



VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES: QUALITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

A Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) is an essential part regarding Good Veterinary Governance and in meeting the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) standards on quality and performance for Veterinary Services

www.oie.int/eng/normes/Mcode/en_sommaire.htm

VSB RESPONSIBILITIES TO GUARANTEE THE QUALITY OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

Principal task: Exercise and enforce control over all veterinary and veterinary para-professionals

Should include - where appropriate:

- compulsory licensing and registration
- minimum standards for education and for the recognition of qualifications
- Setting standards of professional conduct and exercising control
- Application of disciplinary procedures

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE: DEFINITIONS

Veterinary Statutory Body
is an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals

Veterinarian
a person registered or licensed by a VSB to practise veterinary medicine /science

Veterinary para-professional (VPP)
a person authorised by the VSB to carry out certain designated tasks delegated to him/her under the responsibility and direction of a veterinarian. Tasks depend on the qualifications and training of the VPP and the need for the services.

EVALUATION OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Article 3.2.2.2 (TAHC)

"To complement the evaluation of Veterinary Services the organisational structure and functioning of the Veterinary Statutory Board should also be considered."

SCOPE OF EVALUATION OF A VSB

Article 3.2.12 (TAHC)

"In the evaluation of a VSB the following items may be considered, depending on the purpose of the evaluation:"

1. Objectives and functions
2. Legislative basis, autonomy and functional capacity
3. Membership composition and representation
4. Accountability and transparency of decision-making
5. Sources and management of funding
6. Administration of training programmes and programmes for continuing professional development

LEGISLATIVE BASIS & AUTONOMY

A VSB must show that it has the capacity supported by legislation to exercise and enforce control over all veterinarians and VPPs.

It must demonstrate autonomy from undue political and commercial interests

FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

South African Veterinary Council (VSB)

□ COUNCIL

Resolutions - policy, rulings, rules, updating of Code of Conduct, ratifies recommendations of Committees and reviews decisions

□ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Interim decisions via electronic communication

□ VARIOUS COMMITTEES

□ ADMINISTRATION *executes decisions*

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

• REGULATES THE PROFESSIONS AND REGISTERS PERSONS

• DETERMINES THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF TUITION AND TRAINING FOR VARIOUS QUALIFICATIONS

• DETERMINES THE STANDARDS OF & CONTROLS PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- PROMOTES EFFICIENCY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRACTICE
- PROTECTS THE INTERESTS
- MAINTAINS & ENHANCES STATUS
- ADVISES THE MINISTER ON MATTERS AFFECTING

THE PROFESSIONS

REGULATES THE PROFESSIONS

□ REGISTRATION OF VETERINARIANS AND VPPs:

Veterinarians & Veterinary Specialists
Veterinary nurses
Veterinary Technologists
Laboratory Animal Technologists
Animal Health Technicians

Close Corporations & Incorporated Companies

- LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING
- AUTHORISATIONS
- REGISTRATION OF FACILITIES
- EXEMPTIONS

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

Offence

Any person who contravenes the Act 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

QUALITY ASSURANCE OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES

- Descriptive summary of continuing professional development and training and education programmes: include
 - Descriptions of content, duration and participants
 - Documented details of quality manuals and standards relating to Good Veterinary Practice.

MINIMUM STANDARDS OF TUITION AND TRAINING

- ❑ EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- ❑ SPECIALIST COMMITTEE
- recommendations to **COUNCIL**
 - ❑ Minimum standards for undergraduates and post graduates
 - ❑ Monitoring undergraduate and post graduate qualifications
 - ❑ Examination of non - prescribed qualifications
- ❑ CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
- ❑ REGULAR VISITATIONS TO TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

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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HOW IS QUALITY ASSURED?



The SAVC determines minimum standards of training for prescribed qualifications that allow registration

New qualifications are evaluated against these standards - if does not meet the standard automatic registration will not take place

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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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



All veterinary professionals who practise or render professional veterinary services are required to accumulate at least sixty points

twenty points have to be structured activities, within a three-year cycle.

ALL ACCREDITED ACTIVITIES APPEAR ON THE WEBSITE
www.savc.org.za

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WHAT PROCESS IS FOLLOWED TO INVESTIGATE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE
 - Preliminary investigation
 - Formulates allegations that are to be investigated
 - Determines the experts and recommend appointment of Inquiry Body
 - Considers admissions of guilt
- INQUIRY BODY
 - Hears the evidence, makes a finding and imposes a penalty
- REVIEW DECISIONS: **COUNCIL**
- PUBLICATION OF FINDINGS OF GUILT
 - Council Newsletter and Government Gazette
- INSPECTIONS
 - Carried out by Inspectors
 - PRE-ADVICE SCREENING COMMITTEE ON INSPECTIONS makes recommendations to **COUNCIL**

MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION

Detailed information:

- membership
- method and duration of appointment
- election procedures
- qualification requirements for members.

SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

19 MEMBERS

- 1 Veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture
- 6 Elected veterinarians
- 4 Elected veterinary para professionals
- 1 Person with legal knowledge
- 5 Ministerial appointments
- 1 S A Veterinary Association member
- 1 Person from Faculty of Veterinary Science



ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION-MAKING

- Information available on disciplinary procedures
- Publication of findings, sentences and mechanisms for appeal.
- Regular intervals of activity reports
- Lists of registered or licensed persons including deletions and additions

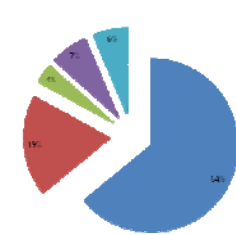
FINANCIAL SOURCES & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Information regarding income and expenditure
- Fee structure(s) for the licensing/registration of persons

FUNDING

Veterinarians
Para-professionals
Authorisation fees
Interest received
Advertising

■ Veterinarians
 ■ Para-professionals
 ■ Advertising
 ■ Authorisation fees
 ■ Interest received



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FEES

VETERINARY PROFESSIONS

Registration R 400.00/ € 36 / USD 53

Annual maintenance R 1 258.00 /
€ 114/ USD 168

VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONS

Registration 342.00 / € 31/ USD 46

Annual maintenance R 502.00 / € 46 /
USD 67

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REMUNERATION

- In terms of Section 13 (1) councillors and committee members may be paid out of Council funds
- Travelling and subsistence allowances as the council may determine
- Currently R 2315.00 per day (to make provision for loss of income/ pay locum fee) plus travelling expenses
- Section 13(2) any member who is an officer (defined in terms of the Public Service Act) receives an allowance in accordance with the laws governing his employment by the State.



CONCLUSION

*"In evaluating the compliance of a country with OIE international standards of quality of Veterinary Services, a Veterinary Statutory Body - be it called a Veterinary Board or Council or by any other designation - plays a pivotal role and is indispensable in the establishment and maintenance of Good Veterinary Governance and Practice.
2. Countries without a VSB should be encouraged to establish a VSB in accordance with the provisions of the TAHG as a matter of high priority."*

Dr Herbert Schneider