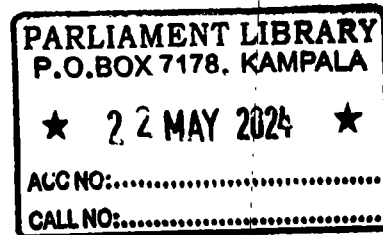




THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS' ACT, 2023





THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

I SIGNIFY my assent to the bill.

Y. Museveni

President

Date of assent: *14/5/2024*

THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS' ACT, 2023

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ESTABLISHMENT

**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA****THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS' ACT, 2023**

An Act to provide for the regulation of veterinary practice by providing for the training, registration and licensing of veterinary professionals and veterinary para-professionals; to provide for matters incidental to the conduct of veterinary professionals and para-professionals in relation to animal health, production, welfare, public health and biosecurity services; to repeal the Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. 277; and for related matters.

DATE OF ASSENT:

Date of Commencement:

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

PART I—PRELIMINARY**1. Commencement**

This Act shall come into force on a date appointed by the Minister by statutory instrument.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“animal” includes domestic animals, wild animals, aquatic animals, laboratory animals, poultry species, wild birds,

bees, insects, fish and silk worms;

“animal husbandry” means livestock management and animal care practices undertaken to promote animal welfare, improve productivity and farm profits;

“Chief Executive Officer” means a person appointed under section 38;

“continuous professional development” means an approved training required of a veterinary practitioner as the Council may determine, for purposes of ensuring that a veterinary practitioner keeps updated with the new and emerging veterinary technical trends in theory and practice;

“Council” means the Uganda Veterinary Council established by section 27;

“currency point” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1 to this Act;

“direct supervision” means the supervision of a person by a responsible veterinary surgeon who is physically present in the veterinary practice establishment;

“general supervision” means the supervision of a person by a responsible veterinary surgeon who is readily available to communicate with that person;

“internship” means a prescribed period of supervised practical training that a veterinary student obtains after completing formal education, to the time of satisfying the supervisor that the practitioner is competent, in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

“licence” means a licence issued under section 17;

“licensee” means a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine under section 17;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for veterinary services;

“Ministry” means the Ministry responsible for veterinary services;

“person” includes an individual, firm, company, association, partnership or body of persons, whether incorporated or not;

“private veterinary practice” means the engagement in veterinary practice by a veterinary practitioner for hire, gain, fee, compensation or reward received, promised, offered, expected or accepted, directly or indirectly, by or from the person requesting or receiving the veterinary services;

“public veterinary practice” means engagement in veterinary practice by a veterinary practitioner who is a veterinary officer or para-professional holding office in the public service or any other Government body;

“register” means a register of veterinary practitioners and veterinary practice establishments kept and maintained by the Council under section 61 of this Act;

“veterinary inspector” means a person appointed by the Council under section 43 of this Act;

“veterinary medicine” means any curative or preventive substance, formulated medicament, or mixture of substances, whether proprietary or in the form of a preparation effective in animals, which is used, or is manufactured, sold or represented as suitable for use, in—

- (a) the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or abnormal physical or mental state or the symptoms of a disease or abnormal physical or mental state in an animal;
- (b) restoring, correcting or modifying any physical, mental or organic function in an animal; or
- (c) controlling internal or external pests and parasites and includes insecticides, vaccines, hormones, alternative medicines, antiseptics, disinfectants, surgical, nutrients and biological products;

“veterinary officer” means a veterinary practitioner who holds office in the public service or any other Government body;

“veterinary para-professional” means a veterinary practitioner who is registered to practice veterinary medicine under the direct or general supervision of a veterinary surgeon;

“veterinary practice” means—

- (a) inspection of foods of animal origin for purposes of food safety;
- (b) provision of animal welfare services;
- (c) provision of forensic evidence related to animals;
- (d) training, research, advise, consultancy services related to animals;

- (e) provision of ethno veterinary medicine, complimentary medicine and integrative therapies to animals;
- (f) to diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve or prevent an animal disease or condition, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental conditions through—
 - (i) the prescription, administration or application of drugs, medicines, biologicals, apparatus, anesthetic or other therapeutic or diagnostic substances or techniques;
 - (ii) the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for hoof care, dental care, artificial insemination or other breeding services, testing for pregnancy or correcting sterility or infertility; and
 - (iii) rendering advice or making recommendation with regard to the procedures referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f); and
- (g) any other related services as prescribed by the Council.

“veterinary practice establishment” includes premises, structure, veterinary laboratory, zoo, ambulatory service facility, animal check point, holding ground, quarantine station, wildlife breeding sanctuary, wildlife ranch and any other specialised establishment where veterinary practice is conducted;

“veterinary practitioner” means a veterinary surgeon, veterinary specialist or veterinary para-professional registered in accordance with this Act;

“veterinary public health” means the application of veterinary science and technology to protect and improve the physical, mental and social well-being of humans;

“veterinary service” means services offered by a veterinary practitioner;

“veterinary specialist” means a veterinary practitioner registered by the Council in accordance with section 6;

“veterinary surgeon” means a person trained in veterinary medicine at degree level and who is engaged in veterinary practice, and is registered in accordance with this Act.

3. Application of Act

(1) This Act applies to every person who engages or intends to engage in veterinary practice in Uganda.

(2) The provisions of this Act relating to registration apply to all veterinary practitioners in public and private veterinary practice.

(3) The provisions of this Act relating to licensing do not apply to veterinary practitioners in the conduct of their duties in the public service but where a veterinary practitioner intends to engage in private practice, those provisions shall apply.

PART II—REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS AND VETERINARY PRACTICE ESTABLISHMENTS

4. Requirement for registration of veterinary practitioner

(1) A person who intends to engage in veterinary practice shall apply to the Council for registration as a veterinary surgeon, veterinary specialist or veterinary para-professional, as the case may be.

(2) A person referred to in subsection (1) shall apply to the Council within three years after attaining the relevant qualification

prescribed in this Act, and any person who applies after the expiry of that period shall sit for examinations, as the Council may prescribe.

5. Qualifications for registration of veterinary surgeon

(1) A person is qualified to be registered as a veterinary surgeon if he or she—

- (a) is a citizen of Uganda; and
- (b) holds a degree in veterinary medicine from a University recognised by the Council and has after attaining that qualification, served an internship of not less than twelve months under the supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon who has not less than five years of experience in veterinary practice.

(2) The Council may in its discretion require an applicant for registration to undertake an examination as Council may prescribe, to satisfy itself that the knowledge and skill of the applicant qualify that applicant for registration.

(3) The examination referred to in subsection (2) may be conducted by the Council or by any other institution appointed by the Council, and that examination shall be conducted on such terms and conditions as the Council may determine.

(4) A person registered by the Council under this section shall swear or affirm the oath set out in Schedule 2 and shall be entitled to have his or her name entered in the register.

6. Qualifications for registration of veterinary specialist

(1) A veterinary surgeon who attains a post graduate qualification related to a specialty in respect of which he or she wishes to be registered shall apply to the Council for registration as a veterinary specialist in that field of specialisation.

(2) The Council shall register the applicant where the Council is satisfied that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and experience to enable him or her practice in the field of specialisation as a veterinary specialist.

7. Qualifications for registration of veterinary para-professional

(1) A person shall be qualified for registration as a veterinary para-professional if that person is a citizen of Uganda and has—

- (a) successfully completed a post-secondary school training course in animal health science lasting at least two years at an institution recognised by the Council and has obtained a certificate, diploma or degree, and has thereafter served an internship of not less than twelve months under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner;
- (b) qualified in animal husbandry, range management or wildlife health and has undertaken a course of not less than one year in animal health, prescribed by the Council, and has served an internship of not less than twelve months under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner; or
- (c) has successfully completed a post-secondary school training course in laboratory technology, or has been determined by the Council to possess qualifications to allow him or her to be registered as a para-professional.

(2) The Council shall prescribe the mode of supervision for a para-professional on internship.

(3) A person registered by the Council under this section shall swear or affirm the oath set out in Schedule 2 and shall be entitled to have his or her name entered in the register.

8. Temporary registration

(1) A person may apply to the Council for temporary registration if—

- (a) that person is not a citizen of Uganda and intends to engage in veterinary practice in Uganda;
 - (b) possesses qualifications from an institution in a jurisdiction other than an institution from Uganda.
 - (c) that person is undertaking internship after graduation; or
 - (d) intends to undertake a specific assignment for the duration of the registration.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by—
- (a) certified copies of the certificates of the applicant, in veterinary medicine, duly authenticated by the responsible veterinary regulatory body of the country where the certificates were obtained;
 - (b) evidence of payment of the prescribed fee;
 - (c) proof of good professional conduct from the responsible veterinary statutory body in the country of origin of the applicant; and
 - (d) particulars of the organisation or institution that intends to engage the service of the applicant or offer internship placement to the applicant.
- (3) Subsection (2) (c) shall not apply to an applicant for internship after graduation.
- (4) The Council may require a person applying for temporary registration to appear before it for an oral or written examination.
- (5) This section does not apply to a person who qualifies for temporary registration if that person is attached to a veterinary training institution in Uganda for purposes of a capacity building program for a period not exceeding three months.

9. Registration of veterinary practice establishment

(1) Any person who intends to set up a veterinary practice establishment after the commencement of this Act shall apply to the Council for registration of that veterinary practice establishment.

(2) The Council may make an inquiry and inspection as it deems fit, upon payment of the prescribed fees, for purposes of satisfying itself that the proposed veterinary practice establishment is fit for registration.

(3) The Minister shall, by regulations, prescribe the requirements for registration of a veterinary practice establishment.

10. Consideration of applications for registration

(1) The Council shall consider an application for registration and shall communicate its decision to the applicant in writing within sixty days from the date of receipt of the application.

(2) The Council may refuse to register an applicant where the Council finds that the applicant is not eligible for registration in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

(3) Where the Council refuses to register an applicant under subsection (2) the Council shall give reasons for the refusal in writing, to the applicant.

11. Issuance of certificate of registration

(1) Where the Council is satisfied that the applicant is eligible to engage in veterinary practice, the Council shall register the applicant.

(2) Every veterinary practitioner and veterinary practice establishment registered by the Council shall be issued with a certificate of registration in a form prescribed by regulations.

(3) A certificate of temporary registration may be issued on such terms and conditions as the Council may deem fit, including a

condition that the veterinary practitioner confines his or her practice to the area of competence for which he or she is engaged or registered.

(4) A veterinary practitioner who is registered temporarily, shall for every year of practice in Uganda, submit to the Council, a quarterly report showing among others, the progress made towards the completion of the task in respect of which the certificate of temporary registration is issued.

(5) A veterinary practitioner who is registered temporarily on application under section 8(1)(b), may apply for registration under section 5, 6 or 7 as the case may be, if at the expiry of the temporary registration, the Council is satisfied that he or she is a fit and proper person to be registered as a veterinary practitioner.

(6) Upon registration, a veterinary practitioner is eligible to apply for a licence to engage in veterinary practice.

12. Suspension or cancellation of certificate of registration

(1) The Council may suspend a certificate of registration, for a period determined by the Council, or until the veterinary practitioner complies with the conditions determined by the Council.

(2) The Council may cancel a certificate of registration where the registered veterinary practitioner—

- (a) violates any of the terms and conditions specified in the Code of professional conduct and ethics prescribed under section 70(2)(a);
- (b) fails to comply with the condition of suspension, in the case of the suspension of a certificate of registration;
- (c) fails to keep a veterinary practice establishment in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Council; and
- (d) contravenes any provision of this Act or the conditions for registration specified by the Council in the certificate of registration.

(3) Where the certificate of registration is cancelled, the Council shall recall that certificate and the person holding that certificate shall surrender it to the Council within one month from the date of recall.

(4) A person who fails to surrender a certificate of registration to the Council commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding three hundred and fifty currency points or a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

(5) This section applies to veterinary practice establishments with the necessary modifications.

13. Effect of suspension or cancellation of certificate of registration

A veterinary practitioner whose certificate of registration, for purposes of this Act—

- (a) is suspended, shall not operate within the period of suspension; or
- (b) is cancelled, shall be taken not to be registered from the date of cancellation of the certificate of registration.

14. Use of titles

(1) A veterinary practitioner shall be entitled to use the title of "Veterinary Surgeon", "Veterinary Specialist" or "Veterinary Para-professional" as, the case may be, and—

- (a) in the case of a veterinary surgeon and veterinary specialist, the prefix of the title "Doctor" in an abbreviated form followed by his or her name as it appears in the register; and
- (b) in the case of a veterinary para-professional, his or her name as it appears in the register followed by any suitable words in parentheses to the effect that he or she is a veterinary para-professional.

(2) A person who uses a title referred to in subsection (1) which he or she is not entitled to use, commits an offence, and is liable on conviction, to a fine not exceeding three hundred and fifty currency points or a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

PART III—LICENSING OF VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS,
VETERINARY PRACTICE ESTABLISHMENTS AND
REGULATION OF VETERINARY PRACTICE

*Licensing of veterinary practitioners and veterinary
practice establishment*

15. Licensing

(1) A veterinary practitioner, other than a public veterinary practitioner shall not practice or hold himself or herself out, whether directly or indirectly, as engaging in or being able to engage in veterinary practice or to take up employment or operate a business as a veterinary practitioner, unless he or she is licensed under this Act.

(2) An organisation, institution or veterinary practice establishment shall not offer veterinary services or any other animal health services, unless it is licensed by the Council.

(3) A person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding three hundred and fifty currency points, or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

(4) In the case of continuous contravention following a conviction under subsection (3), the person shall be liable to an additional penalty not exceeding seven hundred currency points.

16. Application for licence

(1) A veterinary practitioner who intends to engage in veterinary practice or to operate a veterinary practice establishment shall apply to the Council for a licence.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by—

- (a) a copy of the certificate of registration of the applicant as a veterinary surgeon, veterinary specialist or veterinary para-professional, as the case may be;
- (b) evidence of payment of the prescribed fee; and
- (c) any other requirement as the Council may prescribe.

(3) A person who wishes to operate a veterinary practice establishment shall apply to the Council for a licence to operate a veterinary practice establishment.

(4) An application for a licence under subsection (3) shall be accompanied by—

- (a) the particulars of the veterinary practitioner who shall manage the veterinary practice establishment;
- (b) a copy of the certificate of registration of the veterinary practitioner referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) a copy of the certificate of registration of the veterinary practice establishment;
- (d) evidence of payment of the prescribed fee; and
- (e) any other requirements as the Council may prescribe.

17. Grant of licence

(1) The Council shall consider an application made under section 16 and where the Council is satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements for licensing, the Council may grant to the applicant a licence to practice veterinary medicine or to operate a veterinary practice establishment, as the case may be.

(2) A licence referred to in subsection (1) shall be in the form prescribed by regulations.

(3) The Council may refuse to grant a licence where—

- (a) the applicant is not a veterinary practitioner;
- (b) the application is not supported by the requirements specified in section 16(2) or (4) of this Act;
- (c) the applicant has contravened this Act; and
- (d) for any other reason as the Council deems fit.

(4) Where the Council refuses to issue a licence under subsection (3) the Council shall give the reasons for the refusal in writing to the applicant.

18. Renewal of licence

(1) A licence to practice veterinary medicine or to operate a veterinary practice establishment granted under section 17 shall be valid for the calendar year in which it is granted, and may be renewed every year.

(2) A licensee may apply to the Council for renewal of a licence within three months before the expiry of the licence.

(3) The Council shall consider the application and if it is satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirements of this Act, the Council may renew the licence.

19. Suspension or revocation of licence

(1) Where, upon conducting an inquiry into the conduct of a licensee, the Council determines that the licence held by the veterinary practitioner should be revoked, the Council shall revoke the licence and shall communicate the reasons for the revocation to the licensee within reasonable time, but in any case not later than twenty-one working days from the date of revocation of the licence.

(2) Where the Council determines that the conduct of the licensee does not warrant a revocation of the licence, the Council may suspend the licence for a specific period and until the specified conditions are fulfilled.

(3) Where the licensee fails to fulfill the conditions set by the Council under subsection (2) within a specified period, the Council may revoke the licence.

Veterinary Practice

20. Private veterinary practice

(1) A veterinary practitioner licensed under this Act is entitled to engage in private veterinary practice and to demand, sue for and recover reasonable charges for professional advice, visits and any other services and the value of all veterinary appliances or materials or substances supplied by him or her.

(2) A veterinary practitioner shall not recover any charges for veterinary services given or visit made, or for the value of any medicine or appliance supplied, where at the time that veterinary service was given or visit made or such medicine or appliance was supplied, the veterinary practitioner was not licensed under this Act.

(3) A veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist licensed under this Act may acquire and personally compound or dispense any medicine which is prescribed by himself or herself or by another veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist, for use in the treatment of an animal which is under his or her professional care.

(4) A licensed veterinary para-professional shall only undertake the services and procedures prescribed in Schedule 3 to this Act.

(5) A licensed veterinary para-professional may, where necessary, render first aid in cases of emergency and shall, as soon as is

reasonably practicable, refer the first aid cases to the nearest veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist.

(6) The Ministry or a local government may engage a licensee to offer veterinary services on behalf of the Government on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon with the licensee.

21. Certification

(1) A document required to be certified by a duly qualified veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist shall not be valid unless it is signed by a veterinary practitioner registered under this Act as a veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist.

(2) A person who—

- (a) signs a document in contravention of subsection (1); or
- (b) knowingly alters a certified document;

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding three hundred and fifty currency points or a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

22. Duties of veterinary practitioners

(1) The duties of a veterinary practitioner are—

- (a) to conduct the affairs of the profession with the highest degree of honesty, skill and integrity and to observe the Code of professional conduct and ethics prescribed under this Act;
- (b) to inform the Council of any person or veterinary practice establishment engaging in veterinary practice in contravention of this Act;
- (c) to report to the commissioner responsible for animal health, any notifiable disease that comes to his or her knowledge in the course of his or her practice;

- (d) to provide a monthly written report, in the prescribed format, to a veterinary officer within the jurisdiction of his or her area of operation; and
- (e) to take the necessary precautions in his or her duties to prevent the transmission of disease from one animal to another.

(2) A veterinary practitioner who refuses or neglects to perform his or her duties under subsection (1), shall be deemed to have contravened the professional Code of conduct and ethics and shall be liable to disciplinary action by the Council.

23. Exemptions to engage in veterinary practice without licence

(1) The Minister may, upon the advice of the Council by regulations—

- (a) exempt any person or category of persons from the requirements of registration or licensing or both; and
- (b) prescribe the procedure and manner in which an exempted person or category of persons shall practice.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), an exemption shall be granted in respect of—

- (a) the performance of any of the following operations to an animal by the owner of the animal, any member of a household of which the owner is a member or by a person in the regular employment of the owner—
 - (i) bloodless castration;
 - (ii) tailing of a lamb;
 - (iii) the docking of the tail of a dog before its eyes are open;
 - (iv) the disbudding of a calf under the age of four weeks;

- (v) earmarking an animal;
 - (vi) any minor treatment, test or operation as may be specified by the Council from time to time; or
 - (vii) bloodless dehorning;
- (b) anything done to an animal, otherwise than for reward, by a person engaged or employed on a farm or by the owner of the animal or another person, for the purpose of livestock management practice; and
- (c) anything done to render first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain in an animal.

Veterinary practice establishment

24. Inspection of veterinary practice establishment

(1) A veterinary inspector may at any time enter a veterinary practice establishment for purposes of ensuring compliance with this Act.

(2) Where a veterinary inspector determines that the operation of the veterinary practice establishment is in contravention of this Act and is putting human and animal health at risk, the veterinary inspector may—

- (a) close the establishment;
- (b) seize and retain any appliance, equipment, drugs, biologicals, or documents that appear to the veterinary inspector to be unfit for the intended use; and
- (c) take a sample of the product or any substance capable of being used in the practice of veterinary medicine.

(3) A veterinary inspector shall exercise his or her powers under subsection (2) in the presence of the operator or the person found in charge of the veterinary practice establishment and the veterinary inspector may be accompanied by a police officer.

(4) A veterinary inspector shall seal off a veterinary practice establishment closed under subsection (2).

25. Recognition of veterinary training institution

(1) Notwithstanding the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001, a person who is in charge of a training institution in Uganda which conducts a course of training leading to the award of a qualification that renders persons who receive awards registrable under this Act, shall apply to the Council for recognition of that institution as a veterinary training institution.

(2) The Minister may, by regulations, prescribe the procedure for recognising training institutions for the purposes of this section.

(3) The Council may, at any time, cease to recognise a training institution which, in the opinion of the Council, is no longer of a satisfactory standard to conduct a course of training to qualify persons receiving awards from that institution, for registration under this Act.

(4) The cessation of recognition of an institution under subsection (3) shall not invalidate the registration of a person who graduated from that institution and was registered prior to the ceasing of recognition of the training institution.

26. Continuous professional development

(1) Every veterinary practitioner shall undertake minimum continuing professional development as prescribed by the Council.

(2) The Council may refuse to renew the license of a veterinary practitioner, who, without reasonable cause, fails to undertake the minimum continuing professional development referred to in subsection (1).

(3) The Council shall determine the minimum number of hours and the nature of continuing professional development required to renew a licence annually to practice veterinary medicine.

(4) The Council may recognise a continuous professional development training undertaken by a veterinary practitioner from outside Uganda.

PART IV—INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

27. Establishment of Uganda Veterinary Council

There is established the Uganda Veterinary Council, which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and shall, in its corporate name be capable of—

- (a) suing and being sued;
- (b) taking, purchasing, or otherwise acquiring, holding, charging or disposing of movable and immovable property;
- (c) borrowing and lending money; and
- (d) doing all other things as may be lawfully done by a body corporate.

28. Seal of Council

(1) The common seal of the Council referred to in section 27 shall be kept by the secretary.

(2) The seal of the Council shall be affixed on the documents of the Council that the Council deems fit.

(3) The affixing of the seal of the Council on any document of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the chairperson and the secretary, and the signatures of the chairperson and of the Secretary shall not be required to be witnessed by any other person.

(4) Every document purporting to be an instrument issued by the Council and authenticated in the manner described in subsection (2) shall be admissible in evidence without further proof, unless the contrary is shown.

29. Membership of Council

(1) The Council shall consist of nine members appointed by the Minister, with the approval of Cabinet.

(2) The Council shall comprise of—

- (a) the commissioner responsible for animal health or his or her representative;
- (b) a representative of veterinary schools, faculties or Universities recognised by the Council, who shall be a veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist;
- (c) a representative of veterinary para-professional training institutions recognised by the Council;
- (d) a representative of animal research institutions;
- (e) a representative of the Uganda Veterinary Association nominated by the Uganda Veterinary Association;
- (f) a representative of the Uganda Veterinary Para-professional Association nominated by the Uganda Veterinary para-professional Association;
- (g) a representative of the veterinary practitioners who is specially trained to manage aquatic diseases nominated by the Uganda Veterinary Association;
- (h) a wildlife veterinary surgeon nominated by the Ministry responsible for wildlife; and
- (i) a representative from the veterinary pharmaceutical industry.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall be an ex-officio member of the Council and the secretary to the Council, and shall not take part in the decision making of the Council.

(4) The Minister shall appoint, a chairperson of the Council from among the members of the Council, who shall be a veterinary surgeon.

30. Eligibility for appointment to Council

A person shall be appointed to serve as a member of the Council if that person is—

- (a) a permanent resident of Uganda;
- (b) a person of good standing;
- (c) a citizen of Uganda and who has not been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude; and
- (d) registered or licensed under this Act.

31. Tenure of office

A member of the Council shall hold office for four years and is eligible for reappointment for one term only, except that the Minister shall appoint at least three members for a term of three years, renewable once.

32. Vacation of office

(1) A member of the Council may resign from his or her appointment by giving notice in writing to the Minister, of at least sixty days, of his or her intention to resign.

(2) Where the office of a member of the Council becomes vacant, other than by the holder having completed the mandatory term, the Minister may appoint another person to hold the office, and the person appointed shall cease to hold the office on the date on which

the person in whose place he or she is holding that office would have ceased to hold office.

(3) Where a member of the Council is, for any reasonable cause, temporarily unable to perform the functions of his or her office, the Minister may appoint another person who qualifies to be a member of the Council, in the place of the substantive member during the period of absence of that substantive member.

(4) The Minister shall remove from office a member of the Council who—

- (a) is adjudged bankrupt under any law in force in Uganda and has not been discharged of the bankruptcy;
- (b) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- (c) has been absent, without the permission of the chairperson, for more than three consecutive meetings of the Council;
- (d) is incapable of performing his or her functions as a member of the Council as a result of mental or physical infirmity;
- (e) has neglected to perform his or her functions as a member of the Council;
- (f) conducts himself or herself in a manner unbecoming of a member of the Council; or
- (g) has been denied registration or a licence under this Act.

(5) The Minister shall, prior to exercising his or her power of removal under subsection (4), notify the member in writing and give the member an opportunity to show cause why he or she should not be removed from office.

33. Functions of Council

(1) The Council shall be responsible for the general supervision and control of veterinary practice and training, and shall advise Government on matters relating to the veterinary profession and practice.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Council shall—

- (a) register and license veterinary practitioners;
- (b) regulate veterinary practice and veterinary practice establishments;
- (c) collaborate with the relevant institutions or bodies to set standards of training required to qualify for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates in veterinary practice, including continuing professional development
- (d) approve, in consultation with the relevant bodies, courses of study and the conduct of qualifying examinations, for the purposes of this Act;
- (e) set and enforce standards of professional conduct and ethics and exercise disciplinary control over veterinary practitioners;
- (f) protect animal health and veterinary public health;
- (g) develop policies to regulate and advance veterinary practice and prescribe information to be regularly submitted by veterinary practitioners;
- (h) approve operational plans and annual budgets, ensure sound financial management and approve the external auditors of the Council;
- (i) protect veterinary practice, and deal with any matter related to the practice;

- (j) perform any other function incidental to the maintenance of good veterinary practice or as the Minister may direct; and
- (k) monitor the proper utilization of veterinary drugs and devices in collaboration with the relevant authorities.

34. Powers of Council

The Council has powers to—

- (a) obtain information from any person, body or authority as the Council deems relevant to the performance of its functions;
- (b) enter and inspect any veterinary practice establishment;
- (c) carry out an inquiry and summon any person who has in his or her possession or under his or her control a document or record relevant to the subject of an inquiry, to appear before the Council and to produce that document or record;
- (d) retain or make a copy of any document or record produced by a person summoned under paragraph (c); and
- (e) order the removal of the name of a veterinary practitioner or a veterinary practice establishment from the register.

35. Meetings and procedure of Council

(1) The Council shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Schedule 4 to this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Council may regulate its own procedure.

36. Committees of Council

(1) The Council may establish standing or ad hoc committees as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions.

(2) The chairperson of the Council shall appoint the members of the committees and shall specify the procedures and terms of reference of the committees.

37. Remuneration of members of Council

The members of the Council shall be paid such remuneration as the Minister may, in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance, approve.

Management and staff of Council

38. Chief Executive Officer

(1) There shall be a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Council.

(2) A person shall qualify to be appointed as Chief Executive Officer if that person is a veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist and meets the additional requirements prescribed by the Council.

39. Functions of Chief Executive Officer

(1) The functions of the Chief Executive Officer are—

- (a) to receive and file applications for registration, licensing and renewal of licences;
- (b) to keep and maintain a register of veterinary practitioners and veterinary practice establishments;
- (c) to develop strategic plans for approval by the Council;
- (d) to be the accounting officer of the Council and to manage the funds and property of the Council;
- (e) to cause to be inspected all veterinary practice establishments;
- (f) to take and keep minutes of all meetings of the Council and to keep all the records of the Council;

- (g) to keep in safe custody the seal of the Council;
- (h) to receive and file complaints made against a veterinary practitioner;
- (i) to coordinate and collaborate with national, regional and international veterinary professional bodies and development partners; and
- (j) to perform any other function the Council may assign him or her.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall, in the performance of his or her functions, be subject to the general control and supervision of the chairperson of Council.

(3) The chairperson of the Council may, from time to time in writing, require the Chief Executive Officer to submit to the Council, a report on the affairs of the Council.

40. Tenure of office of Chief Executive Officer

(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall hold office for a term of five years renewable only once.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer may vacate office at any time by giving written notice of his or her resignation of not less than three months in advance, addressed to the Minister and the chairperson of the Council.

(3) The Council may, remove the Chief Executive Officer from office where in the opinion of the Council, the Chief Executive Officer—

- (a) becomes incapable of performing the duties of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind;
- (b) is incompetent;

- (c) is found guilty of fraud or any other offence involving moral turpitude; or
- (d) is found culpable for misconduct or misbehavior in relation to his or her office as Chief Executive Officer or as a veterinary practitioner.

41. Secretariat and staff of Council

(1) There shall be a secretariat to facilitate the Council in the discharge of its functions under this Act.

(2) The secretariat shall be headed by the Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 38 of this Act.

(3) The functions of the secretariat are—

- (a) to implement the decisions and policies of the Council;
- (b) to recommend proposals for the formulation of policies to the Council;
- (c) to establish and maintain relationships with national, regional and international organisations, institutions and agencies as may be appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of the functions of the Council under this Act; and
- (d) to discharge such other functions as the Council may determine from time to time.

42. Independence of Council

(1) The Council shall, subject to subsection (2), be independent of any person or authority in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.

(2) The Minister may give policy direction, in writing, to the Council.

43. Veterinary inspectors

(1) The Council shall appoint veterinary inspectors who shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with this Act.

(2) The veterinary inspectors shall be appointed from the following categories of public officers—

- (a) staff of the Council;
- (b) public veterinary practitioners nominated by the commissioner responsible for animal health; and
- (c) any public officer whose functions are relevant or related to the functions of the Council.

(3) A person appointed under subsection (2) shall hold office for a term of three years or such longer period as the Council may determine.

(4) The Council shall publish in the Gazette and a newspaper of national wide circulation, the names of the veterinary inspectors appointed under subsection (1).

(5) A veterinary inspector shall produce, on demand a duly authenticated document showing that he or she is a veterinary inspector entitled to exercise the powers of a veterinary inspector specified in subsection (7).

(6) A veterinary inspector shall be responsible for—

- (a) inspecting veterinary practice establishments in his or her area of operation;
- (b) examining or inspecting any certificates of registration, licenses, books, electronic information storage systems or other related documents in the veterinary practice establishment or any premise and he or she may take

- extracts of the certificate, licence, book, electronic information storage system or documents which may be necessary to effect the examination or inspection;
- (c) providing advice to veterinary practitioners and occupiers or operators of a veterinary practice establishments on the management of the veterinary practice establishments;
 - (d) monitoring and supervising delivery of veterinary services;
 - (e) inspecting training institutions to ascertain compliance with the standards set by the Council under section 33(2) (c);
 - (f) preparing inspection reports and making recommendations to the Council; and
 - (g) performing any other duties as the Council may direct.
- (7) A veterinary inspector shall have powers—
- (a) to enter and inspect premises or a vessel suspected to be used as a veterinary practice establishment;
 - (b) to require the owner or operator of a veterinary practice establishment to maintain the veterinary practice establishment in good and tenantable repair in accordance with established standards;
 - (c) to issue a prohibition notice to the owner or the operator of a veterinary practice establishment that is operating in contravention of the prescribed standards;
 - (d) to seize and retain any veterinary drug, equipment, record, animal, or any other thing that constitutes or contains evidence of a contravention of this Act; and
 - (e) to inquire into any matter relating to veterinary practice within his or her area of jurisdiction.

(8) Where a person declares that a veterinary inspector has conflict of interest in any matter under inspection, or a veterinary inspector declares so, the Council shall designate another veterinary inspector to inspect the veterinary practice establishment.

44. Other staff of Council

(1) The Council may employ such other staff as may be necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of its functions.

(2) The Council shall regulate the manner of appointment and the terms and conditions of service and discipline of the staff of the Council.

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), public officers may be seconded to the service of the Council or may otherwise give assistance to the Council.

PART V—FINANCES

45. Funds of Council

The funds of the Council shall consist of—

- (a) monies appropriated by Parliament;
- (b) donations and grants received from sources within and outside Uganda, with the approval of the Minister responsible for finance; and
- (c) any monies accruing to the Council in the course of the discharge of the functions of the Council under this Act.

46. Power to open and operate bank accounts

(1) The Council shall, with the approval of the Accountant General, open and maintain bank accounts as are necessary for the performance of the functions of the Council.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall ensure that all monies received by or on behalf of the Council are banked as soon as practicable, in the bank accounts of the Council.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall approve the monies to be paid out of the bank accounts of the Council.

(4) The Chief Executive Officer shall notify the Council about the status of the accounts and advise on the operation or closure of any account.

47. Power to borrow

The Council may borrow money from any source as may be required for the discharge of its functions under this Act, subject to the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

48. Estimates

(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall, not later than four months before the end of every financial year, prepare and submit to the Council for its approval, estimates of income and expenditure of the Council for the next financial year.

(2) The Council shall, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, prepare and submit to the Minister, a budget containing the estimates of the income and expenditure of the Council for the next financial year.

(3) The Council shall not incur any expenditure exceeding the expenditure provided under the estimates for the financial year in which the expenditure is to be made.

49. Financial year of Council

The financial year of the Council is the period of twelve months, beginning on the 1st day of July of every year and ending on the 30th day of June of the following year.

50. Accounts

- (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall—
- (a) keep proper books of accounts and records of the transactions and affairs of the Council;

- (b) ensure that all monies received are properly accounted for;
- (c) ensure that all payments out of the monies of the Council are correctly and properly approved; and
- (d) ensure that adequate control is maintained over its assets and liabilities.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall submit to the Council the annual accounts of the Council for approval and onward submission to the Auditor General.

51. Audit

The Auditor General shall, in each financial year, audit the accounts of the Council in accordance with the National Audit Act, 2008.

52. Annual report

(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall, within forty-five days after the end of each financial year, submit to the Council, for approval, an annual report in respect of that financial year.

- (2) The annual report shall contain—
 - (a) financial statements;
 - (b) a report on the activities and operations of the Council;
 - (c) audited accounts of the Council; and
 - (d) any other information regarding accounts.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall submit to the Minister, as soon as practicable but in any case, not later than the 15th day of September of every year, the annual report approved by the Council.

(4) The Minister shall, within two months after receipt of the annual report, submit to Parliament the annual report of the Council with any statement which he or she considers necessary.

53. Duty to operate on sound financial principles

The Council shall perform its functions in accordance with sound financial principles and in conformity with good commercial practices and shall ensure, as far as possible, that the revenues of the Council are sufficient to meet expenditure properly charged to the revenue.

54. Compliance with Public Finance Management Act, 2015

The Council shall at all times comply with the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

PART VI—ENFORCEMENT

55. Inquiry by Council

(1) The Council may, on its own volition or on a complaint lodged with the Council, institute an inquiry into the conduct of a veterinary practitioner or a licensee.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall notify the parties to the complaint of a hearing date, time and place as the Council shall determine.

(3) The Council may seek the assistance of the Attorney General to advise the Council at an inquiry on matters pertaining to law and procedure or to lead evidence.

(4) The person presiding at the inquiry shall keep or cause to be kept in writing or electronically, a record of the proceedings of the inquiry.

(5) The Council shall, in the conduct of an inquiry regulate its procedure but shall observe the rules of natural justice.

56. Witnesses at inquiry

(1) In the conduct of an inquiry under section 55, the Council shall have the powers of the High Court to summon witnesses and to call for the production of books, plans and documents and to examine witnesses on oath.

(2) Summons for the attendance of witnesses or other persons at an inquiry shall be signed by the secretary to the Council, and oaths and affirmations shall be administered by the person presiding over the inquiry.

(3) A person who, having been served with a summons to attend and give evidence or to produce any document at any inquiry held under section 55—

- (a) fails without sufficient cause to obey the summons;
- (b) refuses, without sufficient cause to answer fully and to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, all questions put to him or her; or
- (c) willfully interrupts the proceedings of the Council or insults any member of the Council,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred currency points or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, or both.

(4) An inquiry under section 55 shall be deemed to be a suit or proceeding in courts of law and the Evidence Act shall apply with necessary modifications.

57. Expert advice to Council at inquiry

(1) The Council may co-opt an expert in any field which is the subject of inquiry to give an expert opinion or evidence to guide the Council to arrive at an informed decision in the conduct of an inquiry.

(2) An expert co-opted under subsection (1) shall advise Council in the presence of the veterinary practitioner or licensee whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry and his or her advocate, if any.

58. Decisions of Council

(1) The secretary shall notify in writing, the veterinary practitioner or the licensee whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry, of the decision of the Council and the reasons for the decision, within thirty days from the conclusion of the inquiry.

(2) The findings and decision of the Council at any inquiry under this Act shall be signed by the person presiding over the Council and the secretary and when so recorded and signed, shall be conclusive evidence of the professional conduct of the registered practitioner or licensee, unless the contrary is proved.

59. Disciplinary sanctions of Council

(1) Where a veterinary practitioner or licensee is found culpable of professional misconduct under this Act, the Council may—

- (a) refuse to issue or renew his or her licence;
- (b) revoke or suspend his or her licence;
- (c) place on probation the veterinary practitioner whose licence has been suspended;
- (d) suspend or cancel the certificate of registration and cause the removal of his or her name from the register;
- (e) issue a cease and desist order against the licensed practitioner;
- (f) impose an administrative penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty currency points, against the registered practitioner or licensee; or
- (g) reprimand the licensee.

(2) The Council may require a licensee who is on probation under subsection (1) (c)—

- (a) to report regularly to the Council or its appointed representative, on matters that form the basis of the probation;
- (b) to limit practice to the areas specified by the Council; or
- (c) to undertake continuing professional development until the licensee attains a level of skill satisfactory to the Council in the areas that are the basis of the probation.

(3) The Council may revoke a licence where a licensee continues to engage in an act after being issued with a cease and desist order under subsection (1) (e).

(4) Where the continued act under subsection (3) leads to death or otherwise endangers human or animal health, the licensee commits an offence and is liable, on conviction to a penalty not exceeding five hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding seven years or both.

(5) Disciplinary proceedings under this Act shall not be a bar to criminal prosecution or civil proceedings.

60. Review and appeals

(1) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Council under this Act may apply to the Council for review of its decision and the Council may confirm, vary or reverse its decision.

(2) A person aggrieved with the decision of the Council, may apply to the Council for review of the decision where the aggrieved person—

- (a) has material information that was not available at the time when the Council made the decision; or
- (b) has rectified the anomalies that formed the basis of the decision of the Council.

(3) A person who is not satisfied with the decision of the Council under this Act may appeal against that decision to a Chief Magistrates Court, within thirty days from the date of the decision of the Council.

(4) A person who intends to appeal against a decision of the Council may request for the record of the proceedings of the Council, and upon payment of the prescribed fee, the Council shall furnish that person with a copy of the record.

PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS

61. Register

(1) The Council shall maintain a register of veterinary practitioners and veterinary practice establishments.

(2) The register shall contain the particulars specified in Schedule 5 and have different parts as follows—

- (a) veterinary practitioners categorised as veterinary surgeons, veterinary specialists and each category of veterinary para-professionals;
- (b) licensees categorised as veterinary surgeons, veterinary specialists and veterinary para-professionals;
- (c) veterinary practice establishments;
- (d) recognised training institutions;
- (e) licensed veterinary laboratories;
- (f) veterinary practitioners registered temporarily; and
- (g) any other category as the Council may deem fit.

(3) Notwithstanding sections 62, 63, 64 and 65, the Minister may make regulations prescribing the form of the register, the making of entries in the register and the removal of entries and, in particular—

- (a) prescribing a fee to be charged for the entry of a name in the register or restoration of an entry;
- (b) prescribing a fee to be charged in respect of the retention in the register of the name of a person in any year subsequent to the year in which he or she was first registered; and
- (c) authorising the secretary to the Council to refuse to make or restore to the register any entry until the fee prescribed by regulations under this section has been paid.

62. Removal of name from register

- (1) The Council shall cause to be removed from the register—
- (a) a person who requests in writing that his or her name be removed from the register;
 - (b) the name of a licensee or veterinary practitioner who is convicted of an offence under section 67;
 - (c) the name of a licensee or veterinary practitioner who leaves Uganda and does not return within twelve months unless he or she has notified the Council and has requested that his or her name is retained on the register, and continues, during the period of his or her absence, to pay the retention fees as required under section 64;
 - (d) the name of a person registered under section 8, upon the expiry of the registration period;
 - (e) the name of a veterinary practitioner, a licensee or a veterinary practice establishment whose certificate of registration is cancelled; and

- (f) the name of a veterinary practitioner or a licensee who is deceased and it comes to the knowledge of the Council that the veterinary practitioner or licensee is deceased.

(2) Where a deceased veterinary practitioner was managing a veterinary practice establishment, the Council may cause the closure of the veterinary practice establishment except where the veterinary practice establishment was registered under a partnership with another licensed veterinary practitioner.

(3) Where the name of a veterinary practitioner is removed from the register for any reason other than death, the registration of the veterinary practice establishment under the names of the veterinary practitioner, shall also lapse, unless the veterinary practice establishment is registered in partnership with another veterinary practitioner, or until such time that another veterinary practitioner is registered in respect of that veterinary practice establishment.

63. Restoration of name on register

(1) The Council may, on its own motion or on the application of a veterinary practitioner or licensee whose name has been removed from the register, and after holding an inquiry as the Council may consider appropriate, cause the name of a veterinary practitioner or licensee to be reinstated in the register, upon payment of a prescribed fee.

(2) Where the name of a person is reinstated under subsection (1), the Council may restore the certificate of registration of the veterinary practice establishment that may have lapsed and may impose a period of supervision or any other condition that Council deems fit.

64. Annual retention fees

(1) Every registered veterinary practitioner and a licensee shall pay to the Council an annual retention fee in such amount as prescribed by regulations.

(2) The retention fee for the subsequent year shall be paid before 31st of December of the calendar year preceding the subsequent year.

(3) The Council shall remove from the register the name of a veterinary practitioner or a licensee who contravenes subsections (1) and (2).

(4) The Council may reinstate on the register the names of a veterinary practitioner or a licensee removed under subsection (3), upon payment of the prescribed fees and any penalty prescribed by the Council, with the approval of the Minister.

65. Correction of errors

(1) The secretary to the Council may with the approval of the Council, from time to time make any necessary alterations or corrections in the register.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the secretary to the Council may alter or make a correction in the register to correct clerical or editorial errors.

(3) Every veterinary practitioner or licensee shall notify the secretary to the Council, within reasonable time in any case, not exceeding thirty days from the date of occurrence, of any change in his or her particulars entered in the register.

(4) The notification referred to in subsection (3) shall be in a prescribed form and shall be accompanied by certified copies of documents attesting to the intended change.

(5) A veterinary practitioner or licensee who fails or neglects to notify the secretary to the Council as required under subsection (3) shall pay a civil penalty for the failure or neglect, as the Minister may prescribe.

66. Publication

(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall, after the 1st day of January and not later than the 31st day of March of every year, cause to be published in the Gazette or any newspaper of nationwide circulation the names of all veterinary practitioners, licensees and veterinary practice establishments appearing in the register of that particular year.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall, after every three months, publish in the Gazette or in a daily newspaper of nationwide circulation the names of all veterinary practitioners, licensees and veterinary practice establishments entered on or removed from the register.

(3) The publications referred to in subsections (1) and (2) shall be prima facie evidence that—

- (a) a person whose name appears in the register, is duly registered or licensed under this Act;
- (b) the veterinary practice establishment appearing in the register is duly registered under this Act; and
- (c) the absence of the name of a veterinary practitioner, licensee or veterinary practice establishment from a publication shall be prima facie evidence that the veterinary practitioner, licensee or veterinary practice establishment is not so registered or licensed.

(4) The registers or any copy or extract from the registers certified under the hand of the secretary to the Council shall be admissible as evidence in all courts of law.

67. Offences and penalties

(1) A person who—

- (a) falsely uses any name or title purporting to be a veterinary practitioner;

- (b) not being registered, licensed or otherwise authorised under this Act, holds himself or herself out as a veterinary practitioner, whether openly or covertly;
- (c) willfully procures or attempts to procure himself or herself to be registered under this Act by false or fraudulent representation either verbally or in writing;
- (d) aids or abets another person to hold himself or herself out or to procure registration or licensing using fraudulent means; or
- (e) contravenes any other provision of this Act for which no offence and punishment are prescribed;

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding three hundred and fifty currency points, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

(2) Any person, institution or organisation which engages a person holding out to be a veterinary practitioner or a licensee shall be taken to have abetted or aided that person to engage in veterinary practice in Uganda in contravention of this Act.

(3) A person, institution or organisation referred to in subsection (2) commits an offence under subsection (1).

68. Power to exempt certain treatments from operation of Act

The Council may declare that veterinary practice shall not be deemed to include any specified treatment, test or operation, either generally or in respect of any specified species of animals, and so long as that declaration remains in force, this Act shall not apply to any person performing, carrying out or giving that specified treatment, test or operation.

69. Immunity of officials

(1) A veterinary practitioner or a licensee shall not be held personally liable to any person in respect of an adverse drug effect to an animal or death of an animal in consequence of any act he or she does bonafide in the performance of his or her duties unless it is shown that the act was done illegally or with gross negligence.

(2) A suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings may not be brought against a member of the Council, the Chief Executive Officer, a member of staff of the secretariat, or a veterinary inspector, in his or her personal capacity for anything done in good faith in the discharge of his or her functions under this Act or regulations made under this Act.

70. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Council, by statutory instrument, make regulations generally for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations made under this section may—

- (a) prescribe the Code of professional conduct and ethics of veterinary practitioners;
- (b) prescribe procedures for engagement of community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations whose activities relate to veterinary services or animal health services;
- (c) prescribe the procedure for inspection, monitoring and supervision of veterinary practice establishments;
- (d) provide for procedures for the registration and licensing of veterinary practitioners and veterinary practice establishments;

- (e) provide procedures for conducting an inquiry;
- (f) prescribe any form to be used in connection with any matter under this Act;
- (g) prescribe any fee to be charged under this Act;
- (h) regulate advertisement of services by veterinary practitioners;
- (i) prescribe the process of recognition of training institutions;
- (j) regulate the scale of fees to be charged by veterinary practitioners;
- (k) prescribe guidelines for licensing of veterinary laboratories;
- (l) prescribe times for appeals and notifications;
- (m) prescribe the conduct of continuous professional development;
- (n) provide for internship for veterinary surgeons and veterinary para-professionals; and
- (o) prescribe any other regulations as the Council deems fit.

71. Amendment of Schedules

The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Council, by statutory instrument, amend the Schedules to this Act.

72. Repeal and savings

- (1) Section 12(2) (c) of the Animal Breeding Act, 2001 is repealed.
- (2) The Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. 277 is repealed.
- (3) Notwithstanding the repeal referred to in subsection (2)—
 - (a) the registration or licensing of a person as a veterinary practitioner under the repealed Act shall not, so long as

that registration or license is in force at the commencement of this Act, be affected by the repeal; and that veterinary practitioner shall be deemed to be registered or licensed under this Act, except that that veterinary practitioner shall within twelve months after the commencement of this Act, lodge an application with the Council for registration and licensing under this Act;

- (b) any reference to the repealed Act in any enactment immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to this Act;
- (c) all assets vested or held in trust by virtue of the repealed Act immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall, upon the commencement of this Act, be deemed to be vested or held in trust by the Council on the same terms and conditions existing immediately before the commencement of this Act;
- (d) any regulations and instruments made under the repealed Act, shall remain valid and binding, and shall be deemed to be made under this Act, until they are revoked by a statutory instrument made under this Act;
- (e) any decisions, agreements or contracts made under the repealed Act, shall in so far as they are not inconsistent with this Act, remain valid and binding in accordance with the terms under which they were made; and
- (f) any action, arbitration, proceedings or cause of action which, immediately before the commencement of this Act, is pending or existing, by, against or in favour of the Council before the commencement of this Act, may be continued, enforced or prosecuted by, against or in favour of the Council without amendment of any pleading or other document.

Act

Veterinary Practitioners' Act

2023

SCHEDULE 1

CURRENCY POINT

Section 2

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

SCHEDULE 2

Sections 5(4) and 7(3)

OATHS

THE VETERINARY SURGEON'S OATH

SOLEMN OATH FOR VETERINARY SURGEONS To be declared on admission to the membership of the veterinary profession.

I....., in as much as the privilege of membership of the veterinary profession is about to be conferred upon me, solemnly swear/affirm that I shall abide in all due loyalty to the veterinary profession and will do all in my power to maintain and promote the interests of the veterinary profession. I shall promote animal health and welfare, prevent, and relieve animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, protect the health of the public and the environment, and advance comparative medical knowledge. I shall practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept the obligation to the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence. All this I solemnly promise to do.

So help me God

Name: Signature:.....

Date.....

.....
*Chief Executive Officer
Uganda Veterinary Council*

VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONAL'S OATH.

I....., being admitted as a Veterinary Para-Professional, solemnly swear/affirm that I shall dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, I shall promote animal health and welfare, prevent and relieve animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, promote public health, and protect the environment. I accept my obligation to practice my profession conscientiously, with sensitivity, adhering to the para-profession's Code of Ethics and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept the obligation to furthering my knowledge and competence through commitment to lifelong learning. All this I solemnly promise to do.

So help me God

Name:..... Signature:.....

Date.....

.....
*Chief Executive Officer
Uganda Veterinary Council*

SCHEDULE 3

Section 20(4)

**SERVICES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO PRACTICE BY
VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS****PART 1—SERVICES TO BE OFFERED BY VETERINARY PARA-
PROFESSIONALS**

1. (1) A veterinary para-professional may perform the following services—
 - (a) implementation of parasite control programmes in animals;
 - (b) meat inspection and other related duties;
 - (c) delegated duties pertaining to regulated animal diseases, including the various eradication schemes;
 - (d) extension services including training of farmers and community members;
 - (e) the collection, capturing and evaluation of data and the compiling of reports while assisting with epidemiological and research projects;
 - (f) the collection of samples, including blood smears, impression smears, skin scrapings, and wool scrapings, and faecal samples, other than the collection of samples by biopsy;
 - (g) the examination and analysis of samples, including blood smears, skin and wool scrapings, urine analysis and fecal samples and elementary clinical chemistry;
 - (h) artificial insemination provided that the licence of the veterinary para-professional indicates that he or she is registered and licensed as an inseminator;
 - (i) carry out therapeutic services when guided or delegated by a registered veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist; and
 - (j) any other functions as the Council may from time to time determine.

(2) A veterinary para-professional shall perform the services referred to in paragraph (1) only during the course of delegated responsibility—

- (a) as an employee of Government; or
- (b) under the supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon or specialist.

PART 2—PROCEDURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS

2 (1) A veterinary para-professional may undertake the following procedures—

- (a) closed castration of cattle under six months of age;
- (b) closed castration of sheep and goats under three months of age;
- (c) open castration of pigs up to thirty days of age;
- (d) dehorning of immature cattle, sheep and goats under four months of age;
- (e) tail docking of sheep under twelve months of age by using the open method;
- (f) hoof trimming;
- (g) taking samples; and
- (h) carry out curative or therapeutic and relief actions on all animal species as prescribed by Council.

(2) A veterinary para-professional may perform the following procedures under the supervision or direction of a veterinary surgeon or veterinary specialist—

- (a) lancing of abscesses;
- (b) treatment of septic wounds; and
- (c) administration of injections, vaccines and medicines.

SCHEDULE 4

Section 35(1)

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

1. Meetings of Council

(1) The chairperson of the Council shall convene every meeting of the Council at such time and place as the Council may determine, and the Council shall meet for the discharge of business at least once in every three months.

(2) The chairperson may, at any time, convene a special meeting of the Council within seven days, if requested to do so in writing by at least six members of the Council.

(3) Notice of a meeting of the Council shall be given in writing to each member at least fourteen working days before the day of the meeting.

(4) The chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Council and in the absence of the chairperson, the members present shall appoint a member from among themselves to preside at the meeting.

2. Quorum

(1) The quorum for a meeting of the Council is six members.

(2) All decisions at a meeting of the Council shall be by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting and in case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

3. Minutes of meetings

(1) The Council shall cause to be recorded and kept, minutes of all meetings of the Council in a form approved by the Council.

(2) The minutes kept under subparagraph (1) shall be confirmed by the Council at the next meeting and signed by the chairperson of that meeting and the secretary to the Council.

4. Decision by circulation of papers

(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the decisions of the Council may be made by the circulation of the relevant papers among the members and the expression of their views in writing, but any member is entitled to request that that decision be deferred until the matter is considered at a meeting of the Council.

(2) A decision made by circulation of papers under this paragraph is not valid unless it is supported by not less than six members.

5. Power to co-opt

(1) The Council may co-opt any person who, in the opinion of the Council, has expert knowledge on any matter to be considered by the Council, to attend and take part in the proceedings of the Council.

(2) A person co-opted under this paragraph may take part in any discussion at the meeting of the Council on which his or her advice is required but shall not have any right to vote at that meeting.

6. Validity of proceedings not affected by vacancy

The validity of any proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by a vacancy in its membership or by any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

7. Disclosure of interest of members

(1) A member of the Council who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the Council, or in any other matter which falls to be considered by the Council, shall disclose the nature of his or her interest at a meeting of the Council.

(2) A disclosure made under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

(3) A member who makes a disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall not—

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the Council with respect to that matter; or

(b) take part in any decision of the Council with respect to that matter.

(4) For purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, a member withdrawing from a meeting or who is not taking part in a meeting under subparagraph (3) shall be treated as being present.

8. Council may regulate its procedure

Subject to this Act, the Council may regulate its own procedure.

SCHEDULE 5

Section 61(2)

**REGISTER OF VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS, LICENSEES
AND VETERINARY PRACTICE ESTABLISHMENT**

1. The register shall contain the following particulars in respect of registered veterinary practitioners—
 - (a) name;
 - (b) date registered;
 - (c) academic qualification(s);
 - (d) year in which the qualification was attained;
 - (e) name and address of institution where the qualification was obtained;
 - (f) permanent address;
 - (g) business address; including postal and physical address, phone contacts and email address;
 - (h) registration certificate number;
 - (i) additional qualifications;
 - (j) national identity card or passport number; and
 - (k) area of competence.

2. The register shall contain the following particulars in respect of licensed veterinary practitioners—
 - (a) name;
 - (b) academic qualification(s);
 - (c) license number and date of issue;

- (d) permanent address;
 - (e) business address; including postal and physical address, email address and telephone numbers;
 - (f) area of competence or specialty; and
 - (g) date of registration.
3. The register shall contain the following particulars in respect of licensed veterinary practice establishments—
- (a) name and address of the veterinary practice establishment; including physical location (village, parish, sub-county and district);
 - (b) conditions, if any, attached to the licence;
 - (c) particulars of the veterinary practitioner or licensee supervising the veterinary practice establishment as required in paragraphs 1 and 2;
 - (d) particulars of the veterinary professional in whose name the veterinary practice establishment is registered as required in paragraphs 1 and 2.
 - (e) particulars of other veterinary practitioners employed in the veterinary practice establishment;
 - (f) number and qualification of staff in the institution; and
 - (g) the types of services to be rendered at the veterinary practice establishment.

Act

Veterinary Practitioners' Act

2023

Cross references

Animal Breeding Act 2001, Act 11 of 2001

Evidence Act, Cap. 6

National Audit Act, 2008, Act 7 of 2008

Public Finance Management Act, 2015, Act 3 of 2015

Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001, Act 7 of 2001



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the bill which was passed by Parliament and found by me to be a true copy of the bill.

A stylized signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal stroke.

.....
Clerk to Parliament

Date of authentication: 7/2/2024