

OIE AVTA GALVMED REGIONAL CONFERENCE 13-15 OCTOBER 2015

**VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES:
The role of the SAVC and Veterinary
Para-veterinary professionals**

Why does the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) advocate that animal owners use the services of the Veterinary team members?



Veterinarian



Veterinary specialist



Animal health technician

- The minimum standards of training for veterinarians, -specialists, veterinary nurses, veterinary technologists, laboratory animal technologists and animal health technicians are determined, assessed and maintained by the SAVC
- The standards of practice are determined, monitored and maintained by the SAVC
- Veterinary practices must comply with the minimum standards set by the SAVC being accountable to the client and the animal
- Only a person who is registered with the SAVC may render services stipulated for the veterinary and veterinary para-professions
- Veterinary and veterinary para-professionals have to keep up to date with the latest scientific knowledge



Veterinary technologist



Laboratory animal technologist



Veterinary nurse

Trained and registered members of the veterinary team ensure healthy animals and healthy humans

SAVC
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL


INTRODUCING THE VETERINARY TEAM

The SAVC is a statutory, regulatory body of the veterinary professions in South Africa.

The SAVC is established and functions independently from government under the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982.

The SAVC is a member of the World Animal Health Organisation and subscribes to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on Veterinary Statutory Bodies with a view to improve animal health and welfare, veterinary legislation, veterinary education and supervision of the veterinary professions.

The SAVC adopted its own One Health Concept, has a Food Safety Committee and strategy, developed the Day One skills for each veterinary professions under its regulation and supports the introduction of Private, Public Partnerships



The SAVC established a Standards Committee with a view to harmonise standards of training and standards of practice in the region. In the interim twinning projects are supported. Thereby the SAVC supports the creation of regional associations of VSB and /or other organisations with delegated education authority which could facilitate the establishment of a list of education establishments [VEE] that would be subject to regional accreditation after appropriate external audit, based on criteria that may be accepted throughout the region or Africa to facilitate mobility of veterinary professionals as per the Bamako Declaration April 2011



VISION

**Advancing public health and animal
health through quality Veterinary service**

MISSION

The South African Veterinary Council seeks, through the statutes of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 to to serve the interests of the people of South Africa by:

- Promoting competent, efficient, accessible and needs-driven service delivery in the animal health care sector
- Protect the health and well-being of animals and animal populations



MISSION

- Protect and represent the interests of the Veterinary and Veterinary para-professions
- Regulate the professional conduct of the veterinary and Veterinary para- professions
- And set and monitor standards of both education and practice for the Veterinary and Veterinary para-professions

STRATEGIC GOALS 2014 – 2016

- Unification of the veterinary professions
- Relevance for the needs of the country
- Review of all legislation on an ongoing basis
- Mobilise resources
- Effective administration

In terms of section 23 (1) (c) of the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982 no person who is not registered with the SAVC may render the services of any of the veterinary professionals regulated by the SAVC

THE VETERINARY TEAM

The SAVC promotes veterinary services as an inter-related service offered by the veterinary professions as a team and encourages cooperation between the veterinary profession and the veterinary para-professionals overall, but especially in activities such as disease surveillance and primary animal health care

The veterinary team has a synergistic relationship as per the scopes of practice of each of the veterinary professions as described in the rules for each of the veterinary professions

The veterinary team consists of the

1. veterinarian
2. veterinary nurse
3. veterinary technologist
4. animal health technician and
5. laboratory animal technologist

The SAVC intends to, at this stage, bring four new veterinary para-professionals on board namely:

6. veterinary welfare assistants
7. veterinary physiotherapists
8. meat inspectors and
9. equine dental technicians

SERVICES

1. Veterinarian [3173 registered in SA] Veterinary Specialists [174]

Qualifications: [BVSc, UP] [Qualifications are accepted for automatic registration based on evaluation by visitation process] Persons without accepted qualifications must pass a registration examination

Veterinarians make diagnosis and treat animals. Only veterinarians may use highly scheduled medicines schedules 5 & 6

2. **Veterinary nurse [627]**

Qualifications: [Diploma Veterinary Nurse (Dip. Vet. Nur.) UP; Diploma Curing Animals (Dip. Cur. Anim.) - UP. Qualifications are accepted for automatic registration based on evaluation by visitation process. Persons without accepted qualifications must pass a registration examination

Veterinary nurses assist veterinarians in the practice and are permitted to dispense up to schedule 4 medicines

3. Veterinary technologist [297]

Qualifications: [Nat Dipl, TUT] Persons without accepted qualifications must pass a registration examination

Veterinary technologists mainly work in diagnostic laboratories and issue results to the veterinarian to confirm diagnosis

4. Animal health technician [1058]


Qualifications: [B.Sc. Agric [Animal Health] NWU;
Diploma Animal Health, NWU; Nat Diploma, UNISA]
Persons without accepted qualifications must pass a
registration examination

Animal health technicians [AHTs] act as the foot soldiers in the control of animal diseases and are involved in preventative medicine. AHTs are also involved in Primary Animal Health Care [PAHC] especially in production animals

5. **Laboratory animal technologist [18]**

Qualifications: [Currently only theoretical training Animal Institute Technology, UK and practical training in SA; FELASA accredited courses]. Currently, there is no training offered for this profession in SA and also no registration examination

Laboratory animal technologists only work with experimental animals mainly in a laboratory environment and may perform minor surgery



The SAVC, in terms of Section 23 (1) (c) of the Act authorise persons to render the services of veterinary professionals under conditions determined by the SAVC and where there is a need for such a service which cannot be fulfilled by a registered veterinary professional

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6. **Veterinary Welfare Assistants [VWA]** soon to become a certified [one year certificate] veterinary para profession are currently authorised as Animal Welfare Assistants [AWAs] [322] to provide the services of a veterinary nurse to indigent persons and they are employed by Animal Welfare Organisations
 7. **Veterinary physiotherapists:** The profession will be promulgated in the near future

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8. **Meat inspectors:** The profession is currently registered by the Health Professions Council of SA [HPCSA] as environmental health officers. However they have to in terms of the OIE Performance Veterinary Services report be registered with the SAVC
 9. **Equine Dental Technicians:** A need for this profession was indicated but no further progress is made to bring them on board

THANK YOU

