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INSTRUCTIONS N° 02 / RCVD / 2017

ON AUTHORIZED TASKS IN VETERINARY PRACTICE

FOR EACH LEVEL OF PRACTITIONER

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**INSTRUCTIONS N° /RCVD/2017 ON AUTHORIZED TASKS
IN VETERINARY PRACTICE FOR EACH LEVEL OF PRACTITIONER**

THE CHAIRPERSON OF RWANDA COUNCIL OF VETERINARY DOCTORS ;

Pursuant to Law n° 56/2013 of 09/08/2013 establishing Rwanda council of veterinary doctors and determining its mission, organization and functioning, especially in its articles 2, 5, 6 and 7 ;

Pursuant to internal rules and regulations of the Council, especially in its articles 35, 36 and 37 ;

In order to enable different practitioners to fulfill their professional duties towards the customer, the public and the animals ;

It is important to define clearly the duties for each level of practitioner in veterinary practice.

After consideration and approval by the National Council Board in its session of 29 September 2017,

HEREBY ORDERS :

CHAPTER ONE : GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article One : The scope of these instructions

These instructions establish authorized tasks in veterinary practice for each level of practitioner.

Article 2 : Levels of practitioners covered by these instructions and key technical skills and knowledge acquired

In these instructions, the Following levels are considered and their respective key skills and knowledge acquired as well :

a. Veterinary Doctor

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

- Graduates at this level have specialized knowledge and skills for skilled/ professional work and/or further learning
- An understanding of the scientific principles underlying veterinary medicine
- The basic clinical skills and attitudes necessary to care for the common domestic animals and other species entrusted to our stewardship
- Critical thinking as evidenced by successful problem solving
- Sound clinical judgment and medical decision-making skills
- An understanding of the interactions among animals, people, and the environment
- A commitment to professionalism, including a commitment to animal welfare and to following the best practices in relation to ethical, cultural, global, business management, and legal issues
- Self-education and lifelong learning skills to promote professional growth
- An understanding of the limits of one

b. Veterinary assistant also known as Veterinary auxiliary nurses, Animal health

(Level 3 - TVET Certificate 1) *TVET Technical and Vocational Education and Training*

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Graduates at this level will have knowledge and skills for initial work, community involvement and/or further learning.

c. Veterinary nurse, Animal health

(Level 4 - TVET Certificate 2)

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Graduates at this level have knowledge and skills for work in a defined context and/or further Learning

d. Veterinary Technician, Animal Health

Level 5 (TVET - Certificate 3 : Senior secondary graduate certificate of education)

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Graduates at this level have theoretical and practical knowledge and skills for work and/or further learning.

e. Veterinary Paraprofessional, Animal health

Level 6 (TVET Diploma in Animal health)

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Graduates at this level have specialized knowledge and skills for skilled/Para- professional work and/or further learning

f. Veterinary Paraprofessional, Animal health

Level 7 (TVET Advanced Diploma in Animal health)

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Graduates at this level have broad knowledge and skills for Para- professional / highly skilled work and/or further learning

g. Community animal health worker

It is to be noted that for human health sector there is a distinct occupation titled “Community Health worker”. However, Community Animal Health Worker (CAHWs) is a distinct category of veterinary service providers.

He/she is the person selected from his/her own community to provide a set of “Minor Veterinary services” after appropriate training and obtaining a certificate from authorized institution.

h. Animal scientist

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Possess at least a degree in either Animal Production, Animal nutrition, Animal sciences, Aquaculture or Livestock development.

i. Wild life specialist

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Possess at least a degree in either wild life, Animal sciences or Aquaculture

j. Dog trainer

Key technical skills & knowledge acquired

Dog trainer is a new category of veterinary service providers that is developing especially in the cities. And this work is often performed by non-veterinary professionals. The dog trainer must have been trained and obtained a certificate from authorized institution.

CHAPTER 2 : AUTHORIZED TASKS IN VETERINARY PRACTICE FOR EACH LEVEL OF PRACTITIONER

Article 3 : Veterinary Doctor

The veterinary Doctor is educated and trained to support the veterinarian by assisting with surgery, laboratory procedures, radiography, anesthesiology, prescribed treatment and nursing, and client education.

Veterinary Doctors administer vaccines, do health check-ups, clean teeth, fix broken bones, treat skin infections and perform surgeries. Another aspect of a veterinarian's career may involve inspecting the living spaces of animals on farms or ranches to ensure that they are free from possible sources of infection.

Some veterinarians specialize in a particular disease or condition and may be consulted only in special cases.

They have to give lethal injections to animals when they become old or terminally ill. Vet Doctors who own their own businesses may have to perform administrative duties, supervise veterinary technicians and manage other staff members.

Task of Veterinary Doctors :

- Determining the presence and nature of abnormal condition by physical examinations, laboratory testing and through diagnostic imaging techniques including radiography and ultrasound ;
- Treating animals medically and surgically, administering and prescribing drugs, analgesics and general and local anaesthetics ;
- Veterinary pharmacy practice and use of inputs and livestock equipment;
- Performing surgery (major surgery such as ruminotomy, caesarean, dressing wounds, surgery of bones like setting broken bones, etc) ;
- Rendering animal reproduction, obstetric, and dental services to animals ;
- Participating in programs designed to prevent the occurrence and spread of animal diseases ;
- Inoculating animals against and testing for infectious diseases and notifying authority of outbreak of infectious animal disease ;
- Performing autopsies to determine cause of death ;
- Advising client on health, nutrition and feeding. Hygiene breeding and care of animals ;
- Providing euthanasia services for animals ;
- Hygiene and quality of animal products ;
- Wild animal medicine ;
- Intervene in any cases requiring the expertise of veterinary profession.

Article 4 : Veterinary assistant also known as Veterinary auxiliary nurses, Animal health (Level 3)

Veterinary assistants, also known as Veterinary auxiliary nurses, carry out diagnostic, preventive and curative veterinary tasks, more limited in scope and complexity than those carried out by the upper levels of veterinary workers (Veterinary nurses, Veterinary technicians, Animal health engineers and Veterinarians) such as minor surgery (dehorning, hoof trimming, tail docking,

treatment of abscess etc), feeding, fodder crop. They may perform individually (alone) or in team but usually under close supervision.

The Veterinary assistant is seen as an important stakeholder in the process of animal production intensification and the country's economy development.

Article 5 : Veterinary nurse, Animal health (Level 4)

This qualification prepares individuals to integrate in Agriculture and food processing sector and operate as a veterinary nurse.

This qualification constitutes a basis for working in farm especially in the animal care industry.

Article 6 : Veterinary Technician, Animal Health (Level 5)

This qualification provides the skills, knowledge and attitudes to new entrants to animal care and management industry.

Veterinary technician, carry out diagnostic, preventive and curative veterinary tasks, more limited in scope and complexity than those carried out by the upper levels of veterinary workers They may perform individually (alone) or in team but usually under close supervision.

Their tasks include:

- Advertising communities and individuals on their treatment of animals and their diseases and injuries ;
- Conducting examinations of animals to make diagnose or refer more difficult cases to veterinarian when needed ;
- Treating ill or injured animals especially for common diseases and disorders ;
- Cleaning and sterilising examination tables and instruments and preparing materials used in the examination and treatment of animals ;
- Carrying out technical tasks connected with artificial insemination of animals ;
- Getting animals ready for examination or treatment and restraining or holding them during treatment ;
- Assisting veterinary doctors in administration of anaesthetics and oxygen during treatment ;
- Producing radiograph, collecting samples, and performing other laboratory tests to assist in diagnosis of animal health problems ;
- Performing routine animal dental procedures and assisting veterinarians with animal dentistry.

Article 7 : Veterinary Paraprofessional, Animal health (Level 6 – Diploma)

- Assist veterinary doctors in administering animal health programs, conducting tests on animals for infectious disease;
- Conducting examinations of animals to make diagnose or refer more difficult cases to veterinarian when needed ;

- Assist veterinary doctors in any of his/her tasks related to preventive of curative cares of animals ;

Article 8 : Veterinary Paraprofessional, Animal health (Level 7- Advanced Diploma)

- Assist veterinary doctors in administering animal health programs, conducting tests on animals for infectious disease;
- Conducting examinations of animals to make diagnose or refer more difficult cases to veterinarian when needed ;
- Treating ill or injured animals especially for common diseases and disorders ;
- Assist veterinary doctors in any of his/her tasks related to preventive of curative cares of animals ;

Article 9 : Community animal health worker

The CAHW works under indirect or distant supervision of registered veterinarian, under over-all monitoring of any registered development / private / producer led agency.

His/her job Tasks and Responsibilities are as follows :

- An Animal Health Worker provides preventive health care, assistance in contagious disease control and basic first aid services to farm animal and poultry, mostly in the outdoor setting ;
- He / she also play a role in veterinary extension, disaster management and other environmental, public health related services ;
- Animal Health care and service workers provide care for animals. They feed, water, groom, bathe, and exercise pets and other nonfarm animals ;
- Leading or currying animals to treatment rooms and holding them during treatments ;
- Cleaning and sterilising veterinary surgical instruments ;
- Labelling drugs, Chemicals and other pharmaceutical preparation and replenishing stocks ;
- Sterilizing bottles, beakers and other equipments ;
- Cleaning, disinfecting and organizing animal quarters such as pens, stables, cages and yards and animal equipments such as saddles and bridles ;
- Collecting and recording animal information such as weight, size, physical conditions, treatment received, medication given, and food intake ;
- Training animals to develop and maintain desired behaviours for completion, entertainment, obedience, security, security and other activities ;
- Grooming animals by performing tasks such as washing, blushing, clipping and trimming coats, cutting nails and cleaning cars ;
- Job tasks vary by position and place of work (examples of the occupations are: animal attendant, dog care, horse breaker, veterinary aide and zookeeper).

Article 10 : Animal scientist

The Tasks of an Animal scientist include following :

- Formulating diets and rations to maximize growth, reproduction, health and/or performance of animals ;

- Evaluating the chemical and nutritional value of feeds, feed supplements, grass and forage for commercial and companion animals ;
- Fodder seeds production ;
- Improved pastures and Commercial fodder production and conservation ;
- Management of livestock equipment, farm inputs and materials ;
- Farm management practice (identification, dehorning, tailing,...) ;
- Development of crop residues based rations for animals ;
- Advising client on animal health, nutrition and feeding ;
- Genetic improvement of large and small stock and rendering animal reproduction services to animals ;
- Animal genetic resources management (conservation of Rwandan indigenous livestock) ;
- Breeding program organization and monitoring ;
- Commercial livestock farming (dairy cattle, Beef, poultry, pig, ...) ;
- Animal products processing (milk, meat, ...) ;
- Production of fingerlings, Commercial intensive aquaculture and Fisheries ;
- Fish production, harvesting and processing ;
- Honey production, harvesting and processing ;
- Intervene in any cases requiring the expertise in Animal production, Animal nutrition, Animal sciences or Livestock development.

Article 11 : Wild life specialist

The Tasks of a Wild life specialist include following :

- Management of parks, game reserves and zoos ;
- Production of fingerlings, Commercial intensive aquaculture and Fisheries ;
- Genetic improvement of large and small stock and rendering animal reproduction services to animals ;
- Advising client on nutrition and feeding of wild life animals ;
- Honey production, harvesting and processing ;
- Intervene in any cases requiring the expertise in wild life.

Article 12 : Dog trainer

The Tasks of a dog trainer include following but always under supervision of a registered veterinary doctor :

- To raise well respected, happy, involved, outgoing dogs who are valued and trusted members of the community ;
- To build a genuinely strong owner-dog relationship based on trust, co-operation and well defined roles ;
- To develop confidence in, and control of dogs in any situation - including around kids and other animals ;
- To work with dog's natural drives and instincts, not against them ;
- Advising client on temperament, behaviour of dogs ;
- Intervene in cases requiring the expertise of dog training.

CHAPTER 3 : FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 12 : Organs responsible for ensuring compliance with these instructions

The Committee in charge of Veterinary Inspection and the Disciplinary Committee are responsible for ensuring compliance with these instructions by the members of the Council.

Article 13 : Disciplinary sanctions

A member of the Council who contravenes the provisions of these instructions shall be punished with the disciplinary measures provided by the Law N° 56/2013 of 09/08/2013 establishing Rwanda council of veterinary doctors and determining its mission, organization and functioning

Article 14 : Transitional period

Veterinary doctors that have been practicing before the publication of these instructions shall have a three month period to comply with their provisions.

Article 15 : Repealing provision

All prior provisions contrary to these instructions are hereby repealed.

Article 16 : Entry into force

These instructions shall come into force on the date of their signature.

Done in Kigali,

Dr RUSANGANWA François Xavier
Chairperson of Rwanda Council of Veterinary Doctors