

OIE REGIONAL SEMINAR

2009 SEPTEMBER 2 – 4TH

Registration of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals

presentation by the Registrar of the
South African Veterinary Council
on 3 September 2009



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Introduction



- ✓ Who registers?
- ✓ Why?
- ✓ Where?
- ✓ When?
- ✓ What are the minimum requirements?
- ✓ What services are rendered?
- ✓ How is quality assured?

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Who registers?

A: Persons who render the services of a

- Veterinarian / veterinary specialist
or any of the following four para-veterinary professions:
- Veterinary Nurse – since 1982
- Veterinary Technologist – since 1988
- Laboratory Animal Technologist – since 1997
- Animal Health Technician - since 2004

B: Students enrolled for prescribed qualifications

C: Juristic persons that render any of the above services (216)
Close Corporations & Incorporated Companies

D: Veterinary facilities (918)

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Why register ?

Registration of persons and facilities are compulsory

Remuneration
No remuneration /fees are recoverable if an unregistered person renders any of the services that pertain to the professions

Section 35 of the Act

Offence
Any person who contravenes the Act (section 23) shall be guilty of an offence

First conviction liable to a **fine or to imprisonment** for a period not exceeding **one year**, or to both a fine and such imprisonment;
Second or subsequent conviction be liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding **five years**, or to both a fine and such imprisonment

Section 41 of the Act

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Where do they register?

South African Veterinary Council

31 March 2009

Veterinarians	2672
Animal Health Technicians	938
Veterinary Nurses	490
Veterinary Technologists	203
Specialists	129
Laboratory Animal Technologists	24
TOTAL	4456



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South African Veterinary Council

19 members



- 1 Veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture
- 6 Elected veterinarians
- 4 Elected para-veterinary professionals (1 from each profession)
- 1 Person with legal knowledge
- 5 Ministerial appointments (of which at least one should be a non veterinary professional and the others vets)
- 1 SAVC member
- 1 Person from Faculty of Veterinary Science

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When is a person entitled to register?

1. **Prescribed qualification** within **three years** of obtaining the qualification (after three years – pass the practical component of the examination); or
2. **Another qualification** if the Council is satisfied that the person has sufficient knowledge and experience and has **passed** a **Council examination**

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What are the minimum requirements?

For registration as a **veterinarian** an applicant shall submit a school certificate of competence in **mathematics and physical science**.

The minimum duration of a veterinary degree is **five academic years**
Subject courses are **specified by Council**
A student shall spend a minimum period of **six weeks** under the **supervision** of a registered veterinarian

For registration of any of the **para-veterinary professions** an applicant shall submit a school certificate of competence in **mathematics and physical science OR biology**

The minimum duration for a **veterinary nurse** qualification is **two academic years** and for the **other para-veterinary professions** **three years**
Subject courses are **specified by Council**

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Fees

VETERINARY PROFESSIONS R 400.00

Maintenance R 1 258.00

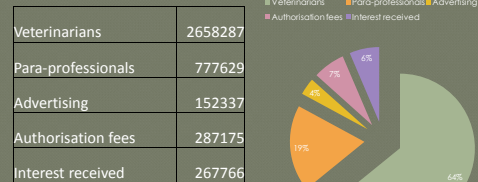
PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS R 342.00

Maintenance R 502.00

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Funding

31 MARCH 2009



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What about foreign qualifications?

- The qualification must entitle the holder to **practise** the **profession** in the country where it was obtained
- That country **allows** persons with corresponding **South African** qualifications to **practise** without an examination in that country
- Council is satisfied that the **standard of knowledge** is at least **equivalent** to a South African qualification

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17 candidates with foreign qualifications registered period 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009

Univ of Zimbabwe 12
 Univ of Minnesota USA
 Univ of Kerala, India
 Trakia Univ Bulgaria
 Freie University, Berlin
 Univ of Sydney

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30 candidates with foreign qualifications registered period 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008

- Univ of Calgary, Alberta, Canada 1
- Univ of Lubumbashi, DRC 2
- Univ of Giessen, Germany 1
- Univ of Leipzig, Germany 1
- Saratov State Med Univ, Russia 1
- Univ of Ohio, USA 2
- Univ of Zimbabwe 23

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What is the scope of practice of a veterinarian/specialist ?

Diagnose/treat/prevent or give advice on a

- Disease;
- Physiological; or
- Pathological condition

Perform

- surgery; or
- a dental operation

Prescribe or administer **medicine**



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What is the scope of practice of a veterinary nurse?

- Basic animal care: clip nails & beaks of birds, clip nails in dogs & cats, dental scaling and polishing
- Collect, process and examine samples
- Administer and dispense medicines, induct & maintain anaesthesia
- Take & develop radiographs
- Administer enemas
- Pass stomach tubes
- Intravenous catheter placement & infusion of fluids and blood
- Supervision of animals
- Wound care, lancing of abscesses, superficial skin stitching, placing of dressings and bandages
- Taking of samples for diagnosis of Brucellosis by a vet and testing for TB
- Physical rehabilitation
- Assisting a vet with surgical procedures



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What is the scope of practice of a veterinary technologist?

- Laboratory tests on plant matter, feeds, blood & organs for isolation & identification of micro-organisms for vet purposes
- Serological tests, biochemical analyses, chemical and biochemical tests to determine the presence of toxins
- Identification of internal and external parasites
- Preparation of histological preparations for examinations.
- Conducting laboratory procedures for vet examinations or research projects.
- Preparation of veterinary biological products for diagnostic tests, and vaccines for prevention of diseases.



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What is the scope of practice of a laboratory animal technologist?

- Take care of experimental animals
- Administer scheduled and experimental substances including anaesthesia and euthanasia
- Collect body fluids, tissues & bacterial swabs for diagnostic and experimental purposes
- Clinical observation
- Preparation of animals for surgery & monitoring before, during and after surgery
- Performance of minor surgical procedures & assisting with experimental surgical procedures
- Use of the tranquilliser dart gun and blow pipe & capture of wild animals for the purpose of research
- Transportation of experimental animals



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What is the scope of practice of an animal health technician?

- Surveillance and inspection of livestock, poultry and game
- Reporting of diseases
- Implementation of vaccination programmes in livestock and administering vaccines
- Implementation of parasite control programmes in livestock
- Carry out abattoir inspections and meat inspections
- Perform duties pertaining to regulated animal diseases
- Extension services
- Collect, capture and evaluate data for epidemiological & research projects
- Collect specimens for investigation of reproductive and fertility problems
- Collect, examine and analyse samples;
- Basic post mortem examinations
- Artificial insemination if registered in terms of the Animal Improvement Act
- Render primary animal health care to resource poor communities



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Alternatives to full registration?

Competence Specific Registration

Due to the **shortages of veterinarians** in some areas of specific expertise or competence provision is made for CSR/ restricted registration. Registration is limited to **a chosen area of competence** without having to complete all the aspects of the standard Council Examination when a person has a non-prescribed relevant qualification.

Categories

Academia * Research * Laboratory diagnostic services * Physical disabilities

Authorisation

The Council may authorise an **unregistered person** in writing to render for gain a particular service deemed to pertain specially to a veterinary or a para-veterinary profession

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When is authorisation given?

- Offer of **employment**
- Need** for the service
- Details of the procedures to be performed with **proven evidence of competency**

IF APPROVED

- Usually limited to a period of **2 years** at a time
- Subject to the code of conduct, ethical rules and disciplinary powers of the Council
- Supervision**

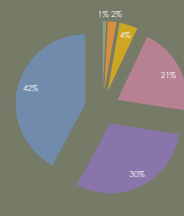


Authorised persons

31 March 2009

■ Veterinary Nurse
 ■ Veterinary Technologist
 ■ Laboratory Animal Technologist
 ■ Animal Health Technician
 ■ Animal Welfare Assistant
 ■ Veterinarian

Animal welfare assistants	212
Animal health technicians	153
Veterinary technologists	103
Veterinarians	21
Laboratory animal technologists	10
Veterinary nurses	4
TOTAL	503



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Any prospective new para-veterinary professions?

- Animal Welfare Assistant (by 2011)
- Animal physiotherapist (preliminary enquiries)
- Meat Inspector/ Veterinary Public Health Officer (preliminary enquiries)
- Equine Dental Technician (newly formed association)

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Termination of registration?

- Own request
- Failure to pay maintenance fees
- Become a patient as defined in terms of the Mental Health Act
- Registration withdrawn after found guilty of unprofessional, improper or disgraceful conduct

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Continuing Professional Development

All veterinary professionals who practise or render professional veterinary services are required to accumulate at **least sixty points**, of which **twenty points** have to be structured activities, within a **three-year cycle**.

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How is quality assured?

The SAVC determines **minimum standards** of training for prescribed qualifications that allow registration
 New **qualifications are evaluated** against these standards
 In a **six year cycle** all subjects are **monitored** by the SAVC
Visitations are arranged to the training institutions with **5 – 8 year** intervals
 Registration with other qualifications only take place after a SAVC **examination**

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Proposed resolution

- All persons that practice a veterinary or veterinary para profession should be registered
- The various registration authorities should have a harmonised process for the issuing of letters of good standing
- Sharing of information between the various registration authorities by introducing a regional forum
- Support harmonisation without comprising the quality of service and harmonising training in the region
- Consider reciprocal arrangements once quality assurance models have been agreed and entered into

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Questions?



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What is a veterinary facility?

*“veterinary facility” means a facility at or from which a person **practises a veterinary profession** and includes a consulting room, clinic, animal hospital and any other place at or from which a veterinary profession is practised.*

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Prescribed veterinary qualifications?

B.V.Sc. - University of Pretoria, South Africa
 B.V. M.Ch - Medical University of Southern Africa
 B.V.Sc - Masey University, New Zealand
 B.V.Sc - University of Bristol, England
 Vet.M.B - University of Cambridge, England
 B.V.M. & S. - University of Edinburgh, Scotland
 B.V.M.S. - University of Glasgow, Scotland
 B.V.Sc. - University of Liverpool, England
 B.Vet.Med. - University of London, England
 M.R.C.V.S. - after examination
 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, England

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Prescribed para-veterinary qualifications

Veterinary nurse

Dip. Cur. Anim. / Dip. Vet. Nur. University of Pretoria, South Africa

Veterinary technologist

National Diploma in Veterinary Technology – Tshwane University of Technology

Animal Health Technician

B.Sc. Agric (Animal Health)/Diploma Animal Health - University of the North West

National Diploma Animal Health – formerly Technikon South Africa (UNISA)

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