

**DRAFT RULES TO PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PLACES
WHERE COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE TO BE
PERFORMED**

The Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries intends to, in terms of section 30 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act 19 of 1982), as amended, after consideration and approval of relevant recommendations by the South African Veterinary Council, make the following Rules Relating to the Minimum Standards for Places where Compulsory Community Services are to be Performed as set out in the Schedule

Interested persons are hereby invited to submit substantial comments or representations in writing on the proposed rules to the Registrar of the South African Veterinary Council by not later than 90 (ninety) days after publication hereof by-

- a) posting it to P O Box 40510, Arcadia 0007; or
- b) delivering it by hand at 874 Stanza Bopape Street, Lisdogan Park Pretoria; or
- c) e-mailing it to savc@savc.org.za.

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

SCHEDULE

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR VETERINARY FACILITIES WHERE STATE REGULATORY SERVICES ARE BEING RENDERED

1. A veterinary facility where a state regulatory service is being rendered shall consist of a fully furnished office, but not limited thereto, which shall be maintained at an acceptable standard and appearance that is consistent with the professional image and appeal; and shall have:
 - (a) general office equipment such as a computer, fax, telephone, photocopier, effective internet connection and emails, or access thereto;
 - (b) a lockable room for storage of equipment and scheduled medicine in accordance with relevant legislation where scheduled medicine or sensitive equipment are used;
 - (c) a fridge or a facility for storage of thermo-sensitive pharmaceuticals and other biological products at recommended temperature(s) where such products are used;
 - (d) a microscope, relevant chemicals/ stains, and any other equipment necessary to scientifically, reliably and professionally execute duties associated with type of veterinary service;

- (e) an appropriate range of medicine, instruments and protective clothing where applicable;
- (f) where necessary, have appropriate equipment for recording, filing and communication systems that is necessary for recording/ reporting/ auditing of various diseases/ cases/ events/ clients, according to World Organisation for Animal Health guidelines and other relevant legislation;
- (g) access to resources/ libraries or other educational material necessary to rapidly retrieve necessary scientific and/ or legislative materials necessary to make sound decisions/ judgements/ actions that will foster a rapid response, and a culture of continuous professional development and scientific knowledge development;
- (h) additional equipment/ resources that are necessary for the type of veterinary services rendered;
- (i) a post mortem examination room (or access to one) that is equipped with equipment and tools that are necessary for appropriate and reliable diagnosis, where applicable;
- (j) where applicable, have equipment that is necessary for obtaining and transporting of biological samples/ specimens for diagnostic or other purposes or access thereto;

- (k) have access to a reliable courier service that can deliver specimens, including transport of full carcasses, and other materials to the appropriate laboratories or destinations; and
- (l) have access to a reliable vehicle that is equipped with necessary equipment for the veterinary professional to perform relevant types of services.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STATE AMBULATORY SERVICES

- 2. In addition to compliance with the minimum standards for mobile animal services published in terms of the Rules Relating to the Practising of Veterinary Professions in the Government Gazette GNR.2086 of 1 October 1982, as amended from time to time, a state ambulatory service shall, where applicable, have:
 - (a) equipment/ tools suitable for rendering a range of basic animal health care services, animal husbandry services, veterinary herd-health and preventative veterinary services, community training and extension services in a manner that is consistent with professional standards, while ensuring occupational safety;
 - (b) equipment that is necessary for the veterinary professional to perform physical examinations and emergency treatment consistent with the standard of the profession and type of veterinary services;
 - (c) necessary equipment shall include, but not limited thereto, essential equipment such as dystocia kits, microscopes, relevant chemicals for

staining/ or facilitating diagnosis, pregnancy diagnosis kits, and other onsite basic diagnostic tools that are necessary for rendering rapid, reliable, efficient, scientific and professional diagnosis or veterinary duties associated with the type of veterinary service rendered;

- (d) access to a permanent office and address, where there is an appropriate environment for clients to visit and or correspond; appropriate equipment for recording, filing and appropriate communication systems that are necessary for recording/ reporting/ auditing of various diseases/ cases/ events/ clients, according to World Animal Health guidelines and other relevant legislation; such office shall not necessarily be a veterinary facility;
- (e) access to a post mortem examination facility that is equipped with tools that are necessary for appropriate diagnosis where applicable;
- (f) equipment, or access thereto, that is necessary for obtaining and transporting of biological samples/ specimens for diagnostic or other purposes;
- (g) access to reliable courier services that can deliver specimens, including full carcasses and other materials to the appropriate laboratories or destinations; and
- (h) boots, and protective clothing, and means to sanitise/ change them.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LABORATORY, DIAGNOSTIC AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

3. Laboratory, diagnostic and research facilities that have been approved as places where registered veterinarians may perform compulsory community service shall:
 - (a) be of good professional standard, and shall demonstrate competency through a certificate of accreditation by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) according to ISO 17025 or as measured against The Standard for Department of Agriculture Approved Veterinary Laboratories;
 - (b) be expected to participate in the membership(s) of the Veterinary Laboratory Scientific Forum or other equivalent bodies. Such laboratories shall also participate in the activities of inter-laboratory comparison and training; and
 - (c) conduct research, diagnostic tests/ procedures consistent with; and stimulating/ promoting the development of the veterinary profession

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 The Council may, on written application, and at its own discretion, grant exemption from the provision of specific rules for the purposes of compulsory community service.
- 4.2 Such an application shall be lodged with the Council, on behalf of the Minister, by the National Director for Compulsory Community Service

after consultation with the Provincial Coordinators for Compulsory Community Service.

- 4.3 If there are no registered veterinary facilities in a specific town/area where compulsory community services are rendered or within a 70 kilometer radius from such a town/area, it will not be a requirement that the application for exemption is to be supported by a registered veterinary professional in private practice.