 20307, Windhoek, or couriered to The Registrar at 130 Robert Mugabe Ave, Windhoek, Namibia.

A. Personal particulars:

1. Surname:

2. First Names:

3. Nationality: 4. ID no/Passport no:

5. Name of registered Veterinarian in Namibia under whose direction you will work:
.....

6. Postal address:

7. Physical address:

8. Contact particulars:

Telephone: (H) (W)

Fax: Cell:

E-mail address:

Additional contact details of importance:

Grandfather clause

Section 27 (4) (a)

- A veterinary para-professional who was NOT the holder of a degree, diploma or certificate prescribed in the Act, and had practiced as a full-time para-professional **before** the date of publication of the Regulations (27 February 2014), could be registered under certain conditions.
- Valid only if applied within 6 months of the publication.
- Letter from registered vet vouching for the para-professional

Evaluation of training

- Full prospectus of college/university course, including all subjects, practicals and duration of course is evaluated against the listed requirements in the Regulations
- Council has an Education committee, chaired by a Council member, for this purpose
- Committee consists of State and Private vets, can co-opt academics and people outside Namibia if necessary
- Visitations to audit faculties limited to Veterinary Schools at this stage
- If training not compliant with Regulations, the applicant is invited to sit a Council examination for registration

Continuing professional development

- Applies to all vets and paraprofessionals
- Vets: 50 points of which 20 are structured points, over a 3 year period
- Para-profs: 30 points, of which 10 are structured, over a 3 year period
- Structured activities: courses, conferences, preparing and monitoring exams, review articles, giving lectures, developing curricula, promoting theses, online activities with written assessment
- Non-structured activities: supervising students, interns, documented discussions, reading articles etc.

- CPD in Namibia mainly organised by the Veterinary Association. As yet, no association for para-professionals, this is being started as a sub-group of the Veterinary Association.

Thank you!

