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Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe

Code of Professional Conduct

January 2000



COUNCIL OF VETERINARY SURGEONS OF ZIMBABWE

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

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PART 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION

- 1.1.1 Membership of a profession places certain responsibilities and obligations upon the individuals belonging to that profession. The privilege of self-regulation is granted to the Veterinary Profession in Zimbabwe on the understanding that it will discharge these responsibilities to society, and that this obligation extends to individual members and to the profession as a whole.
- 1.1.2 These obligations go above and beyond the common law and are contained in the ethical rules prepared by the Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe (hereinafter referred to as *Council*) for the guidance of the profession.
- 1.1.3 These ethics are not drawn up at the whim of Council but are based on the extensive experience of the profession in the world and updated to respond to the wishes and circumstances of the profession in Zimbabwe. It is in response to these needs that Council has prepared this *Code of Professional Conduct* to update the existing Code of Ethics.
- 1.1.4 There is a commonly held perception that ethics are a set of rules imposed by one group of people on others for policy-making reasons and that they can therefore be ignored or applied when it is expedient to do so. This is not the case. The ethics of veterinary profession are, and *must* continue to be above racial, political or vested financial interests and must always be formulated with the best interests of the welfare of animals and society foremost. They are applicable at all times.
- 1.1.5 This Code sets out the framework of the legal and ethical obligations within which veterinarians *must* operate in order to fulfil their responsibilities to animals and society.

1.2 REGULATION OF THE PROFESSION

1.2.1 RULES AS TO GENDER AND NUMBER

In terms of section 9 of the Interpretation Act [Chapter 1:01] :

- (1) Words importing the *masculine* gender include the *feminine*.
- (2) Words in the *singular*, include the *plural* and words in the *plural* include the *singular*.

- 1.2.2 The *Veterinary Surgeons Act [Chapter 27:15]* authorises the establishment of the Council of Veterinary Surgeons and confers on Council certain powers to regulate the practise of veterinary medicine and surgery in Zimbabwe.
- 1.2.3 The Act stipulates that no person shall practise veterinary medicine and/or surgery or make claim to being a veterinary surgeon (veterinarian) unless he is properly registered with Council.
- The principal purpose of the Act is to protect the public and animals from unqualified or unprofessional practise and to promote high standards of professional conduct.*
- 1.2.4 **APPLICABILITY** - The obligations falling on the profession under the Act and this *Code of Professional Conduct* apply to all registered veterinarians whether they are engaged in private practice, teaching, research, commercial or state appointments, or any other form of veterinary activity.

1.3. JURISDICTION OF COUNCIL

1.3.1. The Veterinary Surgeons' Act places squarely upon the profession itself the responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of proper levels of professional conduct by giving Council the power to hold enquiries into allegations of misconduct or incompetence and to take disciplinary action.

1.3.2. **Disciplinary Enquiries**

1.3.2.1 Council may hold enquiries into allegations of unethical, improper or disgraceful conduct or professional incompetence.

1.3.2.2 These enquiries usually follow formal complaints from the public, clients, or other veterinarians about the treatment of their animals.

1.3.2.3 Council will initially investigate the complaint by obtaining written statement from the parties concerned and any other relevant sources.

1.3.2.4 If, in the opinion of Council, the initial investigations adequately answer the complaint, the matter is considered resolved and the parties informed of this.

1.3.2.5 In cases that are not resolved or where the complaint is of a more serious nature, Council invariably seeks the opinion of its Legal Advisor. It may then be necessary to hold a full enquiry into the case and the veterinarian concerned is then required to appear before Council. The complaint may be resolved at this stage and a penalty imposed or not.

1.3.2.6 In those cases that are sufficiently serious, Council's legal advisor will draw up a formal charge of misconduct which is considered at a formal hearing. It is obligatory for Council's legal advisor to be present at this hearing and the veterinarian concerned may be represented by his own legal advisor.

1.3.2.7 At the conclusion of this hearing, Council may find the veterinarian guilty of improper or disgraceful conduct or incompetence.

1.3.3. *PENALTIES*

If a veterinarian is found guilty of any of these offences, Council may:-

1.3.3.1 Direct the Registrar to cancel the registration of the offender.

1.3.3.2 Order the suspension of his or her registration for a specified period.

1.3.3.3 Impose conditions under which the person shall practise.

1.3.3.4 Impose a fine.

1.3.3.5 Order the person to pay any costs incurred in the enquiry.

1.3.3.6 Censure him.

1.3.3.7 Postpone any further action for a period not exceeding three years.

1.3.4 A registered person who fails to comply with an order is liable to a fine or imprisonment or both.

1.3.5. *APPEAL*

Any veterinarian who disagrees with the findings of, or penalty imposed by, Council may appeal to the High Court of Zimbabwe.

1.4

MISCONDUCT

1.4.1

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS

Any breach of the Professional Conduct Regulations is by definition, misconduct. Most of these pertain to actions such as advertising, signage, stationery, touting, improper certification, supersession, professional reputation, and the obstruction of Council.

1.4.2

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE OR INCOMPETENCE

While Council respects, and will protect the right of every veterinarian to exercise his clinical judgement in the treatment of an animal, there are certain procedures and levels of competence that would be considered either unethical or disgraceful in a professional respect.

The privilege of freedom to choose the method of treatment and type of surgery imposes a concurrent obligation to make the choice and perform the procedure with awareness of the consequences, responsibility and competence.

PART 2

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROFESSION

2.1

THE PRACTISE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY

DEFINITION: A *veterinary surgeon or veterinarian* is a person who is registered in terms of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, [Chapter 27:15], to practice veterinary medicine and/or surgery.

2.1.1

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A veterinarian shall base his personal and professional conduct on the guiding principles that:-

2.1.1.1

he is a member of a learned and honourable profession and is required to act in such a manner as will maintain and promote the prestige, honour, dignity, and interests of the profession.

2.1.1.2

he is morally and legally obliged to serve the public to the best of his ability and in the light of the latest scientific knowledge.

2.1.1.3

he will not seek any personal advantage at the expense of any colleague in the profession.

2.1.1.4

he will not permit himself to be exploited in a manner which may be detrimental to an animal, his clients, nor the public.

2.1.1.5

he will, as far as it is within his professional ability, administer emergency treatment to any animal that is presented to him.

- 2.1.1.6 he will not abandon the treatment of an animal under his professional care unless he is satisfied that he has done his utmost to safeguard the welfare of the animal concerned.
- 2.1.1.7 he will make proper provision at all times, including out-of-hours, for the relief of the pain or the suffering of all animals under his direct care and for their further treatment, where necessary, either by himself or through professional colleagues.
- 2.1.1.8 all veterinarians are working in the same good cause, irrespective of whether they are in private practice or in the service of an employer, and they shall therefore co-operate with each other and the authorities concerned to promote that cause.
- 2.1.1.9 a veterinarian shall keep himself informed of the laws which affect him in the practise of his profession and shall, as far as it lies in his power, assist in the application of those laws.
- 2.1.1.10 a veterinarian shall refrain from expressing any criticism in public through which the reputation, status or practice of the profession, is or could be undermined or injured, or through which a reflection is or could be cast on the probity, skill, methods or conduct of a colleague.
- 2.1.1.11 subject to rule 2.1.1.12 a veterinarian shall not assist, co-operate or collaborate with a member of the public or any organisation if irregular or unlawful practises are or may be encouraged thereby, or if it may adversely affect the veterinary profession.
- 2.1.1.12 the provision of rule 2.1.1.11 shall not be construed so as to prohibit a veterinarian from rendering assistance in an emergency to save life or to prevent suffering despite the fact that unlawful or irregular practices may be involved provided that the person concerned shall, as soon as possible thereafter, notify the Council of Veterinary Surgeons, in writing, of the relevant circumstances.

2.1.2 *USE OF VETERINARY MEDICINES*

- 2.1.2.1 Whenever a veterinarian administers a veterinary medicine to an animal or prescribes the administering thereof he shall satisfy himself that such administration is justified with due allowance for the benefits and the risks that veterinary medicine may hold for:-
- the animal to which it is administered.
 - the person by whom it is administered.
 - the consumer of the products of that animal if residues of the veterinary medicine concerned should be present in those products.
- 2.1.2.2 A veterinarian may only prescribe drugs for animals under his direct care and of which he is the usual practitioner. For purposes of interpretation of this rule the veterinarian must have been consulted by the owner of the animal(s) within the past six months of the request for a written or telephonic prescription, and that records of such consultation shall be on file at the practice.
- 2.1.2.3 The provision of rule 2.1.2.2 shall not be construed as to prohibit a veterinarian from rendering assistance in an emergency. Rule 2.1.1.10 refers.
- 2.1.2.4 A veterinarian shall inform the owner of an animal to which a veterinary medicine is administered with regard to:
- 2.1.2.4.2 the application and effect and the precautionary measures in connection with that veterinary medicine;
 - 2.1.2.4.2 the period, if any, during which the products of the animal are to be withheld from consumption by humans.

2.1.3 *ACCEPTANCE*

No veterinarian shall:-

- 2.1.3.1 pay nor offer commission to anybody as a consideration for clients or possible clients who may be or have been referred to him.
- 2.1.3.2 accept any commission from anybody as a consideration for his recommendation of services offered or rendered by such person.
- 2.1.3.3 share any fees which are charged for a service with any person other than a colleague in the profession, unless such sharing is commensurate with the extent of such other person's participation in the rendering of the service concerned.
- 2.1.3.4 charge or accept any fee for the examination of an animal from both the buyer and the seller of that animal, or both the insurer and the owner of the animal.
- 2.1.3.5 The provisions of rule 2.1.3.1 shall not be so construed as to prohibit a veterinarian:-
 - 2.1.3.5.1 from paying to a debt collecting agency any commission in respect of debts which are collected by such an agency on his behalf.
 - 2.1.3.5.2 from accepting any royalty or similar compensation in respect of an article or product to which he holds the patent rights.

2.1.4 *CANVASSING AND TOUTING FOR PRACTICE*

- 2.1.4.1 A veterinarian shall not, under any circumstances, canvass nor tout for practice, whether personally or through the agency of others, nor shall he be associated in doing so for any other member of the profession.
- 2.1.4.2 In this context, it should be remembered that the professional services of a veterinarian are rendered to the client and do not attach to a building, a farm or any land in general. The veterinarian in attendance shall not approach either directly, nor indirectly, his client's successor on the premises with a view to securing him as a client.

2.1.5 *TENDERING OF SERVICES*

- 2.1.5.1 Subject to rule 2.1.5.2 a veterinarian shall not in any manner whatsoever, except with the written consent of the Council:-
 - 2.1.5.1.1 tender his services for any professional appointment;
 - 2.1.5.1.2 invite tenders for any professional appointment;
- 2.1.5.2 The provisions of rule 2.1.5.1 shall not be so construed as to prohibit a veterinarian from:-
 - 2.1.5.1 furnishing a quotation of the fee being charged by him for a particular service
 - 2.1.5.2.1 applying for a professional appointment in a situation which is advertised as vacant
 - 2.1.5.2.2 making enquiries, nor advertising for a professional appointment, vacancy, locum tenens etc
 - 2.1.5.2.3 advertising a situation as vacant.

- 2.1.6.1 Before a veterinarian assumes a professional appointment (as in a consultancy, or directorship) either in an honorary capacity or otherwise, he shall enter into a service contract to regulate the appointment concerned.
- 2.1.6.2 Such service contract:
- 2.1.6.2.1 shall not be used nor be calculated to be used as a means to advertise the person concerned, nor his name.
- 2.1.6.2.3 shall clearly enunciate the services which are expected from the person concerned.
- 2.1.6.2.3 shall not give rise to the undermining nor injury of the practice, nor the reputation, of a colleague in the profession.

PARTNERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2.1.7.1 A veterinarian shall not:-
- 2.1.7.1.1 enter into partnership in his practice with another person
- 2.1.7.1.2 offer a professional veterinary appointment in his practice to another person
- 2.1.7.1.3 employ another person in a professional veterinary capacity at his practice
- 2.1.7.1.4 share his waiting and consulting rooms with another person

unless such other person is also registered as a veterinarian in terms of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, and that he has ascertained that the other person's name appears in the Register of Veterinary Surgeons.

SPECIALISATION

- 2.1.8.1 Should a veterinarian wish to become registered as a specialist the Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe will promulgate a regulation to cover such definition and registration.
- 2.1.8.2 The present advice regarding specialisation is as follows:
- 2.1.8.3 A specialist can only be so described in one discipline at any one time, except at the discretion of Council.
- 2.1.8.4 A candidate making application to Council to be registered as a specialist will:
- 2.1.8.4.1 Have completed a period of at least 5 years of veterinary work predominantly involving the speciality.
- 2.1.8.4.2 Have peer approval - a recognition by colleagues as a *de facto* specialist in the relevant discipline.
- 2.1.8.4.3 Have had referees submit confidential reports from four persons of standing, those persons being related to the profession, for consideration by the Specialist Recognition Sub-Committee.
- 2.1.8.4.4 Submit publications and proof of appointments on official bodies in the relevant

specialist field, and be assessed and approved by the Specialist Recognition Sub-Committee.

- 2.1.8.4.5 If possessing other qualifications, be assessed by the Specialist Recognition Sub-Committee.
- 2.1.8.5 Council has ruled that no registered person will call himself a specialist, unless first approved by Council
- 2.1.8.6 A Specialist Recognition Sub-Committee will be set up by the Council, as and when required for the consideration of applications.
- 2.1.8.7 No veterinarian may describe himself as a specialist or specialist consultant in any particular discipline without Council's prior approval in accordance with the above guidelines.

2.2 RELATIONSHIP WITH CLIENTS AND THE PUBLIC

2.2.1 PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY

- 2.2.1.1 A veterinarian should treat all information obtained by him, either directly, or indirectly, in the course of the practise of his profession, and which relates to a client or an animal as strictly confidential, irrespective of whether that information has been obtained as a result of the examination, diagnosis or treatment of that animal, or has been disclosed to him by a colleague or another person in confidence.
- 2.2.1.2 Information referred to in rule 2.2.1.1:-
 - 2.2.1.2.1 may only be revealed to another person with the consent of the owner of the animal concerned;
 - 2.2.1.2.2 shall be revealed if the veterinarian is directed thereto by Council, a court of law, or is obliged thereto under the Animal Health Act and Regulations or some other law;
 - 2.2.1.2.3 may in exceptional circumstances be revealed if the veterinarian is of the opinion that the public interest outweighs his obligation to the owner of the animal concerned, and the advice of Council may be sought before such action is taken.
 - 2.2.1.2.4 and paragraph 2.2.1.1 is not to be taken as prohibiting the communication of information to colleagues and support staff properly involved in the animal's case, nor to students receiving instruction in relation to the animal. In such circumstances, however, the veterinarian concerned must ensure that the staff and students are fully aware of the provisions of this part of the Code and abide strictly by them.
 - 2.2.1.2.5 may be revealed if the veterinarian believes it is in the best interests of the patient – as in cases of cruelty.

2.2.2 CLIENT AND VETERINARIAN PROTECTION

- 2.2.2.1 All veterinary practices are strongly advised to carry *Third Party* insurance for the protection of the Public.
- 2.2.2.2. All veterinarians are strongly advised to carry *Professional Indemnity* insurance.
- 2.2.2.3 All veterinary practices should issue fully *itemised invoices*.

- 2.2.2.4 All veterinary practices should issue **written quotes**, that are accepted by owners, before engaging in expensive surgery and treatments. In the case of emergency treatment, this should be done as soon as practicable.
- 2.2.2.5 All veterinary practices must ensure that clients/owners/agents sign a **Consent for Anaesthesia** form, in which is detailed the date, name, address and present contact telephone number of the owner, name and particulars of the patient, procedure requested and a signed understanding of the risks involved to the patient undergoing surgery and anaesthesia.
- 2.2.2.6 A quote may be included on the **Consent for Anaesthesia** form.
- 2.2.2.7 All veterinary practices must ensure that clients/owners/agents sign a **Consent for Euthanasia** form, in which is detailed the date, owner's name and address, name and particulars of the patient, and signed consent given for the humane euthanasia of the animal.
- 2.2.2.8 All veterinary practices must issue written **Discharge Advice Forms** for animals that have undergone anaesthesia and/or surgery, giving an emergency telephone number that can be used in cases of complications, advising when the animal should next be seen for a follow-up examination and detailing the procedure that was carried out, what owners should expect during recovery, when water and food may next be offered, when dressings, casts, implants and/or sutures should be removed and any other precautions that should be followed or relevant information.
- 2.2.2.9 All veterinary practices must maintain a complete **record of all medicines purchased and dispensed**, so that a regular audit of drugs can be carried out. This is essential for **Dangerous Drugs** and is important to control theft of drugs by non-authorised persons.

2.3 RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VETERINARIANS

2.3.1 SECOND OPINIONS

- 2.3.1.1 If a client of a veterinarian requires a second opinion on the condition of an animal being treated by himself, the attending veterinarian will:-
- 2.3.1.1.1 assist his client with the choice of and arrangements with a colleague in the profession to furnish the required second opinion.
- 2.3.1.1.2 furnish the colleague concerned with a full case history of the animal concerned and state the reason for the second opinion.
- 2.3.1.2 A veterinarian may request a second opinion on the condition of the animal being treated by him only if the client agrees thereto.
- 2.3.1.3 A person from whom a second opinion has been requested, shall furnish his findings on the condition of the animal concerned to both the owner of that animal and the colleague concerned.
- 2.3.1.4 After a person has furnished such a second opinion, he shall, subject to rule 2.3.2.1.2 only attend to the animal concerned at the invitation of, or with the consent of the person by whom that animal is currently being treated, whose condition has not yet been resolved and/or which has not yet been discharged.
- 2.3.1.5 For the purposes of interpretation a fresh outbreak or occurrence of a previously treated chronic condition constitutes a **new case**. Such a case may be treated by another veterinarian, and does not constitute supersession.

Poor relationships between members of the profession undermine public confidence in the veterinary profession as a whole. Where possible veterinarians should always liaise with their colleagues where more than one veterinarian is involved in the treatment of a group of animals. No cases should ever be seen if owners decline to divulge the name of the veterinarian currently treating the animal.

- 2.3.2.1 A veterinarian shall not examine nor treat any animal nor advise the owner of such animal on the diagnosis and treatment of that animal if he is aware that the animal is currently being treated by a colleague in the profession, unless he is, in terms of rule 2.3.1:-
- 2.3.2.1.1 requested to furnish a second opinion on the condition of the animal concerned.
- 2.3.2.1.2 the owner of the animal concerned requests him to take over the treatment of the animal concerned or to apply emergency treatment to the animal concerned.
- 2.4.2.2.2. If, in terms of rule 2.3.2.1.2 a veterinarian:-
- 2.3.2.1.2.1 takes over the treatment of an animal, he shall notify the colleague concerned thereof as soon as possible.
- 2.3.2.1.3 If a veterinarian applies emergency veterinary treatment to an animal:-
- 2.3.2.1.1.1 he shall, where possible, ascertain beforehand that the colleague concerned is not available to apply such treatment himself, and
- 2.3.2.1.3.2 he shall for the purposes of such emergency treatment, act on behalf of the colleague concerned, and
- 2.3.2.1.3.3 he shall forthwith notify the colleague concerned of the nature and extent of the emergency treatment applied by him.

- 2.3.3.1 If a veterinarian renders professional services in the course of his employment he shall not use his connection with his employer in any manner whatsoever to promote his own practice at the expense of his colleagues in the profession.
- 2.3.3.2 No veterinarian shall engage in part-time private practice in an area adequately served by a private practitioner who provides a 24-hour service to his patients.
- 2.3.2.1 The provision of rule 2.3.3.2 shall not be so construed as to prohibit a veterinarian from engaging in locum employment in any private practice.
- 2.3.3.4 The provision of rule 2.3.3.2 shall not be so construed as to prohibit a veterinarian from rendering assistance in an emergency. Rule 2.1.1.12 refers.

3.1

CERTIFICATION

Veterinarians must take great care when signing their names on documents or certificates as this has the greatest potential for error out of all their professional acts. A certificate is a statement of fact made with authority and if the facts are incorrect the authority of the signatory veterinarian(s) is suspect which leads to international lack-of-confidence with the authority.

In general the *Twelve Principles of Certification* must be followed. These principles have been adopted internationally to protect both the veterinarian and client.

3.1.1

THE TWELVE PRINCIPLES OF CERTIFICATION

- 3.1.1.1. A veterinarian should be asked to certify only those matters which are within his own knowledge, can be ascertained by him personally, or are the subject of a supporting certificate from another veterinarian who does have personal knowledge of the matters in question and is authorised to provide such a supporting document. Matters not within the knowledge of a veterinarian and not the subject of such a supporting document, but known to other persons, for example the farmer, the breeder or the truck driver, should be the subject of a declaration by those persons only
- 3.1.1.2. Neither a veterinary surgeon, nor any person described in 3.1.1.1 above should be requested, nor required to sign anything relating to matters which cannot be verified by the signatory.
- 3.1.1.3. Veterinarians should not issue a certificate, which might raise questions of a possible conflict of interest, for example, in relation to their own animals.
- 3.1.1.4. All certificates should be written in terms which are as simple and easy to understand as possible.
- 3.1.1.5. Certificates should not use words or phrases which are capable of more than one interpretation.
- 3.1.1.6. Certificates should be:
 - 3.1.1.6.1. produced on one sheet of paper or, where more than one page is required, in such a form that any two or more pages are part of an integrated whole and indivisible;
 - 3.1.1.6.2. given a unique number, not just the date, with records being retained by the issuing authority, of the persons to whom certificates bearing particular numbers, were supplied.
- 3.1.1.7. Certificates should be written in the language of the veterinarian signing them, and accompanied by an official translation of the certificate into a language of the country of ultimate destination.
- 3.1.1.8. Certificates should identify animals individually except in cases where this is impractical, for example, day-old chicks.
- 3.1.1.9. Certificates should not require a veterinarian to certify that there has been compliance with the law of Zimbabwe or a third country, unless the provisions of the law are set out clearly on the certificate or have been provided to him by the issuing authority.
- 3.1.1.10. Where appropriate, notes for guidance should be provided to the certifying veterinarian by the issuing authority indicating the extent of the enquiries he is expected to make, the

examinations he is required to carry out, or to clarify any details of the certificate which may require further interpretation.

- 3.1.111 Certificates should always be issued and presented in the original. Photocopies are not acceptable, provided that:
- 3.1.1.11.1 a copy of the certificate, clearly marked '*copy*', should always be provided to the authority by whom the certificates were issued – see 3.1.1.6.1 above
- 3.1.1.11.2 where, for any good and sufficient reason (such as damage in transit) a duplicate certificate is authorised and supplied by the issuing authority, this must be clearly marked '*duplicate*' before issue.
- 3.1.1.12 When signing a certificate, a veterinarian should ensure that:
- 3.1.1.12.1 he signs, stamps and completes any manuscript portions in a colour of ink, which does not readily photocopy, namely a colour other than black;
- 3.1.1.12.2 the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the face of the certificate to be permissible, and subject to such changes being initialled and stamped by the certifying veterinarian.
- 3.1.1.12.3 the certificate bears not only his signature but also, in clear lettering, his name, qualifications and address and (where appropriate) his official or practice stamps.
- 3.1.1.12.4 the certificate bears the date on which the certificate was signed and issued and (where appropriate) the time for which the certificate will remain valid.
- 3.1.2 From time to time veterinarians may be presented with certificates which do not conform to all the *Twelve Principles of Certification* and in this case Council strongly advises veterinarians as follows:
- 3.1.2.1 *CAUTION* before signing any certificate - veterinarians must:
- 3.1.2.1.1 scrutinise the document whatever its title;
- 3.1.2.1.2 be clear as to whom they are responsible in exercising their authority when they sign the document;
- 3.1.2.2 *CLARITY* scrutinising the document includes:
- 3.1.2.2.1 reading and understanding any explanatory supporting material;
- 3.1.2.2.2 checking carefully for any ambiguity which should be clarified with whoever has issued the certificate;
- 3.1.2.2.3 in the case of certificates relating to international trade, veterinarians may need to ask for assistance from the Department of Veterinary Services. They should record in writing the information received, the date and time it is received and the name of the DVS official giving the advice. They should expect their own queries to be similarly recorded. They may request and expect to receive written confirmation of the guidance given to them;
- 3.1.2.3 *CERTAINTY* in considering what they will attest in order to satisfy the obligations of certainty, veterinarians:-
- 3.1.2.3.1 must be sure that they attest only to what to the best of their knowledge

- 3.1.2.3.2 and belief is true.
 - 3.1.2.3.3 do not attest to future events.
 - 3.1.2.3.4 do not recklessly attest to what others have declared or asserted.
 - 3.1.2.3.4 may attest to what another veterinarian has certified, and may also attest to the fact that a declaration or assertion has been made by another person without attesting to its validity.
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PART 4

4.1 ADVERTISING

4.1.1 DEFINITION

Advertisement means notice or other communication in any visual or auditory form, whether paid for or not, which the advertising veterinarian intends to be read, heard or seen by members of the public, other than the veterinarian's own clients with a view to directing their attention to services he provides.

4.1.2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 4.1.2.1 A person who practises a veterinary profession may in his discretion advertise his services or facilities, provided that the advertisement complies with the provision of this **Code** and further, that in so advertising he will not compromise:

- 4.1.2.1.1 the freedom of the public to consult a veterinarian of their own choice.

- 4.1.2.1.2 the good repute of the veterinary profession.

- 4.1.2.2 *All advertisements are required to be approved by Council prior to insertion in any media, including newspapers, Yellow Pages and the Internet. These may be submitted to Council by hand, mail, electronic mail or fax and will be considered at the next meeting of the Council, usually held on the second Wednesday of every month.*

- 4.1.2.3 All advertising must be legal, both by inclusion and omission. All advertising, including signs, notice boards and advertisements in all media must be decent, in good taste, and have a regard to professional propriety. Council will have the final say in this regard and veterinarians should first contact the Council for approval of proposed advertisements, signs or boards before proceeding with the production thereof.

- 4.1.2.4 All advertising must be truthful, accurate, clear, unambiguous, make no guarantees and be easily identified as an advertisement.

- 4.1.2.5 Advertising must be used solely to inform of services provided and *not* to exploit. It should not be aimed at children, the elderly, nor other vulnerable groups, nor exploit ignorance, nor credulity.

- 4.1.2.6 Advertisements shall be limited to a description of the name of the veterinarian, the address, the telephone numbers, e-mail address, web site, the services provided, times of operation, emergency facilities and may include a logo (being an object or figure being a symbolic representation presented in a professional manner and used as a mark of recognition or distinguishing token) of the Surgery or Hospital if one has been approved by the Council, and a small descriptive map of the location of the facility. A logo or coat-of-arms of an association or group of which the veterinarian is a member, may also

be included provide this is so authorised by the association or group, or that said association or group sets standards of practice for which the facility is inspected and certified.

- 4.1.2.7 Advertisements may not in any way be comparative, and no descriptive adjectives nor adverbs may be used, nor may facilities, services, standards nor expertise be compared with those provided by other veterinarians, nor may they criticise other veterinarians.
- 4.1.2.8 A veterinarian must be able to provide the services as advertised.
- 4.1.2.9 Due to the variable nature of veterinary procedures, fees may not be advertised under any circumstances, including within the veterinarian's waiting room, although the veterinarian must be prepared to provide an estimate of fees. The use of introductory vouchers or registration bonuses is not admissible and any reference to free services is construed as the advertising of fees.
- 4.1.2.10 As far as possible, a veterinarian should adhere to the recommended fees of his association or group, although reduced fees may be offered to the indigent, elderly and welfare organisations. If fees are grossly undercut some form of compromise of service, standards and/or medications will be assumed to have been made, and Council considers this to be non-professional.
- 4.1.2.11 A veterinarian may not advertise himself as a specialist unless registered as such with Council.
- 4.1.2.12 A veterinary group, committee or association may advertise in all media without limitation on the size, nor format provided this has the approval of the majority of its members.
- 4.1.2.13 In all cases, no statement, advertisement, nor written word may be seen to promote one veterinary surgeon above another. The Council shall be the sole arbitrator of this provision

4.1.3 *MEDIA ADVERTISING*

- 4.1.3.1 A veterinarian may advertise in the printed as well as the electronic media, ***excluding radio and television***, and may place one insertion in each edition of the Yellow Pages of the Telephone Directory and may have a Web Page on the Internet provided such advertisements comply with the provisions of the General Principles, rule 4.1.2 and have been approved by the Council.
- 4.1.3.2 A veterinarian may take part in radio or television interviews or feature in newspaper reports or on Internet pages on a veterinary subject before a lay assembly or otherwise be brought to the attention of the public. Under such circumstances the veterinarian must not cause to be published his photograph, surname, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address nor web site, nor indicate that he will be available for consultation in a private capacity.
- 4.1.3.3 A veterinary surgeon employed in that capacity on a full-time basis, by a company involved in animal health may allow his name to be used on company business and promotion. He may talk on veterinary subjects on behalf of the company using any media, including electronic. He may provide advice on behalf of the company. Where such advice may be seen to impinge on the area of a veterinary practitioner involved in a specific case, or cases, the advice given shall be confined to the method of use and mode of action of a company product, or given in consultation with the practitioner concerned.
- 4.1.3.4 A veterinary practitioner employed in a part-time capacity by a company involved in

animal health may act on company business as is 4.1.3.3. However, he may not in any circumstances use the company involvement to promote himself as a private practitioner.

4.1.4 *PROMOTION OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES*

4.1.4.1 A veterinarian may issue handbills, pamphlets or any communications in connection herewith which are issued to the public, provided these are limited to his own registered veterinary premises or circulated by mail to his bona fide clients. Such information may include newsletters, notifications of change of address, vaccination reminders, dissolutions of partnership, staff changes etc, provided that such distribution be contained within a sealed envelope specifically addressed to bona fide clients. For the purposes of this section a bona fide client is one to whom the veterinarian has rendered professional services during the preceding *three years*.

4.1.4.2 A veterinarian shall not cause his name, nor professional address, nor telephone numbers, nor title, nor professional qualifications to be used in any manner whatsoever, whether direct, or indirect, as part of the name of any business or organisation, in appeals to the public for contributions in aid of animal homes, to promote facilities where animals are sold, boarded, cared for and/or hospitalised, irrespective of whether that facility is owned, controlled or managed by himself or any other person. This will not prohibit any veterinarian from promoting a particular product and/or service in a bona fide attempt to save animals in a specific area during an epidemic and/or emergency situation.

4.1.4.3 The name, qualifications and field of activity of a veterinarian may be used on correspondence issued by the employer of such veterinarian to shareholders and bona fide clients provided that such notice be contained in an envelope specifically addressed to the shareholders and/or clients.

4.1.4.4 A veterinarian may indicate his full name, professional title and qualifications on any letter he writes on behalf of his employer or in any document which is required in terms of the Companies Act in respect of a company of which he is a director.

4.1.5 *ENTRIES IN TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES*

4.1.5.1 An entry in an official telephone directory shall in the case of the particulars of a veterinarian, consist only of the name, business and/or residential addresses, professional title, qualifications and telephone numbers of such veterinarian.

4.1.5.2 An entry in an official telephone directory shall in the case of the particulars of a Veterinary Surgery or Hospital, consist only of the approved title of such Surgery or Hospital, the address and telephone numbers and the names, professional titles and qualifications of the veterinarians employed thereat.

4.1.5.3 The particulars referred to in 4.1.5.1 and 4.1.5.2 shall be in letter size and type used for ordinary entries, shall appear only in the applicable place under the alphabetical section or under the listing of VETERINARY SURGEONS in the telephone directory concerned.

4.1.5.4 The particulars referred to in 4.1.5.1 and 4.1.5.2 may be included in one insertion in the Yellow Pages section of the said directory or in directories or similar publications, provided that such insertion shall be only a maximum size of A6 (105 x 150mm) and may include details of the practice, including logo if approved by Council and association logo, if such association controls, inspects and certifies such practice, map of the location, names of professional staff and hours of business. Such advertisement shall first have been approved by the Council.

4.1.6 INTERNET WEB PAGES

- 4.1.6.1 A veterinarian and/or his veterinary practice may have a home page on the Internet provided this conforms to the General Principles, rule 4.1.2, above and that equal opportunity be given to all members of the profession to have such a page, and that such advertisement shall have had prior approval by the Council.

4.1.7 STATIONERY

- 4.1.7.1 A veterinarian shall permit only his name, titles, qualifications, practice name and address and logo, if approved by Council, to be printed on an envelope; his name, titles, qualifications, practice name and address, logo, association logo plus Surgery or Hospital hours to be printed on any letterheads, notepaper, prescription pads, reminder cards, information cards, vaccination certificates, appointment cards etc provided this complies with the General Principles, rule 4.1.2.

- 4.1.7.2 Information cards may contain all of the provisions under 4.1.7.1 plus advice concerning routine vaccinations, neutering, spaying, treatments, nutrition, worm, tick and flea control, export of animals and advice of a similar nature. Information cards may only be distributed to bona fide clients.

4.1.8 TITLE OF VETERINARY SURGERY OR HOSPITAL

- 4.1.8.1 A specific title may be given to a Veterinary Surgery or Hospital provided that the name is appropriate and professional, is not misleading, and that application has been made to and approved by the Council. City and town names may be approved by Council, if not already in use, but preference will be given to local names, suburb names, street names and proper names. Names such as **The, Best, Bird, Pet, Your, Harare's** **Veterinary Surgery/Hospital**, indicating exclusivity, will not be approved.

4.1.9 SIGNS, NAME PLATES AND INFORMATION BOARDS

- 4.1.9.1 A veterinarian may indicate his practice with *one sign* bearing the words Veterinary Surgery or Veterinary Hospital, if so registered with Council, and incorporating any name so approved and any logo so approved by Council or corporate association logo if so permitted by such association. This shall be executed in plain red, white, blue, green or black letters/numbers on a red, white, blue, green or black background. Such letters/numbers shall not exceed 200mm in height. Save that the Council shall maintain the right to permit a veterinarian to use other colours for letters/numbers and backgrounds and to use letters/numbers larger than 200mm, and also to permit the erection of *additional signs* if the applicant can satisfy the Council that such permission should be granted to him.
- 4.1.9.2 Only *one name plate* may be used for each veterinarian employed at the Surgery or Hospital, and may contain no particulars other than the name and professional qualifications of the veterinarian. This shall be executed in white letters on a black background, or black letters on a brass background and such plate shall not exceed 200 x 350mm.
- 4.1.9.3 An **information board** shall contain no other particulars other than the Surgery or Hospital name, if approved, logo, if approved, association logo, if permitted, address, telephone numbers of the practice, emergency service and residential telephone numbers of veterinarians employed there and the hours for consultation, and be affixed to the premises wall as near as possible to the entrance of the Surgery or Hospital.

Council may permit the erection of an Information Board at another position if the applicant can satisfy the Council that such permission should be granted to him.

- 4.1.9.4 A **sign**, may be illuminated from within, or without, with bulb or fluorescent tube lights, in such a manner as to look professional. The sign or board and/or letters/numbers may be reflective. The use of neon lighting, whether flashing or not, is *not* considered to be professional and is thus not permitted.
- 4.1.9.5 No **sign** shall be situated any further away from the entrance to the Surgery or Hospital than is reasonably required to adequately indicate the whereabouts of that entrance.
- 4.1.9.6 **Direction signs** on roads may be erected with the approval of Council, if the premises are not visible from the side of the road and it is necessary to facilitate the location of such premises to clients if such signs meet the requirements of the local authority in which they are situated.
- 4.1.9.7 A veterinarian shall not use at his residence, or any other place, a **name plate** indicating that he is a veterinarian unless he practices as a veterinarian at that residence or place.
- 4.1.9.8 On succeeding to a practice, or on the death or retirement of a partner, a veterinarian may retain the **name plate** of that practice and/or partner and/or partnership for a period not exceeding six months.
- 4.1.9.9 A veterinary ambulance may be so designated with **signs on the doors of the vehicle** stating VETERINARY AMBULANCE and the name, address, telephone numbers and logo of the veterinary practice if so approved by Council, in suitably professional lettering, provided this has obtained the prior consent of Council.
- 4.1.9.10 A veterinarian who moves his practice from one premises to another may display a **notice** giving his name and new address and telephone numbers at or near his previous Surgery/Hospital for a period not exceeding six months.
- 4.1.9.11 A veterinarian, who moves his practice may place **advertisements** to this effect in the approved media stating his new practice name, address, telephone numbers and logo if approved, and advising the effective date of the move. Such advertisements shall first have been approved by the Council.
- 4.1.9.12 A veterinarian may permit an **architects board**, of standard size as is commonly used for such boards, to be erected at the site of any new premises that are under construction, and be stated thereon the name of the veterinarian and/or practice.
- 4.1.9.13 All **signs** are required to conform to the regulations of the *local authority* for the area, town or city.

PART 5

5.1 LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE PROFESSION

- 5.1.1 The practice of the profession of veterinary surgery and medicine in Zimbabwe is governed by the *Veterinary Surgeons Act Chapter 27:15*. The Act is the principal legislation and subsidiary legislation in the form of regulations is made by the Council with the approval of the Minister. There follows a summation of the regulations currently in force.
- 5.1.2 The *Veterinary Surgeons (Council Election) Regulations, 1974* which prescribe the procedure for the triennial election of Council calling for nominations by notice in the Gazette, the requirement for a valid nomination, the procedure if an election becomes necessary and the scrutineering and counting of votes.

- 5.1.3 The *Veterinary Surgeons (Registration) Regulations, 1974* which provide for the registration of veterinary surgeons on either the permanent or the temporary register, the fees for such registration and the issue of certificates by the Registrar.
- 5.1.4 The *Veterinary Surgeons (Veterinary Surgery) Regulations, 1998* state the requirements for the approval by Council of a veterinary surgery. Written application is made to the Registrar and new surgery buildings are required to have their plans approved by Council, as well as any alterations after registration and certification. Standards as laid out in the Schedule include the maintenance of adequate records, receptionist, stationery, availability of a registered veterinary surgeon 24 hours a day, hot and cold water, waiting room, separate consulting room, and separate operating theatre. Provision must be made for safe disposal of waste, carcasses, bedding and used dressings. The building must be structurally sound with appropriate safety measures for owners, handlers and patients. There must be adequate toilet facilities, suitable kennels and the building and environs must be clean and presentable. Regarding equipment the surgery must be equipped with a refrigerator, microscope and slides, basic surgical instruments, syringes and needles, sterilisation facilities, laboratory sampling and a vehicle. Drugs must be adequately and securely stored and include general and local anaesthetics, emergency resuscitation drugs, antibiotics, corticosteroids and intravenous fluids. Sufficient stocks of drugs for dispensing should be held, or the surgery be within reasonable proximity to a pharmacy.
- 5.1.5 The *Veterinary Surgeons (Veterinary Hospitals) Regulations, 1974* state the requirements for the approval by the Council of a veterinary hospital. Written application is made to the Registrar. Provision is made for Council to conduct an annual inspection after the issue of a Certificate of Approval and to cancel that certificate. In addition to all the laid-down standards for veterinary surgeries, veterinary hospitals are also required to have a 24-hour hospital ward with fully-trained support staff on duty 24 hours a day and a registered veterinary surgeon available at all times to provide a back-up service to inpatients. There must be a fully-equipped laboratory to carry out most routine clinical tests, or be within reasonable proximity to a laboratory capable of doing such tests with expeditious results. An extensive array of surgical equipment to cover all major operations must be on hand and steam autoclave sterilisation must be available at the facility, as well as full X-ray facilities, ultrasonic dental scaling equipment and gaseous anaesthesia machines, with cardiac monitoring devices. All staff must wear suitable professional uniforms, and full laundry facilities must be on the facility.
- 5.1.6 The *Veterinary Surgeons (Professional Conduct) Regulations 1974* provide that any contravention of the regulations by a veterinary surgeon shall constitute improper or disgraceful conduct for the purposes of the Act. The regulations deal with the restrictions on advertising, including the form of name plates and limitations on the headings to stationery and the content of information cards. Canvassing for business and the acceptance of monies or articles from pharmacists or dealers in veterinary appliances or materials are prohibited. Other aspects include requirements as to consultation between veterinary surgeons, notification in the event of supersession and the upholding of the professional reputation of colleagues.
- 5.1.7 The *Veterinary Surgeons (Local Examinations) Regulations, 1980* make provision for the appointment of a board of examiners to conduct the local examinations of any person who wishes to be registered as a veterinary surgeon. The regulations provide for the content of the examinations, the pass rate and the fees for examiners and invigilators. This regulation has its counterpart in the *Veterinary Surgeons (Qualifications for Registration) Regulations, 1990* the effect of which is that persons who hold the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Zimbabwe are qualified for registration under the Act without having to pass the local examinations.

5.2

THE VETERINARIAN'S OBLIGATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF DRUGS

5.2.1 INTERPRETATION

In this chapter –

5.2.1.1 **use** means acquisition, keeping, administering, dispensing and prescribing drugs

5.2.1.2 **MCAZ** means the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe;

5.2.1.3 **DCC** means the Drugs Control Council (now replaced by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe);

5.2.1.4 **Council** means the Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe.

5.2.1.5 **veterinary surgeon** or **veterinarian** means a person registered by the Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe in terms of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, [Chapter 27:15] as read with subsequent statutory instruments.

5.2.2 LICENSING OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

5.2.2.1 The authority to use prescription preparations is detailed in the Drugs and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, S.I. 150 of 1991. Attention is drawn here to Section 9.

5.2.2.2 *Requirements for the issue of a licence to a person.* This section stipulates that the veterinarian will have passed the forensic examination set by the MCAZ. In the case of University of Zimbabwe (UZ) graduates, this forensic course and examination should be an integral course and examination organised by the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the MCAZ, thereby qualifying these graduates to be licensed.

5.2.2.3 Non-UZ graduates who are registered by Council and use drugs, are required to pass the forensic examination in order to be licensed for the use of drugs.

5.2.3 DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT [CHAPTER 15:02]

5.2.3.1 In the context of veterinarians, this Act covers the narcotic anaesthetics and narcotic analgesics used in veterinary practice.

5.2.4 GAME CAPTURE LICENSING AND SPECIAL LIST OF DRUGS

5.2.4.1 the licensing for use of prescription preparations and narcotic anaesthetics by non-veterinarians is a contentious issue and is strictly speaking, not covered by law. To accommodate specialist game capture personnel and veterinarians involved in game capture, game capture courses and examinations are conducted annually by a panel of specialists. This arrangement has been condoned by Council and MCAZ and those individuals qualifying are required to submit returns on their requirements and usages annually to MCAZ. A special list of drugs required in game capture is kept by the MCAZ and the Specialist Panel.

5.2.4.2 Veterinarians requiring narcotic anaesthetics, narcotic analgesics, sedatives and other CNS depressants used in normal practice, are not required to be licensed as above, but are required to maintain a register of dangerous drugs and ensure that such preparations are securely stored under lock and key under control of the practice veterinarians.

5.2.5 ACTS AND REGULATIONS THAT SHOULD BE HELD BY VETERINARIANS

The following are essential items of legislation to be kept at hand in a veterinarian's office or surgery:-

- 5.2.5.1. The Veterinary Surgeons Act, [Chapter 22:15]
- 5.2.5.2. Drugs & Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations, S.I. 150 / 1991
- 5.2.5.3. Dangerous Drugs Act, [Chapter 15:02].

5.2.6 MEDICINES AND ALLIED SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT, [CHAPTER 15:03]

This Act's main difference to the Drugs and Allied Substances Control Act, [Chapter 320], is that it accommodates in great detail, the establishment of the MCAZ, now a semi-autonomous authority, it having replaced the DCC.

5.2.7 PRESCRIPTION PREPARATIONS

- 5.2.7.1 Attention of veterinarians is drawn to Section 2.1.2, on Page 4, in this Code of Professional Conduct - *Use of Veterinary Medicines*. This section highlights the benefits and risks of the administration of veterinary drugs for the animal to which it is administered and for the person by whom it is administered and also the risks to the consumer of animal products in the event of residues after administration.

- 5.2.7.2 A veterinarian may only prescribe drugs for animals under his direct care and of which he is the usual practitioner.

- 5.2.7.3 Whilst ideally a veterinarian should have visited a farm within three months of prescribing veterinary drugs on that farm, this is not always practical and veterinarians are urged to use discretion when prescribing veterinary drugs. At worst, when prescribing, a veterinarian must discuss thoroughly with the owner of an animal or animals:-

- 5.2.7.3.1 the application and effect of the precautionary measures in connection with that drug.

- 5.2.7.3.2 the period if any, during which the products of the animal are to be withheld from consumption by humans.

5.2.8 TELEPHONIC PRESCRIPTIONS

- 5.2.8.1 In terms of section 74 of S.I. 150 of 1991, a veterinarian may authorise a telephonic prescription but without any repeats, and the prescriber shall furnish to the supplier, a written prescription within seven days.

5.2.9 DETAILS THAT A PRESCRIPTION SHALL CONTAIN

A prescription shall:-

- 5.2.9.1 bear the name, address and qualifications of the prescriber;
- 5.2.9.2 specify the name and address of the person for whose animal the prescription is issued;
- 5.2.9.3 have written thereon - FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY;
- 5.2.9.4 be legibly written
- 5.2.9.5 contain the following particulars -

- 5.2.9.5.1 the date on which the prescription is issued;
- 5.2.9.5.2 the name, strength and form of the drug;
- 5.2.9.5.3 the total amount to be supplied;
- 5.2.9.5.4 the total daily dose of the drug;
- 5.2.9.5.5 the directions for use;
- 5.2.9.5.6 the prescriber's signature and his qualifications.

5.2.10

DISPENSING AND LABELLING

- 5.2.10.1 Veterinarians dispensing drugs to clients for use in their animals, shall label the container appropriately with the following information -

- 5.2.10.1.1 the name, strength and form of the drug.
- 5.2.10.1.2 the total quantity of the drug.
- 5.2.10.1.3 the directions for use.
- 5.2.10.1.4 any warnings.
- 5.2.10.1.5 the name of the patient.
- 5.2.10.1.6 the name of the prescriber.
- 5.2.10.1.7 the date of dispensing.

5.2.11

THE CATEGORIES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

- 5.2.11.1 **Dangerous Drugs (N)** are drugs subject to international control. Whilst the narcotic anaesthetics and narcotic analgesics used in veterinary practice are subject to control by the Dangerous Drugs Act, they are Ninth Schedule (PP) preparations in terms of SI. 150.
- 5.2.11.2 **Prescription Preparations (PP)** as detailed in the Ninth Schedule of S.I. 150 require a veterinary prescription
- 5.2.11.3 **Prescription Preparations (PP)** as detailed in the Tenth Schedule of S.I. 150 can be dispensed without a prescription and include those drugs used over a protracted period such as digitalis, glycosides, diuretics, etc.
- 5.2.11.4 **Specially Restricted Preparations (SR)** are drugs on the Eighth Schedule such as amphetamines and their use is strictly limited to the seven major hospitals in Zimbabwe.
- 5.2.11.5 **Pharmacist Initiated Drugs (PID)** are on the Eleventh Schedule and are those that were previously on the Poisons Register. These include such drugs as atropine and the non-potentiated sulphonamides.
- 5.2.11.6 **Pharmacy Drugs (P)** on the Twelfth Schedule are those which can only be sold by a pharmaceutical chemist or a wholesale dealer.
- 5.2.11.7 **Veterinary Medicines [General Dealer] (VMGD)** are also on the Twelfth Schedule and are veterinary medicines sold by specially-licensed general dealers.
- 5.2.11.8 **Household Remedies (HR) or Household (Vet) Remedies** are preparations sold by general dealers, supermarkets etc.
- 5.2.11.9 **Prohibited drugs (PD)** are on the Thirteenth Schedule and include drugs such as LSD which are prohibited.

SUMMARY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO VETERINARIANS

Copies of the following Acts and Regulations are available from the Government Printer or upon request from the Registrar, CVSZ, P O Box CY 1000, Causeway, Harare, upon payment of the requisite fee

Act/Regulation	Statutory Instrument
Veterinary Surgeons (Council Election) Regulations, 1974	142/1974
Veterinary Surgeons (Local Examinations) Regulations, 1980	293/1980
Veterinary Surgeons (Local Examinations) (Amendment) Regulations, 1990 (No. 1)	11/1990
Veterinary Surgeons (Local Examinations) (Amendment) Regulations, 1993 (No.2)	22/1993
Veterinary Surgeons (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1974	572/1974
Veterinary Surgeons (Qualifications for Registration) Regulations, 1990	98/1990
Veterinary Surgeons (Registration) Regulations, 1974	143/1974
Veterinary Surgeons (Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 1985 (No. 1)	203/1985
Veterinary Surgeons (Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991 (No. 2)	94/1991
Veterinary Surgeons (Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 (No. 3)	74/1997
Veterinary Surgeons (Veterinary Hospitals) Regulations, 1974	533/1974
Veterinary Surgeons (Veterinary Surgery) Regulations, 1998	277/1998
Veterinary Surgeons (Veterinary Laboratories) Regulations, 1998	278/1998
Veterinary Surgeons (Embryo Transfer Technicians) Regulations, 1998	43/1999
Public Health and Abattoir Regulations	50/1994
Drugs and Allied Substances Control (General) Regulations	150/1991
Dangerous Drugs Act	[Chapter 15:02]
Veterinary Surgeons Act	[Chapter 27:15]
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act	[Chapter 71]
Animal Health Act	[Chapter 121]
Scientific Animal Experiments Act	[Chapter 132]

PART 6

6.1 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1.1 The onus is for all registered veterinarians to keep up to date with new developments in veterinary science, especially the sectors in which they are working. To this end all veterinarians are strongly advised:

6.1.1.1 to participate in formal programmes of continuing professional development throughout their careers.

6.1.1.2 to keep records of all the courses/seminars/clinical discussions they have attended as a part of their continuing education each year.

6.1.1.3 in the event of a major change in professional activity or after a career break, to undertake a period of further training and updating of skills sufficient to provide a full professional service for the animals under their care.

6.1.1.4 to join professional veterinary associations which provide continuing professional development courses, clinical evenings and congresses.