

## **COMPULSORY VETERINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE [CCS] QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE SAVC**

### **1. What does CCS registration with the SAVC imply?**

CCS registration implies that veterinarians, who register with the SAVC for the first time, will be registered with Council with a view to perform CCS.

### **2. Do I get registration when I enter the CCS year?**

Yes, registration as a CCS veterinarian is granted until such time as the SAVC receives written confirmation from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF] that the CCS year is completed by the CCS veterinarian, which CCS should be completed within eighteen months of commencement of the CCS year.

### **3. Do I get a registration certificate after graduation?**

No, you will not receive a registration certificate. You will however receive a letter from the SAVC setting out the terms of registration including the purpose of the CCS registration.

You will only receive a registration certificate once the SAVC receives written confirmation from DAFF that you have fully complied with your duties as a CCS veterinarian.

### **4. Why am I not registered to perform veterinary services outside the scope of Compulsory Veterinary Community service with the SAVC after I have qualified?**

The completion of a CCS year is a requirement for registration to enter practice in South Africa. The intention is to ensure that all registered veterinarians have completed a CCS year. The CCS year is the end result of a wide consultation process in support of CCS, as a means to bring veterinary services to all people of South Africa. Only once the CCS year has been completed will registration be granted to work outside the scope of Compulsory Veterinary Community Service.

### **5. May I do locums in SA if I have not completed my CCS year?**

Yes, registered CCS veterinarians may work outside of the scope of the CCS year, if they formally applied for- and received extension of registration. CCS veterinarians who are mainly placed in a regulatory environment may, with a view to retain clinical skills, volunteer their services for example in animal welfare services, community veterinary clinics, sterilisation campaigns etc.

### **6. What should I do to enable me to do locums in South Africa before I have completed the CCS year?**

Apply to Council for extension of registration. You may only locum and may not open your own business.

### **7. What proof of registration and professional good standing will the SAVC issue if I go abroad right after I graduated and want to work abroad?**

The SAVC will issue a letter of good professional standing for the period in which you were registered as a student and will state that you are registered for purposes of the CCS year.

**8. How will the SAVC assist me regarding a work permit if I am not a SA resident or citizen and must complete a CCS year?**

The SAVC will issue a letter in support of the application for a work permit as part of the motivation to employ critical skills in SA.

**9. Do I need to complete a CCS year if I registered with the SAVC previously but de-registered as I worked abroad and now return to practice in SA?**

No, anyone who registered previously with the SAVC need not complete a CCS year. Only veterinarians who register for the very first time with the SAVC need to complete a CCS year.

**10. Who is liable during the CCS year if my professional care or treatment of an animal is not what is expected of a reasonable veterinarian?**

The CCS veterinarian is personally liable for his/her professional care and treatment of an animal. The CCS veterinarian is regarded as fully qualified.

**11. Must CCS be performed from a registered facility?**

Yes, all veterinary services including CCS services must be rendered from registered facilities. Only a veterinarian who renders services from a registered facility may obtain, use and prescribe veterinary medicines. Please ensure that you render veterinary services from a registered facility. Ask the question!

**12. Who is responsible for the facility standards from which a compulsory veterinary community services or locum services are rendered?**

The registered veterinarian who acts as the principal of the facility and who applied for registration of the facility is responsible for the facility standards.

**13. When does my first Continued Professional Development [CPD] cycle start?**

The first CPD cycle commences during the CCS year. For example if you commence CCS in 2018 your three-year cycle will start on 1 April 2018 and end on 31 March 2021.

**14. Am I required to keep up to date with CPD during the CCS year?**

Yes, you have to keep up to date with CPD during the CCS year.

**15. Where can I access more information on CPD requirements?**

Visit the SAVC's website for access to the CPD accredited activities and the CPD guidelines.

**16. May I enrol for veterinary related post graduate studies during the CCS year?**

Yes, you may enrol for a post-graduate qualification provided that it does not interfere with your employment as a CCS veterinarian. You would be well advised to discuss your enrolment with your CCS mentor or advisor as soon as possible.

**17. Under what circumstances will I be exempted from the CCS year?**

Although exemption from the CCS year is not guaranteed but could be considered by the Minister upon receipt of a substantiated application, the only ground for exemption will be having obtained a post graduate veterinary related qualification abroad. Such qualification and related expertise should at least be regarded as critical skills required in SA.

**18. Am I required to complete the CCS year if I qualified before 2015 and did not previously register with the SAVC?**

Yes, you will have to complete a CCS year before full registration will be granted. If you did not register with the SAVC within three years of qualifying as a veterinarian then you will have to, in addition, prove how you kept up to date with your professional skills prior to being granted partial registration or sit the Council registration examination.