

**GENERAL EXAMINATION INFORMATION
SAVC REGISTRATION EXAMINATION – 2026
ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS**

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) was established in terms of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act No 19 of 1982 and only persons who are registered with the Council may practice as animal health technicians in South Africa.

The position with regards to registration is as follows:

1. SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS

Persons holding the qualifications prescribed in the Act and Regulations are entitled to automatic registration with the Council on receipt of the requisite application form and fee. At present these are: the Diploma in Animal Health (UNISA), the Diploma in Animal Health (North-West University), BSc Agric (Animal Health) (North-West University) and the Diploma in Animal Health (Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute).

2. PERSONS WITH FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

Persons with qualifications from any other institution throughout the world are required to pass an examination prior to being registered in South Africa. This requirement must not be construed in any way as a comment on the standard or quality of other educational training, but is purely related to the fact that no agreement of reciprocity exists between this Council and the registering authorities of these countries.

Such persons shall submit an application to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) for permission to enrol for the examination. Applications for permission to write must be received by the SAVC Administration on or before 30 June. If permission is granted the applicant is required to sit the examination in October or at a date as advised by Council of the same year in Pretoria or a venue to be advised. Please note that an examination will be required unless the Council expressly decides otherwise.

The South African Veterinary Council is the regulatory authority governing the registration of qualified persons and the conduct of the profession.

The Council is not in a position to render assistance with regard to the obtaining of employment in South Africa.

3. EXAMINATION FOR REGISTRATION AS AN ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Application to sit for the examination of the South African Veterinary Council must be made in writing and on the prescribed application form to:

Exams: South African Veterinary Council
26 Victoria Link Street, Route 21 Corporate Park, Nellmapius Drive, Irene

Tel: 0027 (012) 345 6360
E-mail: edu.coordinator@savc.org.za

2. Examinations are held at:

The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP), Onderstepoort OR

The SAVC offices: 26 Victoria Link Street, Route 21 Corporate Park, Nellmapius Drive, Irene OR

At a venue/s to be advised.

3. The closing date for enrolment is 30 June.

4. Late entries will NOT be considered.

5. If a candidate fails the examination twice, they are only permitted to apply to sit an additional examination if they provide the following:

- Additional proof that shows that the chances of passing an additional examination are increased based on past performance;
- Proof of further studies (continuing veterinary education courses) in the relevant areas wherein the person was previously deficient;
- Other factors relevant to the candidate's personal circumstances;
- any follow up examinations in which the candidate prepared him/herself with further studies.

6. The examination consists of at least two parts:

6.1 A Computer Based Examination (CBE) consisting of two sessions which is of a general nature and which will test the candidate's basic knowledge and understanding of specific and important South African conditions. Candidates will be given an opportunity before the actual examination to complete an unrelated computer-based questionnaire (dummy run) to enable candidates to familiarise themselves with the CBE format.

6.2 A Practical Examination conducted by panels of examiners appointed by the Council.

6.2.1 During the Practical Examination the candidate's proficiency in English and the applicant's professional attitude will figure prominently.

6.2.2 Ancillary examinations are offered in the Practical Examination ONLY, to candidates who achieve an overall average of 50% for the Practical Examination, but failed ONE practical panel with marks between 40% - 44,9% for this panel.

6.3 A sub-minimum mark of 50% per paper for the CBE sessions, a sub-minimum of 50% in the Practical Examination with a sub-minimum of 45% per panel as well as an overall final combined mark of 50% is required to pass the examination and allow registration.

The final combined mark will be computed as follows:

CBE component	50%
Practical component	50%

7. Candidates must have a sound knowledge of the main laws pertaining to veterinary science and the para-veterinary profession in South Africa and their application regulations, viz:

7.1 Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No 36 of 1947)

7.2 Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 1984) as amended

- 7.3 Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, (Act No 101 of 1965) as amended
- 7.4 Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, (Act No 19 of 1982), as amended
 - 7.4.1 Rules and Regulations
- 7.5 Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000)
- 7.6 Animal Improvement Act, 1977 (Act No 25 of 1977) as amended [Animal Improvement Act, (Act No 62 of 1998)]

INCLUDING all relevant gazetted regulations promulgated in terms of the above Acts.
These Acts are published in Government Gazettes, which are obtainable at libraries and specifically at:

*The National Library of South Africa
75 Thabo Sehume (Andries) Street
Pretoria
South Africa*

Tel: 0027 (012) 401 9700

*Private Bag X990
Pretoria
0001
South Africa*

Website: www.nlsa.ac.za

- 8. In addition, candidates must have a sound theoretical and practical knowledge of the following study fields:

- 8.1 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Demonstrate an understanding of the points of the conformation of the domestic and game animals' bodies and give body measurements
- Describe the position or direction of any organ or part of an organ on the animal body
- Describe the morphology of the typical animal cell, and be able to discuss the different forms of cell division and the processes of spermatogenesis and oogenesis
- Discuss, describe and compare the structure and functions of the various tissues found in domestic animals and game
- Discuss and describe anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular and lymphatic system in mammals
- Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology of the digestive system of the different domestic animals and game
- Describe and discuss the anatomy and physiology of the musculoskeletal system
- Demonstrate an understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the endocrine system
- Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology of the sense organs of the animal
- Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system
- Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology of the skin and associated structures
- Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology of the urogenital system
- Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology the respiratory system

8.2 ZOOTECHNOLOGY (ANIMAL HEALTH)

The principles and practice of the keeping, breeding and management of the following animals:

- Beef cattle; dairy cattle; sheep; poultry; pigs; horses

The principles and practice of the following:

- Aquaculture
- Basic first aid
- Routine farm operations
- Animal handling

8.3 PASTURE AND NUTRITION (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Pasture Management: ecological principles; veld types of Southern Africa; characteristics of veld types; feeding habits and selective feeding; division of veld into homogenous ecological units; principles of pasture management; principles of the resting of veld; invasive plants; planted pastures
- Nutrition: chemical composition of feeds; energy and protein standards of feeds, digestion of feeds, nutritional requirements of farm animals; classification and nutritional values of feeds; feeding of various groups of animals

8.4 AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Discuss the importance of agricultural products to South Africa and how these products reach the consumer.
 - Market trends are interpreted and predicted correctly.
 - Applicable examples of marketing methods are listed and described.
 - Describe how end users/consumers and their specific needs are identified and products are adapted accordingly.
 - Identify viable marketing channels and draft a marketing plan.
- Illustrate the importance of agriculture on the economy of South Africa and compare this internationally.
 - The role of agricultural economics is discussed.
 - Data on South African agriculture are compiled by using appropriate references and sources.
 - Relevant data for statistical purposes is collected, processed and used to calculate economic factors.
- Describe and give examples of the factors influencing the profitability of agriculture for the individual farmer and end user.
 - The term profitability is defined and criteria to measure profitability are identified.
 - Major economic problems in agriculture are identified and discussed.
 - In given case studies, profitability is calculated correctly.
- Interpret the effect of national and international factors on the income of the farmer and recommend methods to overcome and manage these factors. Discuss international trade in agricultural products with regard to South Africa and southern Africa with reference to organisations like the European Union and the World Trade Organisation.

- Macro economic factors, e.g. inflation are discussed and compared.
- International trade and international factors are discussed and interpreted.
- International organisations are discussed, e.g. EU, WTO, etc.

8.5 LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Identify the different types of smears for microscopic examination and prepare the smears.
 - Smears are prepared in the laboratory according to accepted principles and techniques.
 - The preparation of smears is described verbally by using the appropriate technical terminology.
- Prepare samples for submission to a veterinary laboratory. (The samples involved are samples relating to the most common diseases and abnormal conditions in domestic animals and wildlife in southern Africa and include blood samples, tissue samples, skin scrapings, milk samples and others.)
 - Samples are prepared according to accepted procedures.
 - Accurate descriptions are provided of how samples should be prepared and submitted and how relevant information on the samples should be obtained for every disease and abnormal conditions in animals that are studied.
 - The organisation, structure and role of a state veterinary laboratory are correctly described verbally.
- Take and analyse samples and interpret the results. Describe the different techniques used to take and analyse faecal samples as well as interpreting the results, to collect samples for bacteriological examinations and to make and preserve skin scrapings for later laboratory investigations. The samples are taken from various animals during the practical session, namely cattle, small ruminants and horses.)
 - Samples are taken and analysed according to generally accepted laboratory methods and techniques.
 - Results are interpreted by applying knowledge of common animal diseases and abnormal conditions, including internal parasites of animals.
 - The sampling procedure, analysis procedure and the results are described correctly verbally using accepted terminology.
- Conduct sampling and testing of urine for certain toxicological and disease conditions. (Urine of a variety of domestic animals is tested)
 - Sampling and testing of urine are conducted according to generally accepted laboratory methods and techniques.
 - Sampling procedures, analysis procedures and the results are described correctly verbally using accepted terminology, with reference to real tests as well as case studies.
- Explain the basic principles of serological testing and take samples for serology correctly. (Samples for testing for a variety of serological tests are obtained from different animals including cattle, wildlife and small ruminants.)
 - The principles of serology are discussed for the various methods used in laboratory diagnostics by applying the knowledge of immunology and using the correct terminology.

- The correct sampling and test method used for specific diseases and conditions are identified using knowledge of animal diseases.
- Explain the physical principle of light microscopy and use a microscope for diagnostic purposes.
 - A light microscope is used to identify samples.
 - The structure and function of a light microscope are explained verbally and by using graphics.

8.6 NON-CONTROLLED ANIMAL DISEASES (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Classification of the causes of diseases
- Introductory immunology
- Internal parasites; external parasites
- Toxicology
- Metabolic diseases
- Digestive disorders and deficiency diseases
- Reproduction diseases
- Diseases of cattle
- Diseases of small stock
- Diseases of horses
- Diseases of pigs
- Diseases of poultry
- Diseases of dogs and cats
- Wildlife diseases
- Prevention of diseases in herds
- Veterinary Public Health

8.7 LEGAL ASPECTS AND CONTROLLED ANIMAL DISEASES (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Legal aspects
 - Legislation
 - Law enforcement
- Controlled animal diseases
 - Legislation relating to controlled animal diseases
 - Control of animal diseases
 - Tuberculosis and Brucellosis schemes in respect of cattle
 - Controlled viral, bacterial and protozoal diseases
 - Controlled diseases caused by external parasites

8.8 EPIDEMIOLOGY (ANIMAL HEALTH)

- Introductory concepts of epidemiology
- Uses of epidemiology
- Epidemiological approach to diseases
- Disease occurrence
- Disease transmission
- Introductory biostatistics
- Methodology of epidemiology
- Serological epidemiology
- Epidemiological investigations
- Data management

PLEASE NOTE

If candidates should require any additional information regarding examination policy, the administration and organisation of the examination, they may direct their enquiries to:

E-mail: edu.coordinator@savc.org.za

Tel: 0027 (012) 345 6360

[VC6/2/EXAMS/Doc F – AHTS: MAR 2026]

Payments to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)

Persons in foreign countries should please note that payments to the South African Veterinary Council should be remitted to:

Bank: ABSA Bank Limited
Account Number: 020 166 762
Branch: Hatfield Branch
Branch Code: 632 005
Swift code: ABSA-ZA-JJ
IBAN NO: 020 166 762 632 005

and payees are to ensure that the amount transferred is the correct amount in South African Rand. When transfers are made, ABSA must be advised of the details pertaining to payment, as follows:

Payment for application to sit registration with the South African Veterinary Council

Person's name: _____

Copy of Identity Document: _____

Date of payment: _____

Please advise the South African Veterinary Council of transfer of payment, as follows:

Person's name: _____

Name of bank of origin: _____

Payee's account number: _____

Amount of payment: _____

Date of payment: _____

E-mail the information to: edu.coordinator@savc.org.za