

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE 30TH JULY, 2003
LEGAL SUPPLEMENT — C

BILL No. 14 of 2003

Wednesday 30th July, 2003

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
Public Buildings
Georgetown
Guyana.

30th July, 2003 .

The following BILL which will be introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

S.E. Isaacs,
Clerk of the National Assembly.



GUYANA

BILL No. 14 of 2003

VETERINARIANS BILL 2003

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**A BILL
Intituled**

AN ACT to provide for the registration and control of veterinarians and animal health assistants; to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental hereto.

A.D. 2003 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-

**PART I
PRELIMINARY**

Short title and commencement. 1. This Act may be cited as the Veterinarians Act 2003, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may by order appoint.

Interpretation. 2. In this Act -
"animal" means any non-human mammal, bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, crustaceans or insects;
"animal health assistant" means a person other than a veterinarian who is registered as an animal health assistant under Part IV;
"the Board" means the Veterinary Board established under section 3;
"misconduct" includes misconduct in a code of discipline for veterinarians to be prescribed;
"Minister" means the Minister for the time being responsible for veterinarians;
"practice of veterinary medicine" includes -

- (a) **diagnosing, treating, surgically operating, correcting, changing, relieving or preventing animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental conditions including the prescribing or administration of any drug, medicine, biologicals, apparatus, applications, anaesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique and the using of any manual or mechanical procedure for artificial insemination or embryo transfer, testing for pregnancy, or for correcting sterility or infertility or rendering advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above with a view to obtaining a fee, salary, reward or other remuneration;**
- (b) **representing directly or indirectly, publicly or privately an ability and willingness to do an act described in paragraph (a);**
- (c) **using any title, words, abbreviations, or letters in a manner or under circumstances which induces the belief that the person using them is qualified to do any act described in paragraph (a);**
- (d) **applying principles of environmental sanitation, inspection of food of animal origin, environmental pollution control, animal nutrition, zoonotic disease control and disaster medicine in the promotion and protection of public health;**

"prescribed person" means a member of the Board or any other person authorized by the Board;

"qualification" means a degree, diploma, membership, fellowship, licence, certificate or other suitable status or document granted, after examination following a prescribed course of study in the fields of veterinary science

in all its branches at a recognized university, college, school or institution or any other body;

"Register" means any of the Registers which are required to be kept under Part II;

"Registrar" means the officer of the Board entrusted with the task, when directed by the Board so to do, of entering in or removing from the Register the name of a person who is a veterinarian or an animal health assistant;

"regulations" means regulations made under this Act;

"veterinarian" means a duly registered practitioner of veterinary medicine;

"veterinary premises" means premises at which veterinary medicine is practised and includes a veterinary centre, veterinary clinic and veterinary hospital;

"veterinary medicine" includes obstetrics, dentistry and all other branches or specialities of veterinary science.

Establishment of the Board. 3.(1) There is hereby established a body called the Veterinary Board, which shall have and may exercise and discharge the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed upon it by or under this Act.

(2) The provisions of the Schedule shall have effect with respect to the constitution and procedure of the Board and otherwise in relation hereto.

Functions of the Board. 4. The functions of the Board are to -

- (a) register veterinarians and animal health assistants;
- (b) examine where necessary, and determine the qualification and fitness of applicants for registration to practise veterinary medicine;

- (c) interview applicants for registration for the purpose of determining their suitability for registration;
- (d) grant, refuse, suspend or revoke registration including temporary registration to practise veterinary medicine and discipline licensed veterinarians under this Act or the regulations;
- (e) ensure the maintenance of acceptable standards of professional conduct by persons registered as veterinarians or animal health assistants;
- (f) deal with complaints against registered veterinarians and animal health assistants;
- (g) conduct investigations relating to violations of this Act or the regulations or for disciplining veterinarian or animal health assistants;
- (h) establish and publish standards of professional conduct for the practice of veterinary medicine; and
- (i) provide for continuing veterinary medical education of veterinarians and animal health assistants;
- (j) do such other acts and things as may be necessary to achieve the objects of this Act.

Grounds for
refusal of
registration.

5. The Board -

- The Board may refuse to register a person under this Act, where in the opinion of
- (a) the applicant does not meet the qualifications and requirements for registration;

- (b) the past conduct of the applicant affords reasonable grounds for believing that the applicant will not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine with honesty and integrity;
- (c) there is reasonable ground for believing that the applicant is impaired; or
- (d) the veterinary premises of the applicant does not meet the requirements and standards prescribed by the regulations.

Funds of the
Board.

6.(1) The funds of the Board shall consist of -

- (a) sums appropriated by the National Assembly for the purpose of the administration of this Act; and
- (b) moneys received by the Board including fees and charges.

(2) All moneys received by the Board shall be kept in a special account to be maintained by the Board for the administration of this Act.

(3) The remuneration of members of the Board and all other expenses of and incidental to the administration of this Act, shall be paid by the Board out of its funds:

Provided that where such funds are insufficient for the purpose of the administration of this Act, there may be made from the Consolidated Fund, such payments to the funds of the Board as the Minister of Finance may deem necessary for such purpose.

(4) Any surplus funds of the Board not required for the purposes of subsection (3) may be expended by the Board for the purpose of the advancement of veterinary science in Guyana in such manner as the Board may determine.

Investigations

7.(1) The Board may of its own motion or upon the complaint of a person aggrieved,

by the cause an investigation to be made of the conduct of a veterinarian.

Board.

(2) A person aggrieved by the conduct of a veterinarian and who desires to complain

of such conduct shall furnish to the Board his complaint in writing.

(3) The Board shall notify the veterinarian of the nature of the complaint or matter and call upon him to state in writing before a specified day (which day shall allow a reasonable interval for the purpose), any explanation or make representation he may wish to make in respect of the complaint.

(4) Having regard to any explanation or representation made by the veterinarian, the Board may -

- (a) determine that no enquiry shall be held; or
- (b) conduct such enquiry into the matter as the Board may consider appropriate.

Enquiry.

8.(1) In the conduct of a formal enquiry, the Board shall serve on the veterinarian against whom formal enquiry is to be instituted, a notice which shall -

- (a) specify in the form of a charge, the matter into which the enquiry is to be held; and
- (b) state the date, time and place at which the enquiry is proposed to be held.

(2) Except with the consent of the veterinarian an enquiry shall not be fixed for a date earlier than twenty-eight days after the date of notice of enquiry.

(3) In any case where there is a complaint, a copy of the complaint shall be sent to the veterinarian with the notice of enquiry.

(4) The veterinarian shall be entitled to receive free copies or to be allowed access to any documentary evidence relied on for the purpose of the enquiry.

(5) The veterinarian shall have the right to be represented by an attorney in any formal enquiry instituted against him.

(6) Where witnesses are examined by the Board, the veterinarian shall be given an opportunity of attending and of putting questions to the witnesses.

(7) The veterinarian shall be permitted to give evidence, call witnesses and make submission orally or in writing on his own behalf.

(8) If at the conclusion of the hearing the Board is of the opinion that the veterinarian is not guilty of misconduct in a professional respect, he shall be immediately notified of its findings, but if the veterinarian is found guilty of any such charge, the Board shall proceed under section 9.

Disciplinary
proceedings.

9.(1) If in any proceedings referred to in sections 7 and 8, a veterinarian is found to be guilty of misconduct in a professional respect the Board may after consultation with the Minister -

- (a) censure him;
- (b) suspend his registration for any period not exceeding one year;
- (c) direct the Registrar to remove his name from the Register.

(2) Where the name of any person is removed from the Register, the Board may in writing require such person to return to the Registrar his certificate of registration and such person shall comply with the requirements. Failure to do so shall constitute an offence under this Act.

(3) Where any veterinarian has been suspended by the Board for any period, it shall be an offence for him to practise veterinary medicine during the period of suspension.

Power of the Board to remove names from Register.

10.(1) The Board may remove from the Register of Veterinarians the name of any person -

(a) who is found guilty of professional misconduct as provided in section 9(1);

(b) whose name has been ordered to be so removed by the High Court;

(c) who has had his qualification for registration as a veterinarian withdrawn or cancelled by the university, college or other body by which it was awarded; or

(d) who has requested the Board in writing so to do.

(2) A suspension of the registration of a veterinarian pursuant to this Act shall while the suspension continues in force, have the same effect as a removal of the name of the suspended person from the Register of Veterinarian.

Appeals against refusal to register, or removal of name, etc.

11. Any person who is aggrieved by the refusal of the Board to grant him registration (including temporary registration), by the removal of his name from the Register, or by the decision of the Board to censure him or suspend his registration, may, within three months after the date on which notice is given to him by the Board appeal the Board's decision to a judge of the High Court who shall give such directions in the matter as he may think proper, including a direction as to the costs of the appeal.

PART 11 THE REGISTERS

Registers required to be kept.

12.(1) The Registrar shall keep in forms, respectively prescribed, the following registers -

(a) the Register of Veterinarians;

(b) the Register of Animal Health Assistants;

- (2) The Registrar shall enter in the Register of Veterinarians -
- (a) the full name and address of every person registered as a veterinarian under this Act;
 - (b) a description of the qualification in respect of which such registration is granted and the date on which the qualification was conferred; and
 - (c) such other particulars as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Registrar shall enter in the Register of Animal Health Assistants -
- (a) the full name and address of every person registered as an animal health assistant under this Act;
 - (b) a description of the qualification in respect of which such registration is granted and the date on which the qualification was conferred;
 - (c) a reference to the veterinarian with whom the animal health assistant is employed; and
 - (d) such other particulars as may be prescribed.
- (4) A Register shall be deemed to be a book of a public nature and shall be admissible in evidence on its mere production from proper custody, and the Registrar shall be the person having the proper custody thereof.
- (5) The Registrar shall cause to be published in the Gazette in the month of February in each year alphabetical lists, surnames first, of persons and their qualifications who are registered as veterinarians and as animal health assistants.
- (6) A copy of the Gazette containing either of the lists referred to in subsection (5) shall be *prima facie* evidence in any Court of the registration and qualifications of any person named therein.

Registration fee and consequences for non-payment. 13.(1) Every veterinarian and animal health assistant shall pay to the Registrar the prescribed annual registration fee before 31 January in each year.

(2) Where a veterinarian or animal health assistant does not pay the prescribed annual registration fee before the time prescribed under this section, the Board may remove his name from the respective Register and only restore it upon payment of such fees.

PART III REGISTRATION OF VETERINARIANS

Applications and qualifications for registration of veterinarians. 14.(1) Any person who possesses the necessary qualifications and who is desirous of being registered as a veterinarian for the purpose of practising as such in Guyana, shall submit an application for registration to the Board in the prescribed form accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(2) A person shall not be registered as a veterinarian unless he satisfies the Board that he is of good character and that -

- (a) he is the holder of a degree in veterinary medicine from a recognised university or college, which in the opinion of the Board is evidence of satisfactory training in veterinary medicine;
- (b) he has any other suitable qualifications in veterinary medicine considered by the Board to be of at least an equivalent standard to that specified in paragraph (a); or
- (c) he has passed the examination of the Board of Examiners for which a prescribed fee is payable.

Board of 15.(1) The Board may from time to time, appoint a Board of Examiners consisting of
Examiners. three experienced persons of whom at least one shall be in the government veterinary service.

(2) Where the Board is in doubt as to the standard of qualification or skill of an applicant for registration, it shall refer the application, together with all relevant documentary evidence of the courses of study undertaken by the applicant, the institution at which such courses were undertaken and any examinations passed by the applicant, to the Board of Examiners for determination.

(3) On examining the application, the Board of Examiners may -

- (a) recommend that the applicant be registered;
- (b) conduct an examination in respect of the applicant; or
- (c) recommend that the application be refused.

(4) A prescribed fee shall be paid by the applicant to the Registrar in respect of an examination conducted pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (3).

Registration of 16. Upon the commencement of this Act, every person who has been practising as a
persons veterinarian or animal health assistant in Guyana shall be deemed to be qualified to practise as such
practising upon and shall pay the prescribed fee when it falls due.

commencement Provided that an unqualified animal health assistant, whatever is his designation,
of Act. shall be afforded an opportunity to become qualified for subsequent registration.

Registration of veterinarians. 17.(1) Where the Board is satisfied in relation to any application under section 14 for registration, the Board shall authorise the Registrar to register the applicant as a veterinarian and the Registrar shall notify the applicant in writing accordingly and upon payment by him of the prescribed fee, furnish him with a certificate of registration in the prescribed form.

(2) Every veterinarian registered under this Act shall be entitled to practise veterinary medicine in Guyana and to demand and recover reasonable charge for services rendered by him as a veterinarian and also for any drugs, medicines or appliances supplied by him:

Provided that a veterinarian employed by government shall not levy any such charges on the public unless he is specifically allowed by the terms of his employment contract to engage in private practice.

Temporary registration of veterinarians. 18.(1) Any person who desires to practise veterinary medicine in Guyana for a limited period of time and who satisfies the requirements of registration specified in section 14 and is the holder of a work permit (where applicable) may apply to the Board to be temporarily registered as a veterinarian.

(2) The provisions of this Part relating to the registration of a veterinarian shall mutatis mutandis apply to the temporary registration of a veterinarian.

PART IV

ANIMAL HEALTH ASSISTANTS

Applicants and qualifications for registration of animal health assistants. 19.(1) Any person who possesses the necessary qualifications and who is desirous of being registered as an animal health assistant for the purpose of practising as such in Guyana, shall submit an application to the Board in the prescribed form accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(2) A person shall not be registered as an animal health assistant and entitled to use the title "Registered Animal Health Assistant" unless he -

- (a) holds a certificate of proficiency from an approved training institution;
- (b) holds a certificate of proficiency in respect of a programme of training approved by the Board; or
- (c) passes the examination referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (4); and
- (d) pays the prescribed registration fee.

(3) Where the Board is in doubt as to the standard of qualification or skill of an applicant for registration, it shall refer the application to the Board of Examiners referred to in section 15 for determination.

(4) On examining the application, the Board of Examiners may -

- (a) recommend that the applicant be registered;
- (b) conduct an examination in respect of the application; or
- (c) recommend that the application be refused.

(5) The provisions of this Act relating to veterinarians shall, in so far as they are applicable, apply mutatis mutandis to animal health assistants.

Temporary registration of animal health assistants. 20.(1) Any person who desires to work in Guyana for a limited period as an animal health assistant and who satisfies the requirements for registration specified in section 19 and is the holder of a work permit (where applicable) may apply to the Board in the prescribed form to be temporarily registered as an animal health assistant.

(2) The provisions of this Part relating to the registration of an animal health assistant shall mutatis mutandis apply to the registration of a temporary animal health assistant.

- Functions of a registered animal health assistant.**
- 21.(1) A registered animal health assistant may perform any or all of the following functions -**
- (a) the preparation and sterilization of equipment;
 - (b) the preparation of simple solutions;
 - (c) the collection of blood samples, milk samples, fecal samples, parasitic specimens;
 - (d) the collection of postmortem samples and the preparation thereof for examination in a laboratory;
 - (e) the handling of vaccines and the maintenance of biological products;
 - (f) the vaccination of animals;
 - (g) the restraint of all types of animals;
 - (h) the preparation of records;
 - (i) the performance of minor surgical procedures as, for example the treatment of wounds, the lancing of abscesses and castrations on the following animals -
 - (i) cattle up to eight months of age;
 - (ii) goats; and
 - (iii) sheep.
 - (j) the performance of laboratory techniques such as the marking and examination of blood and fecal smears;
 - (k) the giving of advice to farmers;
 - (l) the performance of any veterinary duty, other than diagnosis, prescription or surgery, which may be requested by the registered veterinarian under whose supervision he works;

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- (m) meat inspection; and
 - (n) any other functions which an animal health assistant may reasonably be expected to perform.
- (2) An animal health assistant shall at all times perform his functions under the supervision of a registered veterinarian.
- (3) An animal health assistant who contravenes subsection (2) shall be guilty of misconduct.

PART VV

MISCELLANEOUS

- Permissible
practice
without
registration.
- 22(1) The following persons, not registered as veterinarians and doing any of the acts mentioned in this subsection, are not holding themselves out as engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine -
- (a) a person rendering first aid or temporary assistance in an emergency without fee;
 - (b) a person treating an animal if the person is the owner of the animal, is a member of the household of the owner of the animal or is employed for general agricultural or domestic work by the owner;
 - (c) a person taking blood samples;
 - (d) a person who is a regular student in a university, college or institution of veterinary medicine and surgery, approved by the Board, performing any duties assigned to him by his instructors, or working under the direct supervision of a registered veterinarian during a school vacation period;

- (e) a person giving advice with respect to or performing acts which the Board has determined as accepted livestock management practices;
- (f) a veterinarian licensed or registered in another country consulting with a registered veterinarian in Guyana;
- (g) any merchant or manufacturer selling at his regular place of business, medicines, feeds, appliances, or other products used in the prevention or treatment of animal disease, provided that the merchant or manufacturer has a valid permit to sell such veterinary medicines and biologicals;
- (h) the owner of an animal and the owner's full-time regular employee caring for and treating the animal, except where the ownership of the animal was transferred for purposes of circumventing this Act;
- (i) a veterinarian lecturing or giving instructions or demonstrations in connection with a continuing education course or seminar;
- (j) any person who has approval from the Board for performing artificial insemination or embryo transfer with respect to animals;
- (k) any Animal Health Assistant employed by a registered veterinarian performing duties other than diagnosis, prescription or surgery under the direction and supervision of such veterinarian who shall be responsible for his performance.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, proof of the performance of one act in the practice of veterinary medicine on one occasion is sufficient to establish engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine.

Board may sue. 23. The Board may in its own name, by its Registrar or any person thereunto authorised in writing under the hand of the Chairman of the Board, institute, carry on, prosecute, and defend any action, complaint, information, or proceeding whatsoever. Every court of law shall take judicial notice of the signature of the Chairman of the Board to any such authorisation.

Veterinarians to produce records. 24.(1) The Board may, by notice in writing, direct a veterinarian to produce to it, within the time specified in the notice, such records as relate to his practice of veterinary medicine as are specified in the notice.

(2) A veterinarian who fails to comply with a direction of the Board under subsection (1) commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of two months.

Power of entry. 25.(1) A prescribed person may at any reasonable time enter upon any land and into any premises upon or in which he suspects, on reasonable grounds, that an act, procedure, matter or thing that forms part of veterinary medicine, is being or has been done or performed, in order to ascertain whether an offence against this Act is being or has been committed or whether any veterinarian is guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.

(2) Before a prescribed person enters a part of any premises which part is used exclusively as a dwelling-house he shall, save where he has the permission of the occupier of that part to his entry, obtain from a magistrate, a warrant to enter such premises.

(3) A magistrate who is satisfied upon the complaint of a prescribed person that there is reasonable cause to suspect that an offence against this Act in respect of an act, procedure, matter or thing that forms part of veterinary medicine is being or has been done or performed in any

premises, may issue a warrant directed to the prescribed person to enter the premises at such hours of the day or night as the warrant specifies or, if the warrant so specifies, at any time.

(4) A warrant shall be for the period of one month from the date of its issue and shall be sufficient authority for the prescribed person to whom it is directed to enter the premises specified in the warrant at the times specified therein.

(5) A prescribed person who enters upon any land or any premises pursuant to this section or to a warrant issued pursuant to this section may -

- (a) search the land or premises and examine anything found thereon or therein;
- (b) interview any person found thereon or therein;
- (c) collect and take away samples and specimens of anything found thereon or therein;
- (d) photograph the land or premises or any part thereof and anything found thereon or therein;
- (e) seize and take away records which, in his opinion formed on reasonable grounds, may contain evidence in respect of an offence against this Act or the regulations or of misconduct in a professional respect.

(6) In this section, premises that are used as a dwelling-house do not include the curtilage of those premises.

(7) Any person who assaults, resists, obstructs or hinders, threatens, or intimidates a prescribed person in the exercise of his powers under this Act commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of three months.

Offences and
penalties.

26.(1) Any person who -

- (a) procures or attempts to procure registration for himself or for any other person by knowingly -
 - (i) making or causing to be made, any misleading, false or fraudulent representation or declaration, either orally or in writing, or otherwise; or
 - (ii) producing, or causing to be produced, any false or fraudulent document or certificate;
- (b) wilfully makes, or causes to be made, any falsification in any matter relating to any of the Registers;
- (c) advertises or holds himself out as a person authorised or qualified to practise veterinary medicine when he is not as qualified,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a term of two years.

(2) Any person who, not being registered as a veterinarian under this Act -

- (a) takes or uses any title, addition or description implying or calculated to lead persons to believe that he is registered as a veterinarian, or that he is recognized by law as a person authorised or qualified to practise veterinary medicine;
- (b) assumes or uses any affix indicative of any occupational designation relating to the practice of veterinary medicine; or
- (c) advertises or holds himself out as a person authorised or qualified to practise veterinary medicine,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a term of two years.

(3) Any person who, during a period when his registration as a veterinarian under this Act is suspended, or who, not being registered as a veterinarian under this Act -

- (a) practises veterinary medicine;
- (b) for reward, diagnoses or offers to diagnose or attempts to diagnose any animal disease, ailment, deformity, defect or injury, or examines or advises upon any physical condition of any animal;
- (c) prescribes or administers any drug, serum or any other substance or remedy; applies any apparatus, or performs any operation or manipulation for the cure, treatment or prevention of any animal disease, ailment, deformity, defect or injury; or
- (d) acts as the assistant or associate of any person who performs any of the acts specified in this subsection,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a term of two years.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (3) a veterinarian who is late in registering shall first be afforded an opportunity to register and upon failing to do so he may be charged.

Censure,
suspension and
striking off.

27.(1) Where any person registered under this Act is found upon enquiry by the Board -

- (a) to be suffering from any physical or mental condition, or from any habit which renders him unfit to practise as a veterinarian or to perform satisfactorily his functions as an animal health assistant;

- (b) to have procured his registration as a result of any misleading, false or fraudulent representations;
- (c) to have been convicted of a criminal offence; or
- (d) to be guilty of dishonesty, negligence, or incompetence in the performance of his functions as a veterinarian or, an animal health assistant, or of conduct that is, in the opinion of the Board, unprofessional or disgraceful or discreditable to the profession,

the Board may, if it thinks fit, suspend his registration for a period of two years or mete out such lesser punishment as the Board thinks fit.

(2) The Board may at any time, if it thinks just, and upon reasonable cause, direct the Registrar to restore to the Register any name removed therefrom under subsection (1) and cause a notice thereof to be published in the Gazette.

(3) Where the name of a person has been removed from the Register, the Board may in writing require that person to return to the Registrar his certificate of enrolment, and that person shall comply with that requirement.

Recovery of penalties. 28. All penalties and fees imposed under this Act may be recovered in a court of summary jurisdiction.

General penalty. 29. Every person guilty of a breach of any of the provisions of this Act for which no other penalty is provided shall be liable on summary conviction, to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a term of one year.

Time limit for proceedings. 30. Any proceedings under this Act may be instituted within twelve months after the offence is committed, or within twelve months after the discovery of the offence, whichever is the later period.

Regulations. 31. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, make regulations generally for giving effect to provisions of this Act and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, for -

- (a) registration under this Act;
- (b) prescribing the particulars to be included in any of the Registers, the manner in which additional qualifications obtained in veterinary medicine or related subjects by a registered veterinarian or registered animal health assistant may be added to those particulars entered in the Register in relation to him, and the procedure to be followed to ensure that the particulars in the Register are kept up to date;
- (c) prescribing the different forms of application for registration and for certificates of registration;
- (d) prescribing fees for registration and for examinations;
- (e) requiring and providing for the inspection of veterinary facilities and of the records kept by members of the Board in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine;
- (f) prescribing any other matters or information which are required to be kept in any of the Registers;
- (g) prescribing any other matter or thing which is required to be prescribed by this Act.

(3) A person who commits a breach of any regulations made under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a term of six months.

SCHEDULE

(section 3)

- Constitution of Board. 1. The Board shall consist of -
- (a) the Principal Veterinary Officer or his nominee (being a member of the Government Veterinary Service); and
- (b) four other veterinarians, two appointed by the Minister and the other two by the Minister of Local Government.
- Chairman of Board. 2. The Minister shall appoint one of the members of the Board to be the Chairman thereof.
- Tenure of office. 3. The appointment of a member of the Board shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, be for a period not exceeding three years and such member shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- Resignations. 4. (1) Any member of the Board, other than the Chairman, may at any time resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Minister and transmitted through the Chairman.
- (2) Every resignation shall take effect from the date of receipt thereof by the Minister of the letter of resignation.
- Revocation of appointment. 5. The Minister may for good and sufficient cause, at any time revoke any appointment made under this Schedule.

Filling of vacancies. 6. If any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of another member who shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, hold office for the remainder of the period for which the previous member was appointed.

Gazetting of 7. The names of all members of the Board as first constituted, and every change in membership. the membership thereof shall be published in the Gazette.

Accounts and 8. The Board shall keep proper accounts of its receipts, payments, assets and audit. liabilities and such accounts shall be audited annually by the Auditor-General.

Annual reports 9. (1) The Board shall in each year prepare and submit to the Minister on or before the and estimates. thirty-first day of March, a report of its proceedings during the twelve months ending on the thirty-first day of December in the preceding year, including a statement of its accounts audited in accordance with paragraph 8.

(2) The Board shall on or before the thirty-first of October in each year, submit to the Minister for approval, its estimates of revenue and expenditure in respect of the period commencing on the first day of January next following and ending on the thirty-first day of December of the said year.

Seal and 10.(1) The Seal of the Board shall be kept in the custody of the Chairman of the Board or execution of the Registrar and shall be affixed to instruments pursuant to a resolution of the Board in the presence documents. of the Chairman, or any other member of the Board or the Registrar.

(2) The Seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman, or any other member of the Board authorised to act in that behalf and the Registrar.

(3) All documents, other than those required by law to be under seal, and all decisions of the Board may be signified under the hand of the Chairman, or any other member of the Board authorised in that behalf and the Registrar.

Procedure and
meetings.

11(1) The Board shall meet at such times as may be expedient for the transaction of its business, and such meetings shall be held in such places on such days and at such times as the Chairman may determine.

(2) The Chairman may at any time call a special meeting of the Board and shall call a special meeting within fourteen days of the receipt of a written requisition for that purpose addressed to him by any two members of the Board.

(3) Minutes of each meeting of the Board shall be kept in proper form.

(4) No member of the Board shall be personally liable for any act or default of the Board done or omitted to be done in good faith in the course of the operations of the Board.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill provides a framework for veterinary services in Guyana. It provides for the registration and control of veterinarians, regulates the practice of veterinary medicine, provides for the discipline of veterinarians and sets out their accountability to their clients. It also provides for animal health assistants and sets out their duties.

PART I is preliminary and covers clauses 1-11.

Clause 3 establishes a Veterinary Board to discharge the functions set out in the Act.

Clause 4 sets out the principal functions of the Board. Among these are, the power to:

- ▶ register veterinarians and animal health assistants;
- ▶ examine where necessary, and determine the qualification and fitness of applicants for registration to practise veterinary medicine;
- ▶ grant, refuse, suspend or revoke registration to practise veterinary medicine and discipline licensed veterinarians.

Clause 6 deals with the funds of the Board, their source and utilisation.

Clauses 7 and 8 give the Board power to conduct investigations into the conduct of a veterinarian.

Clause 9 stipulates the nature of the punishment, censure, suspension of registration for up to one year or removal from the Register.

Clause 11 gives an aggrieved veterinarian the right to appeal.

PART II, clauses 12 to 13 deal with the Registers to be kept by Registrar. Two registers are provided for. The Register of Veterinarians and the Register of Animal Health Assistants. Provision is made for a Roll of both professional groups to be kept and also published in the Gazette. Changes therein are also to be published in the Gazette.

Clause 13 provides for the payment of a registration fee.

PART III deals with the registration of veterinarians. It deals with the actual application and the qualifications (clause 14). Where there is a doubt as to the standard of qualification of a person, the Board may exercise its powers under clause 15 to appoint a Board of Examiners to examine the applicant.

Clause 16 deems all persons practising as veterinarians or animal health assistants at the commencement of this Act to be qualified to practise.

Clause 17 allows veterinarians to charge fees in the practice of the profession, except that a veterinarian employed by government shall not levy charges on the public unless he is specifically allowed by the terms of his employment contract to engage in private practice.

Clause 18 allows the Veterinary Board to register veterinarians temporarily. This power would be useful in cases of non-Guyanese veterinarians who happen to visit Guyana.

PART IV is devoted to the animal health assistants who receive legal recognition for the first time.

Clause 19 provides for a system of registration for animal health assistants.

Clause 21 sets out guidelines for the animal health assistants for the performance of their tasks. It sets out the limits of their authority. They are to work under the supervision of veterinarians.

PART V is the miscellaneous part.

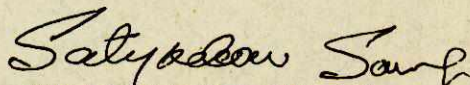
Clause 22 prohibits the practice of veterinary medicine without registration.

Clause 25 grants the power of entry to a prescribed person where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that there has been a breach of this Act.

Clause 26 creates offences and prescribes penalties.

Clause 27 states the Veterinarian Board's authority to censure, suspend or strike off.

Clause 29 provides general penalties for a contravention of the provisions of this Act for which no other penalty is provided.


Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock.