



# The Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa

Ensuring quality complementary and alternative healthcare of choice

15 JULY 2010

Dear Practitioner and Therapist,

## TREATMENT OF ANIMALS BY PERSONS REGISTERED IN TERMS OF THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT

Section 1(2) of the Allied Health Professions Act, Act 63 of 1982 (as amended) reads as follows:

- (2) For purposes of this Act-
- (a) A practitioner may-
- (i) Diagnose, and treat or prevent, physical and mental disease, illness or deficiencies in humans;
  - (ii) Prescribe or dispense medicine; or
  - (iii) Provide or prescribe treatment for such disease, illness or deficiencies in humans;
- (b) A therapist may-
- (i) Treat or provide treatment for diagnosed disease, illness or deficiencies in humans; or
  - (ii) Prevent such disease, illness or deficiencies in humans;

You will note that Section 1(2) limits the scope of practice of practitioners or therapists registered under Council to human beings and does not include animals. A letter dated 3 May 2010 received from the Registrar of the South African Veterinary Council regarding treatment of animals by persons registered under Council is attached for your attention.

With kind regards

**DR LOUIS MULLINDER**  
**REGISTRAR: AHPCSA**

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# SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

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The Registrar  
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Allied Health Professions Council

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REGISTRAR: H. KRUGER

OUR REF: VC21/3  
YOUR REF:

3 May, 2010

Dear Dr Mullinder

## TREATMENT OF ANIMALS BY PERSONS REGISTERED IN TERMS OF THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT

You are kindly requested to bring the following to the attention of members registered with your Council.

In terms of section 23(1) of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act no 19 of 1982 (Act) unregistered persons shall not practice veterinary or para-veterinary professions.

Any person who acts in contravention of section 23 is guilty of an offence in terms of section 41(1)(f) of the Act and may upon a first conviction be fined or imprisoned for a period of one year or may be fined and imprisoned.

The practising of a veterinary or para-veterinary profession is defined in section 23(2) as follows:

- a) To supply or sell medicines registered in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Act 101 of 1965 or to render any service which in terms of the rules is deemed to pertain specially to the veterinary or any para-veterinary profession directly or indirectly for financial gain;
- b) To hold oneself out as a person practising a veterinary or para-veterinary profession or purporting to be registered in terms of the Act
- c) To use any designation reserved in terms of the Act for allocation to persons who are registered to create the impression that a person practises a veterinary or para-veterinary profession
- d) Performing any act which has as its purpose diagnosing, treating or preventing any pathological condition in any animal or which constitutes a surgical operation on any animal and is deemed in terms of the rules to pertain specially to a veterinary or para-veterinary profession. [irrespective of whether or not this is done for financial gain]

The rules defining the respective scope of services that pertain to the veterinary and various para-veterinary professions (Animal Health Technicians, Laboratory Animal Technologists, Veterinary Nurses and Veterinary Technologists) are available on our website at [www.savc.org.za](http://www.savc.org.za) under Legislation, Policies and Forms.

Should one of your members be requested to treat an animal it is advisable that he/she refers the client to a veterinarian for the making of a diagnosis and a letter of referral if appropriate.

Yours faithfully

Hanri Kruger  
Registrar