

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPULSORY
COMMUNITY SERVICE (CCS)

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries intends to, after consultation with the South African Veterinary Council, in terms of section 20A of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Amendment Act, 2012 (Act No.16 of 2012), make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are hereby invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulations to Dr Tembile Songabe: Director of Veterinary Public Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries by not later than 90 (ninety) days after publication hereof by-

- a) posting it to Private Bag X138, PRETORIA, (000); or
- b) delivering it by hand at Room G21, Delpen Building, c/o Annie Botha & Union Street, Riviera (Pretoria) or
- c) e-mailing it to TembileS@daff.gov.za/ FortunateD@daff.gov.za

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

SCHEDULE

1 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 Unless the context otherwise indicate, words or phrases or any expression in these regulations shall have the meaning assigned thereto in the Act, and “Act” means the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act 19 of 1982) and any regulations made thereunder;
- 1.2 Unless otherwise indicated, Department in these regulations shall mean the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (“DAFF”);
- 1.3 Unless otherwise indicated, Minister in these regulations shall mean the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
- 1.4 Unless otherwise indicated, Council in these regulations shall mean the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC).

2 PERSONS WHO SHALL PERFORM COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2.1 Compulsory community service shall be performed by every person registering for the first time as a veterinarian in terms of the Act and shall include a person who obtained his or her qualifications outside the Republic of South Africa. Compulsory community service shall be performed upon completion of studies by every person registered in terms of section 22 of the Act.

2.2 A person contemplated in regulation 2.1 shall, upon registration for the first time as veterinarian be entitled to practise the profession concerned during the period of compulsory community service.

2.3 The Minister shall by notice in the Government Gazette determine the date on which compulsory community service shall commence.

3 REGISTRATION OF PERSONS PERFORMING COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

3.1 Council shall establish procedures for registration and deregistration of persons performing compulsory community service, and the Department shall issue certificates of completion for all persons who have successfully completed compulsory community service.

3.2 A register of persons performing compulsory community service shall be established by the Council for all persons registering for a veterinary profession for the first time in terms of the Act, and should reflect such information.

3.3 A person referred to in regulation 2.1 shall lodge an application for registration as a person performing compulsory community service at the same time as he or she lodges the application for practising a veterinary profession as prescribed in section 25 of the Act.

3.4 The provisions of regulation 23 of the regulations relating to Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions prescribed in terms of the Act shall apply to all persons referred to in regulation 2.1.

3.5 An application form for registration as a person performing compulsory community service contemplated in these regulations shall be accompanied by:

- a) proof that the provisions contemplated in regulation 3.4 have been met;
- b) a formal application form referred to in regulation 3.1; and
- c) a letter of appointment as a community service veterinarian issued by the Department.

3.6 A person performing compulsory community service may only be granted a certificate reflecting particulars contemplated in regulation 3.2.

3.7 A person who has been issued with the certificate of compulsory community service shall, upon submitting a certificate of completion issued by the Department, request in writing to be removed by the Council from a register referred to in regulation 3.2

3.8 The Council shall, upon written request, remove a person who has been issued a certificate issued in terms regulation 3.6 from the register referred to in regulation 3.2 above.

4 CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

4.1 The conditions of service applicable to the public service employees shall, unless otherwise provided for in these regulations, apply to persons performing compulsory community service.

5 PLACES WHERE COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE IS TO BE PERFORMED

5.1 Any person including the State that want to participate in the compulsory community service programme, and be allocated community service veterinarians, shall lodge an application on the prescribed form with the Department annually, prior to the date that shall be published by the Department in the Government Gazette.

5.2 The Minister shall approve the applications and publish a list of approved facilities where compulsory community service is to be performed in the Government Gazette.

5.3 The approved facilities shall be registered with the Council and meet the relevant minimum requirements for veterinary facilities in terms of the rules relating to the Practising of Veterinary Professions.

5.4 Categories for a facility contemplated in regulation 5.2 in terms of these regulations shall include, but not limited to:

5.4.1 Facilities for laboratory, diagnostic and research services

5.4.2 Facilities for State Veterinary Services

5.4.3 Facilities for Animal Welfare Organisations

5.4.4 Facilities for private practitioners

5.4.5 Facilities for the South African National Defence Force and the South African Police Services

5.4.6 Facilities for commercial veterinary related biologicals production

- 5.5 The Minister shall make a final decision with the regard to the place where a person contemplated in regulation 2.1 shall perform compulsory community service.

6 INTERRUPTION OF PERIOD OF COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 6.1 Persons contemplated in regulation 2.1 above shall perform compulsory community service for a minimum period of one year.

- 6.2 Any interruption of compulsory community service must be approved by the Minister, and if a period of community service is interrupted, such period shall consist of periods which, when added together are not less than one calendar year in total, including approved periods of leave.

- 6.3 Compulsory community service shall be completed within a maximum period of 15 months from the date of obtaining the qualification for registration as a veterinarian in the Republic of South Africa and in the case of persons who qualified outside Republic of South Africa from the date of the first registration with the Council.

7 NON-COMPLIANCE

- 7.1 Failure to comply with the requirements of regulation 6.3 will lead to removal from the register referred to in regulation 3.2. and a person shall not be entitled to practise a veterinary profession in terms of the Act.

7.2 A person contemplated regulation 7.1 shall, if still intending to pursue a veterinary career, lodge with Council an application for re-registration for the sole purpose of performing compulsory community service.

7.3 The Council may, upon consideration of an application contemplated in regulation 7.2 and any input from the Department, grant such individual restricted registration,

7.4 Non-compliance will be dealt with in terms of sub- section 43(3) of the Act.

8 EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Minister may on application, after consultation with the Council, exempt persons who fall within the following categories from compulsory community service:

- a) Who obtained qualifications outside the Republic of South Africa;
- b) Who are nationals of the SADC countries who obtained their qualifications in the Republic of South Africa and who do not practise a veterinary profession in the Republic;
- c) Who have been classified as internationals in terms of University fee structure, and have paid fees as such and who do not practise a veterinary profession in the Republic; and
- d) South African nationals relocating back to the Republic of South Africa who obtained their qualifications before implementation of compulsory community service.

9 GENERAL

The Minister may amend these regulations or make any other regulations necessary to achieve the objects of compulsory community service.