

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES ON THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS' BILL, 2023

Office of the Clerk to Parliament
August, 2023

On

For the

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Veterinary Practitioners' Bill, 2023 was read for the First Time on 20th June, 2023 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in accordance with Rule 129 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The Committee scrutinised the Bill in accordance with rules 129(2), 129(3) and 129(4) of the Rules of Procedure and now begs to report.

This report is being presented in compliance with Rule 130(2) which states that, "The Chairperson of the Committee to which the Bill is referred or a Member of the Committee designated by the Committee or by the Speaker shall, after the Motion for the Second Reading has been moved under sub-rule (1) and seconded, present to the House the report of the Committee on the Bill."

2.0 BACKGROUND TO THE BILL

The Veterinary Surgeons' Act, Cap. 277 which this Bill seeks to repeal came into force in 1958 and has never been amended. The Act provides for the establishment of the Uganda Veterinary Board (UVB), which is an autonomous statutory body responsible for the regulation of the veterinary professionals through registration and licensing. The scope of the Act is however, limited to the registration of degree holders (Bachelor in Veterinary Medicine) and diploma holders (Diploma in Veterinary Science).

The memorandum of the Bill indicates that Uganda has only 1,186 registered veterinarians but over 3,700 unregistered veterinary para-professionals and there is no law compelling veterinary para-professionals nor requiring their conduct to be regulated. Veterinary para-professionals; among others, include meat examiners, veterinary public health officers, technical laboratory staff and artificial inseminators. The Bill therefore, seeks to address this gap by providing for the registration of both veterinary surgeons and veterinary para-professionals.

Emerging innovations and technological advancements in the delivery of veterinary services now demand that veterinary professionals must continuously acquire new skills and knowledge to remain worthy and relevant to the veterinary practice. The Veterinary Surgeons' Act, Cap. 277 does not, however, provide for continuous professional development of practitioners.

Since the enactment of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. 277 in 1958, there have been new developments that merit reform and update to ensure that the Act is in line with the social, cultural and economic needs and values of the people of Uganda.

In addition, Uganda has regional and international obligations in the field of veterinary and animal industry which must be observed, respected and promoted. For instance, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2012 to which Uganda is a signatory, and is therefore bound to develop veterinary legislations that comply with the Code, hence the need to amend The Veterinary Surgeons Act to ensure conformity.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The objects of the Bill are:

- (i) To establish an institutional framework for regulation of veterinary practice in Uganda;
- (ii) To protect animal health and to provide for a framework to oversee veterinary public health;
- (iii) To regulate veterinary practice for purposes of maintaining high standards of competence and conduct by veterinary practitioners;
- (iv) To recognise the registration of veterinary practitioners from foreign jurisdictions.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

While considering the Veterinary Practitioners' Bill, 2023, the Committee used the following methods:

4.1 MEETINGS

The committee held meetings with the following entities:

Government entities

- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
- Uganda Veterinary Board (UVB)
- National Animal Generic Resource Centre and Data Bank (NAGRIC&DB)
- Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA)
- Dairy Development Authority (DDA)
- Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC)
- National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)
- National Drug Authority (NDA)

Professional Associations

- Animal Production Society of Uganda
- Uganda Veterinary Association (UVA)
- United Veterinary Para-professionals Association
- Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda
- Uganda Science Laboratory Professionals Society
- Veterinary Drug Outlet Owners and Field Practitioners

Education institutions

- Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security
- Makerere University College of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences, Department of Pharmacy

Private individuals

- Hon. Dr. Opio Samuel Acuti, MP Kole North Constituency, Kole District
- Dr. Sam Byagagaire, Senior Presidential Advisor on Veterinary Affairs
- Dr. Stephen Lutoti, Managing Director Eloipharm (Uganda) Limited

- Dr. David Ekau, Managing Director, Spring Pharmacy Limited
- Dr Owagage Mpaata Jerome, Pharmacist & Legal Counsel
- Dr. Charles Lagu, Managing Director, Lanoa Agricultural and Technology Consult Limited

4.2 WRITTEN MEMORANDA

The Committee received and reviewed memoranda from Uganda Law Society.

4.3 DOCUMENT REVIEW

The Committee reviewed and made reference to the following documents:

- The Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. 277
- The World Organisation for Animal Health, Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2012
- Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-professionals Act, 2011 of Kenya
- The Veterinary Act, 2003 of Tanzania

5.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE BILL

NOMENCLATURE

The Committee observed that Clause 2 of the Bill defines key terms used in the Bill. However, some terms need to be revised and other terms need to be introduced for purposes of clarity and ease of application.

The Committee recommends that definitions of key terms used in the Bill be amended appropriately and other relevant ones be introduced.

APPLICATION OF THE ACT

Clause 4(3) of the Bill states that, "The provisions of this Act relating to licensing don't 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."

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In the same vein, Clause 16(1) of the Bill states that, "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 the Act."

The Committee observed that:

- *Application of the law to only private practitioners is discriminative since provision of clinical veterinary services is carried out by both public and private veterinary practitioners.*
- *The provision is open to abuse in the event that a public veterinary practitioner is involved in some form of malpractice and cannot be reprimanded because they are not licensed.*
- *All practitioners, especially public practitioners, are responsible for crucial regulatory services which support food safety and trade in animals.*

The Committee recommends that both private and public veterinary practitioners should be licensed to offer veterinary services.

REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

The Bill sets out the requirement for registration of veterinary practitioners under Clause 5. Veterinary practitioners include veterinary surgeons, veterinary specialists and veterinary para-professionals.

Clause 6 (1) (a), Clause 8(1) and clause 9(1) of the Bill state that a person shall qualify to register as a veterinary surgeon or a veterinary para-professional respectively if that person is a citizen of a partner state of the East African Community.

The Committee observed that blanket recognition of veterinary practitioners from East African partner states will disadvantage veterinary practitioners from Uganda since the mutual recognition agreement to allow veterinary practitioners from East African member states to practice across borders is not yet in force.

The Committee recommends that Uganda should prioritise employment in veterinary practice for its nationals just like other member states.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE UGANDA VETERINARY COUNCIL

Clause 30 of the Bill states that,

“(1) The Council shall consist of ten 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 veterinary surgeons in private practice;
- f) A representative of the Uganda Veterinary Association nominated by the Association;
- g) A representative of the Uganda Veterinary Para-professional Association nominated by the Association;
- h) A representative of the para-professionals who is specially trained to manage aquatic diseases nominated by the Uganda Veterinary Association;
- i) A wildlife veterinary surgeon or veterinary paraprofessional; and
- j) A representative from the pharmaceutical industry.

(4) The Minister shall appoint, a Chairperson of the Council from among the members of the Council, who shall be a veterinary practitioner.”

The Committee observed that

- *Clause 30(1) provides for the Council to consist of 10 members inclusive of the Chairperson.*
- *Clause 30 (2) (h) focuses on para professionals yet the sector has many other professionals.*
- *Clause 30(4) of the Bill makes any veterinary practitioner eligible for appointment as a Chairperson of the Council. However, the term veterinary practitioner is defined to include para professionals who are not holistically trained to handle all aspects of veterinary practice.*

- *The Council lacks a representative from the public health field yet zoonotic diseases that affect humans and animals like Ebola, Marburg and Brucellosis, etc are on the increase.*

The Committee recommends that

- ***In Clause 30(2) (h), the term veterinary para-professionals should be replaced with veterinary practitioners.***
- ***In Clause 30(4), the Chairperson of the Uganda Veterinary Council should be a Veterinary Surgeon who is holistically trained to handle all aspects of veterinary practice.***
- ***The Council shall consist of 11 members. The eleventh member shall be a representative of veterinary public health nominated by the Minister responsible for health.***

TENURE OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clause 32 of the Bill states that, "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."

The Committee observed that the terms of office for members of the council are not uniform and this could be source of conflict.

The Committee recommends that Members of the council shall hold office for four years renewable once.

FUNCTIONS OF THE UGANDA VETERINARY COUNCIL

Clause 34(2) of the Bill lists the functions of the Uganda Veterinary Council. They include; setting the standards of training required to qualify for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates including standards for continuous professional development, among many others.

The Committee observed that according to Section 5 (d) (ii) and (j) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001, the National Council for Higher Education is mandated to

"To receive, consider and process applications for:-

- The establishment and accreditations of Private Tertiary Institutions, private Other Degree Awarding Institutions and Private Universities and***

ii) *The accreditation of the academic and professional programmes of those institutions in consultation with Professional Associations and regulatory Bodies."*

(j) *To set and coordinate national standards for admission of students to different institutions of higher education."*

The Committee recommends that the Uganda Veterinary Council should set standards of training in conjunction with other relevant institutions or bodies.

POWERS OF VETERINARY INSPECTORS

Clause 44(7) of the Bill lists down powers of veterinary inspectors. The powers include entering and inspecting premises or a vessel suspected to be used as a veterinary practice establishment, mandating 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, issuing a prohibition notice to the owner or the operator of a veterinary practice establishment that it is operating in contravention of the prescribed standards, seizing and retaining any drug, equipment, record, animal or any other thing that appears to him or her, to constitute or contain evidence of contravention of the Act and enquiring into any matter concerning veterinary practice within his or her area of jurisdiction.

The Committee observed that the provision above does not cater for conflict of interest which may occur in the course of his or her duty.

The Committee recommends that if a veterinary inspector has conflict of interest, the person should declare so to enable the Council appoint another inspector.

UGANDA VETERINARY COUNCIL TO HAVE POWERS OF THE HIGH COURT

Clause 57(1) of the Bill states that, "In the conduct of an inquiry under Section 56, 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."

According to Clause 57(4), "An inquiry under Section 56 shall be deemed to be a suit or proceeding in courts of law and the Evidence Act shall apply with necessary modifications."

Clause 56 of the Bill is about inquiry by the Council into a complaint lodged with it or an inquiry by the Council into the conduct of a veterinary practitioner or licensee.

The Committee recommends that the Council should not have powers of the High Court. This will create an avenue for appeal to the High Court instead of the Magistrate's court as provided for in the Bill.

Clause 70 (1) of the Bill states that, “A veterinary practitioner or a licensee shall not be held personally liable to any person in respect of the 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.”

The Committee recommends that in addition to death, a veterinary practitioner should be protected from any adverse drug effects that may occur during bonafide performance of his or her duties.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS' BILL, 2023.

1. Clause 2: Interpretations

a. Amend the following words in the interpretation clause-

➤ **“animal”**

Amend the definition by inserting the words **“wild birds”** immediately after the words **“poultry species”** so that the provision should now read as-

“animal” includes domestic animals, wild animals, aquatic animals, laboratory animals, poultry species, **wild birds**, bees, insects, fish and silk worms”;

Justification: “Wild birds” are not classified under poultry species and yet are excluded from the definition.

➤ **“continuous professional development”**

Substitute the words **“continuous professional development”** as used in the provision with **“that a veterinary practitioner keeps updated with the new and emerging veterinary technical trends in theory and practice”**

Rephrase the definition to read as-

“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”**;

Justification: The initial definition uses the words “continuous professional development” to define the same term. The definition therefore lacks clarity, appears repetitive, and sounds ambiguous.

➤ **“direct supervision”**

Substitute the word **“premises”** with the words **“veterinary practice establishment”**; and rephrase the provision to read as-

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

Justification: The word “premises” is ambiguous and not provided for in the interpretation, while “Veterinary practice establishment” is precise and well defined in the Bill.

➤ **“locum tenens”**

The definition of **“locum tenens”** should be deleted.

Justification: The term “locum tenens” is not used in any of the provisions of the Bill

➤ **“register”**

Amend the interpretation by inserting the words **“and veterinary practice establishments”** after the words **“veterinary practitioners”** and rephrase the provision to read as-

“register” “means a register of veterinary practitioners **and veterinary practice establishments** kept and maintained by the Council under section 62 of this Act”;

Justification: The Council maintains a register of both veterinary practitioners and veterinary practice establishments, under clause 62 (1).

➤ **“veterinary practice”**

Amend the definition;

In paragraph (e) by-

- i. inserting the words **“ethno veterinary medicine”** before the word **“complimentary”**;
- ii. deleting the word **“alternative”** and
- iii. inserting the word **“medicine”** after the word **“complimentary”**

Rephrase the definition to read as-

“veterinary practice” means -

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“(e) provision of **ethno veterinary medicine**, complimentary **medicine** and integrative therapies to animals”;

Justification: For clarity. Ethno veterinary medicine is always confused to mean complimentary medicine

iv. Introduce a **new paragraph after paragraph (f)** to read as-

“(g) any other related services as prescribed by the Council”.

Justification: To cater for any other emerging services that are not listed in the definition.

➤ **“veterinary practice establishment”**

Amend to include other facilities such as **“wildlife breeding sanctuary and wildlife ranch”** and rephrase the provision to read as-

“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”;

Justification: The addition of wildlife breeding sanctuary and wildlife ranch will broaden the scope of veterinary practice establishment.

➤ **“veterinary public health”**

Substitute the words **“veterinary medicine”** with **“veterinary science and technology”** and rephrase the definition to read as-

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

Justification: To accommodate broad aspects of veterinary practice. Veterinary science and technology involves use of other approaches, for example, meat inspection and extension/advisory services etc.

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➤ **“veterinary surgeon”**

Amend by inserting the words **“and is registered in accordance with this Act”** at the end of the provision. Rephrase to read as-

“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”**;

Justification: Having any degree and practicing is not sufficient for one to become a veterinary surgeon. Registration requirements of the regulatory body are vital for one to be recognized as a veterinary surgeon

b. Insert new definitions to cater for the following terms-

- **“animal husbandry”** to appear immediately after the definition of the word **“animal”**; and to read as -

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

- **“internship”**, to appear immediately after definition of the word **“register”**; and to read as-

“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.”

Justification: For clarity.

2. Clause 3. Object of the Act.

Amend the provision as follows-

- in paragraph (b) by inserting the words **‘animal welfare’** after the words **“animal health”**

Justification: Animal welfare is provided for within the Veterinary Hippocratic Oath, as one of the veterinary practices and should be included in the provision.

- by deleting **paragraph (d)**

Justification: The mutual recognition agreement, to allow veterinary practitioners from East African Community (EAC) Member States to practice across borders, is not yet in place/force.

3. Clause 4. Application of the Act

Redraft sub clause (3) to read as-

“(3) The provisions of this Act relating to licensing shall **apply to** veterinary practitioners in the public and private veterinary practice, in the conduct of their duties.”

Justification: The provision as is, leaves out veterinary practitioners in the public service from being issued licenses to provide veterinary services, and yet it is essential that all veterinary practitioners in both public and private sectors are licensed by the Council and subject to legal disciplinary actions for any professional misconduct.

4. Clause 5. Requirement for registration of veterinary practitioner.

Amend sub clause (2) by substituting “**five years**” with “**three years**”

Justification: Registration soon after attaining the relevant qualification will ensure uptake and scaling up of registration by practitioners.

5. Clause 6. Qualification for registration of veterinary surgeon.

Amend the provision-

- in sub clause (1) (a) by substituting the words “**an East African Community Partner State**” with the word “**Uganda**”

Justification: Blanket recognition of veterinary practitioners from East African Partner States will disadvantage Veterinary practitioners from Uganda in the field of veterinary practice since the Mutual Recognition Agreement, to allow veterinary practitioners from East African Members States to practice across borders is not yet in place/force.

- in sub clause (4) by replacing the words “**oath prescribed by regulations**” with the words “**oath set out in Schedule 5**”

Justification: To clearly specify the oaths of veterinary surgeons and veterinary para professionals within the Act.

6. Clause 7: Qualifications for registration of veterinary specialist

Amend sub clause (2) by replacing the word “**may**” with “**shall**”

Justification: To compel the Council to register the applicant once satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements for registration.

Amendment not adopted because the hands of the council to make further decisions should not be tied.

7. Clause 8. Qualification for registration of veterinary para-professional.

Amend the provision-

- in sub clause (1) by substituting the words **“a Partner State of the East African Community”** with the word **“Uganda”**

Justification: Consequential

- insert a new sub clause after sub clause (2) to read as-

“(3) A person registered by the Council under this section shall swear or affirm the oath set out in Schedule 5 and shall be entitled to have his or her name entered in the register.”

Justification: To specifically cater for the oath of veterinary para professionals, which shall be prescribed in a new schedule “SCHEDULE 5”.

8. Clause 9. Temporary Registration

Amend sub clause (1) (a) by substituting the words **“is not a citizen of a partner State of the East African Community”** with the words **“is not a citizen of Uganda”**

Justification: To broaden the scope of the provision to cater for other foreign practitioners to register for temporary veterinary practice in Uganda.

9. Clause 11. Consideration of applications for registration.

Amend sub clause (1) by inserting the words **“within thirty days from the date of receipt of the application”** at the end of the provision.

Justification: To provide a time frame within which the Council should consider and communicate the decision to the applicant, in order to avoid any abuse of the process.

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10. Clause 12. Issuance of certificate of registration

Amend sub clause (1) by substituting the word **“may”** with **“shall”**

Justification: To compel the council to register the applicant once satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements for registration.

11. Clause 13: Suspension or cancellation of certificate of registration

Amend Clause 13 (2) (c) by substituting the words **“in good order”** with **“in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Council”**

Justification: To avoid ambiguity. Use of the term ‘good order’ is subjective, and can easily cause confusion in the mind of the reader.

12. Clause 14: Effect of suspension or cancellation of certificate of registration

Amend the provision as follows-

- by deleting the words **“registered”, “suspended or”** and **“suspension or”** and
- by creating another sub-clause to cater for suspensions

Redraft the provision to read as follows-

“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.**

Justification:

- Deletion of the word “registered” is because it is repetitive. The term “veterinary practitioner” is defined to mean persons registered under the Act.
- Suspension of a certificate should not have the same implication as cancellation.

13. Clause 15: Use of titles

Amend Clause 15 (2) by replacing-

- the fine of “**one hundred and fifty currency points**” with “**three hundred and fifty currency points**” and
- the term of imprisonment of “**one year**” with “**five years**”

Justification: To make the penalty more deterrent.

14. Clause 16: Licensing

Amend the provision as follows-

- In sub clause (1) by deleting the words “**other than a public veterinary practitioner**”

Justification: Consequential

- in **sub clause (3)** by increasing the term of imprisonment from **“two years”** to **“five years”**.

Justification: To make the penalty more deterrent.

- In sub clause (4) by replacing a fine of **“ten currency points in respect of each day on which the contravention continues”** with a fine **“not exceeding seven hundred currency points”**; and the provision should read as-

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

Justification: To allow punishment for continuous offenders to be more punitive/deterrent

15. Clause 17. Application for a license

Amend sub clause (1) by deleting the word “**private**”

Justification: Consequential

16. Clause 21. Private veterinary practice

Amend the provision-

- in sub clause (1) by replacing the words **“veterinary surgeon, veterinary specialist or veterinary para-professional”** with **“veterinary practitioner;”** and

Amend to reflect the same amendment throughout the bill.

Justification: The word “veterinary practitioner” has been defined to include all the three categories of veterinary practitioners, that is; Veterinary surgeons, veterinary specialists or veterinary para professionals.

- in sub Clause (4) by deleting the words **“subject to sub section 5”**

Justification: For clarity and proper chronological order, and to avoid subjecting a provision to a later provision.

17. Clause 22. Certification

Amend sub clause (2) to increase the period of imprisonment from **“two years”** to **“five years”**.

Justification: To make it more punitive, and hence more deterrent.

18. Clause 25. Inspection of veterinary practice establishment

Amend sub clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4) by replacing the word **“inspector”** with **“veterinary inspector”**

Justification: For consistency; “veterinary inspector” is more specific, descriptive and consistent with the interpretation.

19. Clause 30: Membership of Council

Amend the provision as follows-

- in sub Clause (1) by substituting for the words **“ten members”** with **“eleven members”**

Justification: For purposes of voting, the membership should be of odd numbers so that when there is a tie, the presiding officer should have a casting vote as provided for in SCHEDULE 2.

- In sub clause (2) (f) by inserting the words **“Uganda Veterinary”** immediately before the word **“Association”** appearing at the end of the paragraph.

Justification: For clarity

- In sub clause (2) (g) by inserting the words **“Uganda Veterinary para-professional”** immediately before the word **“Association”** appearing at the end of the paragraph.

Justification: For clarity

- in sub clause (2) (h) by replacing **“para-professionals”** with **“veterinary practitioners”**

Justification: For inclusivity. Other veterinary practitioners other than para-professionals also manage aquatic diseases.

- in sub clause (2) (i) by deleting the words **“or veterinary para-professional”** to read as

“(i) a wildlife veterinary surgeon nominated by the responsible body;”

Justification: The training and expertise of veterinary paraprofessionals is inadequate to represent the interest of the wildlife sector on the Council.

- in sub clause (2) (j) by inserting the word **“veterinary”** before **“pharmaceutical industry”**

Justification: In order to specify the category of pharmaceutical industry

- in sub clause (2) by inserting a **new paragraph (k)** to read as-

“(k) a person in charge of veterinary public health nominated by the Ministry responsible for Health”.

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Justification: public health veterinarians at the Ministry of Health should be included because they are recruited by the Ministry of Health to handle diseases that affect both humans and animals.

- In sub clause (4) by substituting the words **‘veterinary practitioner’** with **“veterinary surgeon”**

Justification: A veterinary Surgeon is holistically trained to cover all aspects of veterinary practice

20. Clause 31: Eligibility for appointment to council

Amend the provision in paragraph (b) by substituting the term **“good standing”** with **“good conduct”**

Justification: For clarity and consistency

21. Clause 32: Tenure of office

Amend the provision by deleting the words **“except that the Minister shall appoint at least three members for a term of three years, renewable once.”**

Justification: This is a practice in many boards, councils and statutory bodies. The provision as it is may be a subject of conflict. Staggering of the membership can be handled administratively.

22. Clause 34: Functions of Council

Amend sub clause (2) as follows-

- in paragraph (a) by substituting the words **“veterinary professionals and veterinary para-professionals”** with **“veterinary practitioners”**

Justification: “Veterinary practitioners” is well defined in the interpretation clause, but “veterinary professionals” is not defined.

- in paragraph (c) by inserting the words **“collaborate with the relevant institutions or bodies to”** at the beginning of the paragraph. Rephrase the provision to read as-

• **“(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

Justification: The function as captured in the bill contradicts with the mandate of the National Council for higher Education, under section 5(j) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001.

- in paragraph (i) by deleting the words **“interests of the”** to read as

“(i) protect the veterinary practice, and deal with any matter related to the practice;”

Justification: To avoid ambiguity since interests cannot be quantified. Veterinary practice is defined while interest is not.

- in paragraph (k) by replacing the words **“supervise the dispensing and”** with **“monitor the”** and insert the words **“in collaboration with the relevant authorities”** at the end of the provision. Redraft the provision to read as-

“(k)monitor the proper utilization of veterinary drugs and devices in collaboration with the relevant authorities.”

Justification: It is the role of National Drug Authority to supervise the dispensing of drugs according to the National Drug Authority Act, Cap. 206.

23. Clause 44: Veterinary inspectors

Amend the provision as follows-

- sub clause (7) (d) by deleting the words **“appears to him or her, to”** and maintain the provision to read as-

“(d) to seize and retain any drug, equipment, record, animal, or any other thing that constitutes or contains evidence of a contravention of this Act”;

Justification: For clarity and restrict the powers of inspectors to only confiscate items which are in contravention of the Act.

- by inserting a new sub-clause after sub clause (7) to cater for conflict of interest, and should read as-

“(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”.

Justification: For transparency and accountability, and to avoid biasness in the findings of the veterinary inspector.

24. Clause 57: Witness at inquiry

Amend the provision-

- in sub clause (1) by deleting the words **“of the High Court”**

Justification: The Council should have administrative powers, and a person aggrieved by the decision of the Council should have recourse to the High Court.

- by **deleting sub clause (4)**

Justification: Consequential, arising from the amendment in clause 56

25. Clause 60: Disciplinary sanctions of Council

Amend the provision-

- in sub clause (3) by replacing **“subsection (1) (f)”** with **“subsection (1) (e)”**

Justification: For proper referencing because the cease and desist order is provided for under sub clause (1) (e).

- in sub clause (4) by increasing the period of imprisonment from **“two years”** to **“seven years”**

Justification: Causing death or endangering humans or animals should carry a more punitive punishment.

26. Clause 61. Review and appeals

Amend sub clause (3) by substituting **“a Chief Magistrates Court”** with **“High Court”**

Justification: Decisions of the Council are administrative in nature, hence should be appealable to the High Court.

27. Clause 62: Register

Amend sub clause (2) (e) by inserting the word **“veterinary”** before **“laboratories”**

Justification: For clarity and differentiation from other laboratories

28. Clause 68: Offences and penalties

Amend sub clause (1) (e) by increasing the period of imprisonment from **“two years”** to **“five years”**

Justification: Consequential

29. Clause 70: Immunity of officials

Amend sub clause (1) by inserting the words **“an adverse drug effect to an animal”** before the word “death” to read as-

“(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”

Justification: To cater for any other undesirable occurrence during bonafide performance of duties. It is not only death that occurs in the performance of the veterinary practitioner’s provision of service. Animals can sometimes suffer from adverse effects of drugs as well.

SCHEDULE 3: SERVICES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO PRACTICE BY VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONALS

Amend the schedule by Inserting a new paragraph (1) (j) to read as

“(j) any other functions as the Council may from time to time determine”

Justification: To cater for any other related duties that may be missing from the list of services that should be offered by veterinary para-professionals.

PROPOSED NEW SCHEDULE 5:

Insert a new schedule to cater for oaths of veterinary surgeons and veterinary Para-professionals, and should read as follows-

"SCHEDULE 5 (Sections 6 (4) and 8(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: _____

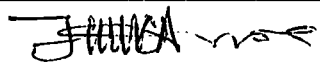

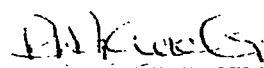
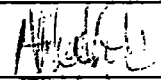
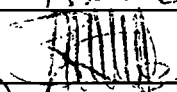
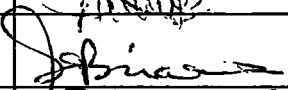
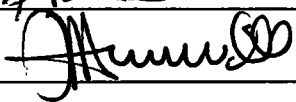
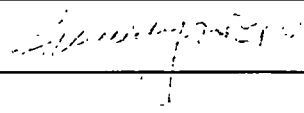
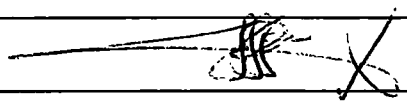
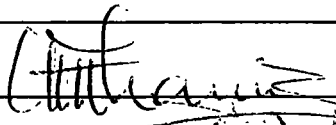
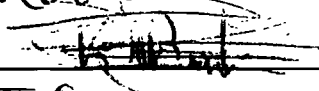
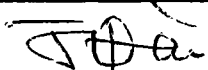
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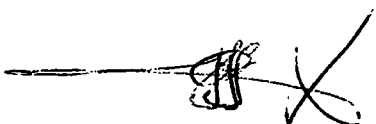
.....
Chief Executive Officer
Uganda Veterinary Council"

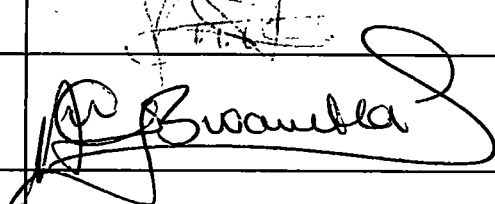
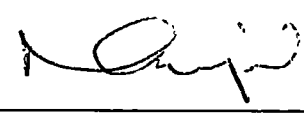
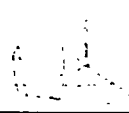
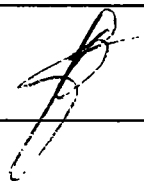
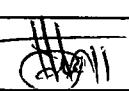
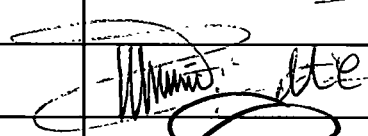
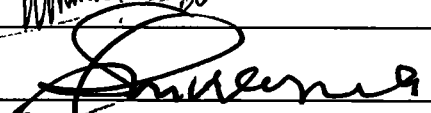
Justification: Consequential to the amendment in clause 6 (4) and the new insertion of clause 8(3)



**ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES ON THE
VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS' BILL, 2023**

S/NO	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Okori-Moe Janet Grace-C/P	
2	Hon. Auma Linda Agnes-D/CP	
3	Hon. Driwaru Jennifer	
4	Hon. Magoola Racheal	
5	Hon. Christine Akello	
6	Hon. Mbayo Esther	
7	Hon. Biraaro Ganshanga Ephraim	
8	Hon. Migadde Robert Ndugwa	
9	Hon. Anywar Ricky Richard	
10	Hon. Muhumuza David	
11	Hon. Okullo Abuka Anthony	
12	Hon. Kasaija Stephen Kagwera	
13	Hon. Acen Dorcus	
14	Hon. Alyek Judith	
15	Hon. Esenu Anthony Alden	
16	Hon. Lokii John Baptist	
17	Hon. Mary Begumisa	
18	Hon. Nyongore Enock	
29	Hon. Komol Joseph Midi	
20	Hon. Lematia John	



21	Hon. Ojok Andrew Oulanyah	
22	Hon. Abed Bwanika	
23	Hon. Mugabi Susan	
24	Hon. Kyebakutika Manjeri	
25	Hon. Matovu Charles	
26	Hon. Nanyondo Veronica	
27	Hon. Nakimuli Hellen	
28	Hon. Apolot Stella Isodo	
29	Hon. Ekanya Geoffrey	
30	Hon. Lukwago John Paul M	
31	Hon. Akora Maxwell	
32	Hon. Okot Santa	
33	Hon. Obong Vincent Shedrick	
34	Hon. Namutaawe Joan	
35	Hon. Mukasa Julius Opondo	
36	Hon. Maj. Gen. Sam Kavuma	
37.	Hon. Tumusiime Julius Karuhanga TUSIIME	