

THE SENATE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**VETERINARY SURGEONS BILL, 2022  
(HB. 70)**

**A BILL**

**FOR**

**AN ACT TO REPEAL THE VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT,  
CAP. V3, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004  
AND ENACT THE VETERINARY SURGEONS BILL; AND FOR  
RELATED MATTERS, 2022**

FIRST READING

TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

SECOND READING

TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022

THIRD READING

TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022

VETERINARY SURGEONS BILL, 2022



*Arrangement of Clauses*

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SCHEDULE

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT, CAP. V3, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE VETERINARY SURGEONS BILL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2022 (HB. 70)

[ ]

Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria—

PART I — VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

Establishment and Functions of the Council.

1. (1) There is established the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Council") which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue or be sued in its corporate name.

(2) The Council shall be charged with the functions of :

(a) determining the standards of knowledge and skills to be attained by persons seeking to be registered under this Bill as Veterinary surgeons and as Veterinary para-professionals and of raising those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit;

(b) securing in accordance with the provisions of this Bill the establishment and maintenance of Registers of persons registered under this Bill and the publication from time to time of lists of those persons;

(c) registering and regulating Veterinary Practice and Veterinary Practicing Premises;

(d) preparing and reviewing from time to time, the codes of conduct and professional ethics of veterinary surgeons and veterinary para-professionals which the Council considers desirable for the practice of the profession in Nigeria;

(e) making regulations for the operation of clinical laboratory practice;

(f) establishing, operating and supervising the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria (hereafter in this Bill referred to as "the College") for specialist training;

(g) registration and setting of standards of practice for Veterinary surgeons and Veterinary para-professionals and formulating policies on veterinary education at the professional and every other level;

(h) maintaining discipline in the veterinary profession in accordance with the provisions of this Bill;

(i) formulating National veterinary drug policy and veterinary drug formulary;

(j) performing other functions conferred on the Council by this Bill.

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council shall consist of the following members, that is to say:

Membership of  
the Council.

(a) President and Vice-President both of whom shall be elected by members of the Council from among their number;

(b) the Executive Director of the National Veterinary Research Institute who shall be a registered Veterinary surgeon;

(c) the Director of the Federal Department of Veterinary Services and the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria, who shall be a registered Veterinary surgeon;

(d) eight Provosts or Deans of Colleges or Faculties of veterinary medicine accredited by the Council who shall be registered veterinary surgeons to serve on rotation for three years at a time, the mode of rotation to be determined by the Council;

(e) six Directors of Veterinary Services or the Chief veterinary Officers of the States and the equivalent officer in the Federal Capital Territory who shall be registered veterinary surgeons to serve on rotation for three years at a time, the mode of rotation to be determined by the Council;

(f) the Provost or Head of the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria;

(g) eleven registered persons (hereafter in this Bill referred to as "elected members of the Council"), eight of whom shall be elected by registered Veterinary surgeons from among their number and three of whom shall be elected by registered Veterinary para-professionals from among their number in the manner prescribed in the First Schedule to this Bill;

(h) the National President of the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association;

(i) the Head of Force Animal Branch of the Nigeria Police Force who shall be a registered veterinary surgeon.

(2) The Second Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the tenure of office and procedure of the Council and other matters therein mentioned.

3. (1) The Council shall maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Council.

Financial  
provisions.

(2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund:

(a) such sums as may be provided by the Federal Government for the purpose of this Bill by way of grants in aid or budgetary appropriation; and

(b) such other funds or moneys as may from time to time accrue to the Council from contributions by registered Veterinary surgeons and Veterinary para-professionals, registration

fees, practicing fee, donations, lease and sale of properties and from any other source.

(3) The Council shall keep proper accounts in respect of each financial year, and proper records in relation to those accounts and when certified by the Council shall be audited within 6 months after the end of the financial year to which the accounts relate by auditors appointed by the Council from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

4. (1) The Minister may give to the Council directions of a general character or relating generally to particular matters (but not to an individual person or case) with regard to the exercise by the Council of functions, and it shall be the duty of the Council to comply with the direction.

Control of Council by Minister.

(2) Before giving a direction under the foregoing subsection the Minister shall serve a copy of the proposed direction on the Council and shall afford the Council an opportunity of making representations to him with respect to the direction; and after considering any representations made to him in pursuance of this subsection, the Minister may give the direction either without modification or with such modifications as appear to him to be appropriate having regard to the representations.

5. The Council shall have powers:

Powers of the Council.

(i) to acquire and own movable and immovable assets and to utilize, maintain or otherwise dispose of them as Council may determine; provided that the Council shall not dispose of any immovable property save with the approval of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(ii) subject to the consent of the Minister, to borrow money and may invest in securities created or issued by the Federal Government or any other approved by the Council;

(iii) to establish and maintain zonal and states offices to enhance its activities in accordance with this Bill;

(iv) may accept gifts of land, money or other property upon such terms and conditions if any as may be specified by the person making the gift;

(v) the Council shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Council;

(vi) subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council shall have power to do anything which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying out of its activities under this Bill;

(vii) the President, Vice-President, Registrar or any other officer of the Council or any person shall not have power to suspend, dissolve, or anyway tamper with the status of Council except as provided under the provisions of this Bill.

## PART II — THE REGISTRAR

6. (1) It shall be the duty of the Council to appoint a fit and proper person as Registrar and Chief Administrative Officer of the Council.

Appointment of Registrar and maintenance of a register.

(2) The Registrar shall be a registered Veterinary Surgeon and Fellow of the profession and a member of

Public Service with not less than 15 years post qualification experience.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub section (2) a registered Fellow in the private sector who possesses not less than 15 years post qualification experience, may be appointed by the Council as Registrar.

(4) The Registrar shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and may be eligible for re-appointment for second and final term of 4 years.

(5) The Council shall appoint such other persons as the Council may from time to time think necessary.

(6) The remuneration, tenure of office and conditions of service of the Registrar and other officers or servants appointed under this subsection shall be determined by the Council.

(7) Anything required by this Bill to be done by or to the Registrar may be done by or to any Deputy Registrar appointed by the Council.

(8) The Registrar shall prepare and maintain, in accordance with the rules made by the Council under this section, a Register of the names, addresses and approved qualifications, and of such other particulars as may be specified of all persons who are entitled under the provisions of this Bill to be registered therein.

(9) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the Council shall make rules with respect to the form and keeping of the registers and the making of entries therein, and in particular:

(a) regulating the making of applications for registration and providing for the evidence to be produced in support of applications;

(b) providing for the notification to the Registrar, by the person to whom any registered particulars relate, of any change in those particulars;

(c) authorizing a registered person to have any qualification which is either an approved qualification or an accepted qualification for the purposes of section 8 of this Bill, registered in relation to his name in addition to or, as he may elect, in substitution for any other qualifications so registered;

(d) specifying the fees to be paid to the Council in respect of the entry of names in the Register and authorizing the Registrar to refuse to enter a name, in the register until any fees specified for the entry has been paid;

(e) prescribing the fees to be charged in respect of the retention in the Register of the name of a person in any year subsequent to the year in which he was first registered;

(f) prescribing the fees to be charged in respect of the registration of additional qualifications, registration and renewal of Veterinary Practising Premises and any other fees to be paid; and

(g) specifying anything failing to be specified under the foregoing provisions of this section of this Bill.

(10) Separate registers shall be maintained for Veterinary surgeons and Veterinary para-professionals

respectively, with the register of Veterinary para-professionals categorized according to their specialization.

7. (1) The Registrar shall:

(a) correct, in accordance with the Council's directions, any entry in the Register which the Council directs him to correct as being in the Council's opinion an entry which was incorrectly made;

(b) make from time to time any necessary alterations in the registered particulars of registered persons;

(c) delete from the Register the name of every deceased person.

Correction of register and removal of certain names from the register.

(2) The Registrar may remove the name of a registered person from the register if:

(a) he has ceased to practice the profession, provided that this is done at his request or with his consent; or

(b) he fails to pay his annual practicing fees; or

(c) he fails to attend a peer approved professional Continuing Education Programme initiated or approved by the Council as regularly as Council may determine from time to time;

(d) he commits any act of misconduct and consequently contravenes any of the provisions of the codes of conduct and professional ethics issued by the Council in pursuance of Section 1 (2) (d) of this Bill or refuses to carry out or disobeys Council instruction or take any steps which undermine the status of Council or brings Council to disrepute in anyway.

(3) Foundation fellows of the college and registered persons that are 70 years old and above and who have been in good standing with Council are exempted from payments of annual practicing fees and shall continue to enjoy all the benefits of a registered person.

(4) If the Registrar:

(a) publishes the name in a national daily or sends by post or electronically to any registered person a registered letter addressed to him at his address on the register enquiring whether the registered particulars relating to him are correct or whether he has ceased to practice and receives no reply to the letter within the period of six months from the date of publishing of the name or sending of the letter; and

(b) upon the expiration of that period publishes in like manner the name of the person in a second similar publication or sends in like manner to the person in question a second similar letter and receives no response to that publication or letter within three months from the date of publishing or of sending it, the Registrar may remove the name and the other particulars relating to the person in question from the Register.

(5) Where a person's name has been removed from the Register under subsection (2) or (4) of this section,

the Council may, on the application of that person, direct the Registrar to restore the name or other particulars removed there from unless the original entry of his name or other particulars was incorrectly or fraudulently made or if the removal of his name was a disciplinary action.

8. (1) It shall be the duty of the Registrar:

Publication of  
register and list  
of corrections.

(a) to cause the Registers of Veterinary surgeons, Veterinary para-professionals and of registered Veterinary practicing premises to be printed, published and put on sale to members of the public not later than two years from the beginning of the year in which this subsection comes into force;

(b) in each year after that in which a Register is first published under paragraph (a) of this section, to cause to be printed, published and put on sale as aforesaid either a corrected edition of the Register or a list of alterations made to the Register since it was last printed;

(c) the Council may direct that an electronic edition of the Register or the list of alterations in sub-section (b) be published electronically within three months and the publication of the hard copy thereof shall be made not later than two years; and

(d) to cause a print of each edition of the Register and of each list of corrections to be deposited at the principal office of the Council.

(2) The Council shall cause the Registers to be printed and published in the Federal Gazette as often as it thinks fit.

(3) A document purporting to be a print of an edition of a Register published under this section by authority of the Registrar in the current year, or documents purporting to be prints of an edition of a Register so published in a previous year and of a list of corrections to that edition so published in the current year, or any publication of the Register made in the Federal Gazette in the current year shall (without prejudice to any other mode of proof) be admissible in any proceedings as evidence that any person specified in the documents, or the documents read together or, as the case may be, in that Federal Gazette, as being registered as Veterinary surgeon or Veterinary para-professional is so registered, and that any person not so specified is not registered.

### PART III — QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION, ETC.

9. (1) Subject to this Bill, a person shall be entitled to be registered as a Veterinary Surgeon or as a Veterinary Para-professional if:

Registration of  
Veterinary  
surgeons and  
Veterinary  
para-  
professionals.

(a) he is of good character;

(b) he has attended a course of training approved by the Council under section 10 of this Bill;

(c) the course was conducted at an institution approved by the Council or partly at one such institution and partly at another or others;

(d) if the Council so requires, that he has had sufficient externship and internship and other relevant practical experience as may be prescribed by Council from time to time;



(e) he holds a qualification approved by the Council; and

(f) he has applied for registration with the Council within 12 months from the date of his graduation from an approved institution.

(2) Subject as aforesaid, a person shall be entitled to be registered as a Veterinary surgeon or as a Veterinary para-professional if he satisfies the Council:

(a) that he is of good character;

(b) that he holds a qualification granted outside Nigeria and for the time being accepted by the Council for the purposes of this subsection;

(c) that he is by law entitled to practice (for all purposes) as a Veterinary surgeon or as a Veterinary para-professional in the country in which the qualification was granted and acceptable by the Council; and

(d) if he has had sufficient externship and internship and other relevant practical experience as may be prescribed by Council from time to time.

(3) The Council shall from time to time publish in the Federal Gazette particulars of the qualifications for the time being accepted as aforesaid.

(4) Where any application for registration is received by the Council from any person who is not entitled to registration under subsection (1) or (2) above, the Council may refer the application to the Board of Examiners for investigation under section 11 of this Bill.

(5) A person who refuses or fails to register with the Council within 12 months as provided in sub-section (1) of this section shall not be qualified for registration by the Council unless he has been examined again as provided under section 11 of this Bill.

(6) No person shall in any manner whatsoever practice as a Veterinary surgeon or as a Veterinary para-professional unless he is registered or deemed to be registered under this Bill to practice, and any person who practices in breach of this provision commits an offence.

(7) A person to be registered by the Council, under this Bill shall swear or affirm to the Veterinary Surgeon's Oath or the Veterinary Para-professional's Oath contained in the Third Schedule to this Bill;

(8) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, no veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional shall practise as a veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional as the case may be, in any year unless he has between January and February of the year paid to the Council in respect of the year the appropriate practicing fees prescribed hereunder:

(a) in the case of a veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional of not less than five years ₦5000;

(b) in the case of veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional of not less than ten years

₦10,000;

(c) in the case of veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional of not less than twenty years ₦15,000;

(d) in the case of veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional of over twenty years ₦25,000;

(e) a veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional during his service year in the National Youth Service Scheme shall be exempted from payment of practicing fee;

(f) the Council may, with the approval of the Minister from time to time, vary the practicing fee prescribed under this sub section.

(9) The Council shall share the aggregate amount collected as practicing fees during the year as follows:

(a) 70% to the Council;

(b) 30% to the States.

(10) Any veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional who in respect of any year and without paying the prescribed fee practices as such shall be guilty of an offence and be liable on conviction:

(a) in the case of a first offence, to a fine of twice the prescribed practicing fee;

(b) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine of not less than ten times the prescribed practicing fee and if the veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional is in the employment of any person, that person shall also be guilty of an offence and punished in the like manner as the veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional unless he proves that the failure to pay the practicing fee was without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

10. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the Council may approve for the purposes of section (9) of this Bill.

(a) any course of training which is intended for persons who are seeking to, become, or are already, Veterinary surgeons and which the Council considers is designed to confer on persons completing it sufficient knowledge and skill for efficient practice of veterinary medicine or as a Veterinary para-professional;

(b) any institution which the Council considers is properly organized and equipped for conducting the whole or any part of course of training approved by the Council under this section; subject to payment of one million Naira accreditation fee for initial year of accreditation and five hundred thousand Naira for each subsequent year of accreditation;

(c) any qualification which, as a result of an examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section, is granted to candidates reaching a standard at the examination indicating, in the opinion of the Council, that they have sufficient knowledge and skill for efficient practice of veterinary medicine or as a Veterinary para-professional as the case may be.

Approval of courses, qualifications and institutions and recognition of postgraduate degrees and postgraduate diplomas.

(2) The Council shall not, in pursuance of registration of a Veterinary surgeon approve a qualification granted by an institution in Nigeria unless the qualification bears one of the following designations, that is to say:

- (a) Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine;
- (b) Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery;
- (c) Bachelor of Veterinary Science;
- (d) Master of Veterinary Science;
- (e) Master of Veterinary Pharmacy;
- (f) Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; or
- (g) any other qualification which Council considers to be equivalent to any of the qualifications above.

(3) The Council shall not approve a qualification granted by an institution in Nigeria for the registration of any Veterinary para-professional, unless the qualification bears one of the following designations, that is to say:

- (a) Bachelor of Animal Health Technology;
- (b) Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing;
- (c) Bachelor of Veterinary Radiography;
- (d) Ordinary or Higher National Diploma in Veterinary Nursing;
- (e) Ordinary or Higher National Diploma in Veterinary Radiography;
- (f) Ordinary or Higher National Diploma in Animal Health Technology;
- (g) Ordinary or Higher National Diploma in Veterinary Laboratory Technology;
- (h) Ordinary or Higher National Diploma in Leather Technology; or
- (i) Ordinary or Higher National Diploma in Veterinary Pharmacy;
- (j) any other qualification which Council considers to be equivalent or acceptable to any of the above qualifications.

(3) The Council may, if it thinks fit, withdraw any approval given under this section in respect of any course, qualification or institution; but before withdrawing such an approval the Council shall:

- (a) give notice that it proposes to do so to each person in Nigeria appearing to the Council to

be a person by whom the course is conducted or the qualification is granted or the institution is controlled, as the case may be; and

(b) afford each such person an opportunity of making to the Council representation with regard to the proposal; and

(c) take into consideration any representations made as respects the proposal in pursuance of the last foregoing paragraph.

(4) As respects any period during which the approval of the Council under this section for a course, qualification or institution is withdrawn, the course, qualification or institution shall not be treated as approved under this section; but the withdrawal of such an approval shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any person who by virtue of the approval was registered or eligible for registration immediately before the approval was withdrawn.

(5) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section shall have effect from such date, either before or after the execution of the instrument signifying the giving or withdrawal of the approval, as the Council may specify in that instrument; and the Council shall:

(a) as soon as may be published a copy of every such instrument in the Federal Gazette; and

(b) not later than seven days before its publication as aforesaid, send a copy of the instrument to the Minister.

(6) The Dean of each Faculty or College of Veterinary Medicine, and Heads of Departments of tertiary institutions in Nigeria, however called, at which there is held a course of training intended for persons who are seeking to become Veterinary surgeons or Veterinary para-professionals, shall furnish to the Registrar, not later than thirty-first day of March in every year, a list of the names, and of such other particulars as the Council may by order specify, of all persons who attended any such course at the institution in question at any time during the preceding year.

(7) The Council shall for the purposes of specialist professional designation recognize:

(a) fellowship diplomas of the College or Fellowship diploma of similar institutions recognized by the Council; or

(b) academic post-graduate qualifications awarded by recognized universities in relevant areas.

(8) A registered Veterinary surgeons may be appointed as a Consultant to the hospital if he has relevant clinical and other relevant experience for not less than 8 years and possesses the Fellowship diploma of the College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria or Fellowship diploma of similar institutions recognized by the Council in a relevant clinical area.

(9) Council shall have power to determine and review from time to time the requisite qualifications and experience for the professional and Consultant grade as it deems fit.

11. (1) It shall be the duty of the Council to keep itself informed of:

(a) the instruction given at any approved institution to persons attending approved course of training; and

(b) the examinations as a result of which approved qualifications are granted, and for the purpose of performing that duty, the Council may appoint either from among its own members or otherwise persons to visit approved institutions or to attend such examinations.

Supervision of instruction and examination leading to approved qualifications.

(2) It shall be the duty of a visitor appointed under this section to report to the Council on:

(a) the courses of study, staffing, accommodation and equipment available for trainings in veterinary medicine or Veterinary para-professional training as the case may be and the other arrangements and facilities for such training in any institution visited by him;

(b) the sufficiency of the instruction given to the persons attending approved courses at institutions visited by him;

(c) the standard of the examinations attended by him; and

(d) any other matter relating to the institution or examinations on which the Council may, either generally or in a particular case, request him to report, but no visitor shall interfere with the giving of any instruction or the holding of any examination.

(3) On receiving a report made in pursuance of this section, the Council shall as soon as may be possible send a copy of the report to the person appearing to the Council to be in charge of the institution or responsible for the examinations to which the report relates requesting that person to make observations on the report to the Council within such period as may be specified in the requests, not being less than one month beginning with the date of the request.

12. (1) There shall continue to be established a Board of Examiners which shall consist of two or more registered Veterinary surgeons appointed by the Council.

(2) The persons who immediately before the appointed day were members of the Board of Examiners shall on that date be deemed to constitute its membership until new appointments are made in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The Board of Examiners shall investigate any application referred to it by the Council under section 8 (4) of this Bill and shall:

(a) where it is satisfied that the qualifications of the applicant afford sufficient assurance of his suitability for registration, recommend him to the Council for registration; or

(b) where it considers that further assurance is required as to the suitability of the applicant, examine the applicant in any manner it deems appropriate and thereafter make such recommendation to the Council as the Board of Examiners deems fit.

Power of board of examiners to investigate certain applications, etc.

(4) Where any recommendation for registration of an applicant is made to the Council pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the Council may, if it thinks fit, authorize and require the Registrar to insert the name of such applicant in the Register, on payment to the Council by the applicant of such fees as may be prescribed.

#### PART IV — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

**13. (1)** There shall be the Veterinary Council Investigation Panel (hereafter in this Bill referred to as "the Panel") and the Veterinary Council Disciplinary Tribunal (hereafter in this Bill referred to as "the Tribunal").

Establishment of veterinary council investigation panel and the veterinary council disciplinary tribunal.

(2) The Panel shall be charged with the duty of:

(a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any case where it is alleged that a registered person has misbehaved in his capacity as a Veterinary surgeon or as a Veterinary para-professional or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the tribunal; and

(b) deciding whether the case should be referred to the Tribunal or not.

(3) The Fourth Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the membership of the Panel and procedure of its operation.

(4) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of the Fifth Schedule to this Bill, the Tribunal shall consist of the President of the Council and four other members appointed by the Council of whom at least two shall be elected members of the Council:

Provided that at least one elected Veterinary para-professional shall be a member of the Tribunal to consider a case involving a Veterinary para-professional.

(5) The Tribunal shall be charged with the duty of considering and determining any case referred to it by the Panel and any other case of which the Tribunal has cognizance under the provisions of this Bill.

(6) The Fifth Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the Procedure of the Tribunal.

**14. (1)** Where:

(a) a registered person is judged by the Tribunal to be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect; or

(b) a registered person is convicted by any court in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to award imprisonment, of an offence (whether or not an offence punishable, with imprisonment) which in the opinion of the tribunal is incompatible with the status of a Veterinary surgeon or of a Veterinary para-professional; or

(c) the Tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been fraudulently registered, the tribunal, may, if it thinks fit, give a direction reprimanding or suspending that person, or ordering the Registrar to strike his name off the Register.

Penalties for unprofessional conduct, etc.

(2) Any registered person whose case is before the Tribunal shall not be eligible to attend any meeting of Council if he is a member of Council, render any service to the Council or the College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria, or serve in any committee or organ of Council or of the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association or any other Veterinary para-professional association by whatever name called until his case is disposed of by the disciplinary tribunal.

(3) The Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, defer or further defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under the foregoing subsection until a subsequent meeting of the disciplinary tribunal; but:

(a) no decision shall be deferred under this subsection for periods exceeding one year in the aggregate; and

(b) no person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purposes of reaching a decision which has been deferred or further deferred unless he was present as a member of the disciplinary tribunal when the decision was deferred.

(4) For the purposes of this section a person shall not be treated as convicted as mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection unless the conviction stands at a time when no appeal or further appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection with the conviction.

(5) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1) of this section, the Tribunal shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.

(6) The person to whom such a direction relates may, at any time within twenty-eight days from the date of service on him of the notice of the direction, appeal against the direction to the Federal High Court; and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and, for the purpose of enabling directions to be given as to the costs of the appeal and of proceedings before the Tribunal, shall be deemed to be a party thereto whether or not it appears on the hearing of the appeal.

(7) A direction of the Tribunal under subsection (1) of this section shall take effect:

(a) where no appeal under this section is brought against the direction within the time limited for the appeal, on the expiration of that time;

(b) where such an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal;

(c) where such an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out as aforesaid, if and when the appeal is dismissed; and shall not take effect except in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this subsection.

**15. (1)** The Council shall have power to register all categories of Veterinary Practising Premises in Nigeria (hereafter in this Bill referred to as "the Premises").

Regulation of  
veterinary  
practising  
premises.

(2) The procedures for registration and control of the Premises shall be in the manner prescribed in the Sixth Schedule to this Bill and the Guidelines for registration of Veterinary Practising Premises, published by the Council from time to time.

(3) All Veterinary or animal hospital, veterinary or animal clinic, veterinary pharmacy, ambulatory services or House call and veterinary diagnostic center shall be headed by a registered Veterinary Surgeon.

(4) Only registered premises shall display the veterinary emblem.

(5) The Council may close any of the Premises for reasons of non-registration or non-compliance with any of the Regulations contained in Sixth Schedule to this Bill.

(6) Any person who keeps any animal or animals:

(a) shall maintain the animal under his control and confinement at all times and prevent the animal from straying and damaging other people's properties or crop or farm land; and

(b) shall not carry out or facilitate in any way or allow his premises to be used for any act of cruelty to the animals, including baiting animals to fight, starving of animal, over-crowding animals, overloading of animal, over driving of animal, or operating on an animal without anesthesia;

(c) shall not carry out drug or vaccine trials or conduct out any experiments on or using animals without veterinary supervision.

(7) Any person who keeps a wild animal as a companion animal or for game or for circus performance, or for ornamental purposes or for any other purpose, shall:

(a) register such a wild animal with the Director of Veterinary Services of the State;

(b) provide suitable accommodation, lighting, feeding and care for the wild animal to the satisfaction of a veterinary officer;

(c) obtain appropriate vaccination, routine examination and treatment of diseases for such a wild animal from a registered Veterinary Surgeon and obtain appropriate veterinary certificate; and

(d) restrain and control such wild animal at all times, so as to prevent the wild animal from causing injury to any person or to other animal or animals and from constituting a nuisance to any person or the public.

(9) (a) Any person who is in violation of any provision of this section or who operates a premises contrary to the manner prescribed in the Sixth Schedule to this Bill, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of not less than One hundred thousand naira or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both fine and imprisonment.

(b) When the offence is committed by a body corporate, the body corporate shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand naira.

(10) Where any person is guilty of:

(a) displaying the veterinary emblem illegally or displaying fake emblem, the Veterinary



Inspector shall confiscate the emblem;

(b) any person who is in violation of sub-section(a) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to 3 months imprisonment or fifty thousand naira fine;

(c) violating the provisions relating to the keeping of any animal or wild animal, the Veterinary Officer may confiscate the animal or wild animal;

(d) any person who is in violation of sub-section (c) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to 3 months imprisonment or fifty thousand Naira fine.

**16. (1)** There is hereby established the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria (hereafter in this Bill referred to as "the College") of the Council.

Establishment  
of the  
postgraduate  
college of  
veterinary  
surgeons  
Nigeria.

(2) The College shall have power to organize specialist and clinical training for the award of Fellowship diploma and any other certificates that may be approved by the Council.

(3) The College shall organize trainings in various specialties as may be approved by the Council from time to time.

(4) The Seventh Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the procedures for the operations of the College.

#### PART V — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

**17. (1)** If any person who is not a registered Veterinary surgeon:

Offences.

(a) practices or holds himself out to practice as a Veterinary surgeon; or

(b) takes or uses the title of Veterinary surgeon; or

(c) offers to perform or performs any service involving knowledge of veterinary science; or

(d) renders professional service or assistance in or about matters of principle or details relating to veterinary professional procedure or the processing of data; or

(e) renders any other service, which may be regulations made by the Council, be designated as service constituting practice as veterinary surgeon or veterinary para professional under this Bill; or

(f) without reasonable excuse takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is authorized by law to practice as a Veterinary surgeon, or veterinary para professional he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) If any person, for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name, qualification, or Premises or for any other matter under this Bill:

(a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a material particular; or

(b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) If any person who is not a registered Veterinary para-professional practices, holds himself out to practice as a Veterinary para-professional or makes a statement which is believed to be false in material particular he shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) If the Registrar or any other person employed by the Council makes any falsification in any matter relating to the Register or commits any act of misconduct his case shall be referred to the Staff Disciplinary Committee and dealt with in accordance with the procedure in the Eighth Schedule to this Bill.

(5) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Two Hundred thousand naira or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in this Bill, any person who is guilty of an offence, non-compliance or contravention of any section of this Bill or of the regulations, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than five hundred thousand Naira or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both fine and imprisonment.

(7) Where an offence under this Bill which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any action or neglect on the part of any Head, Dean, Director, Manager, Secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence punishable by a fine of not less than one million Naira for the corporate body and five hundred thousand Naira for each of the categories of officers of the corporate body stated in this subsection.

18. (1) Where any office in the public service of the Federation or of a State or a local government therein or in the Armed Forces or in the Nigeria Police Force or any other security services or any educational institution or in the private sector requires a veterinary qualification, a person shall not be appointed to that office, or hold or remain in that office unless he is a registered Veterinary surgeon.

Miscellaneous  
supplementary  
provisions.

(2) Where any office in the public service of the Federation or of a State therein, or in the Armed Forces or in the Nigeria Police Force of the Federation or in any educational institution or in the private sector, requires a Veterinary para-professional qualification, a person shall not be appointed to that office, or hold or remain in that office unless he is registered by Council as a Veterinary para-professional.

(3) A registered Veterinary surgeon shall be entitled to practice as Veterinary surgeon throughout the Federation.

(4) A registered Veterinary para-professional shall be entitled to practice as a Veterinary para-professional throughout the Federation.

(5) Where any veterinary document or veterinary certificate is required by any law for the time being in force in the Federation, to be issued or signed after this subsection comes into force, it shall be invalid unless it is issued or signed by a Veterinary surgeon registered under this Bill.

(6) Without prejudice to the rule of law whereby a contract may be void if it is inconsistent with the provisions of an enactment, no person other than a registered Veterinary surgeon or Veterinary Para-Professional shall be entitled to bring any proceedings in any court of law for the purpose of recovering any fee or other consideration whatsoever payable in respect of services rendered or facilities or things supplied by him when purporting to act as a Veterinary surgeon.

(7) Any approval, consent, direction, notice, observation, report, representation or request authorized or required to be given or made by or under this Bill shall be in writing and may, without prejudice to any other method of service but subject to the provisions of to this Bill, be served by post.

(8) Subject to the provisions of Section 174 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (which relates to the power of the Attorney-General of the Federation to institute, continue or discontinue criminal proceedings against any person in a court of Law), the Council may, with the consent of the Attorney-General of the Federation, conduct criminal proceedings in respect of offences under this Bill or Regulations made under this Bill.

19. (1) Any power to make regulations, rules or orders conferred on the Minister or Council by this Bill shall include power:

Regulations,  
rules and  
orders.

(i) to make provision for such incidental and supplementary matters as the authority making the instrument considers expedient for the purposes of the instrument; and

(ii) to make different provision for different circumstances.

(2) Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Council shall have powers to make or to amend Regulations on functions of the Council as contained in section 1 (2) and on any other matter or function of the Council contained in this Bill.

(3) Any power to make regulations, rules or orders conferred by this Bill shall include power:

(a) to make provision for such incidental and supplementary matters as the authority making the instrument considers expedient for the purposes of the instrument;

(b) to make different provision for different circumstances;

(c) all regulations, rules or orders made shall not come into effect until approved by the Minister.

(4) It shall be responsibility of the Council to issue standards, policies and guidelines on the operations of the College, animal research issues, the use of animal restrain facilities, distribution, sale and usage of veterinary drugs, biologics, vaccines and designing animal environments and, zoological gardens, fish ponds for the purposes of disease prevention and control.

(5) Nothing in this Bill shall be construed as indicating a contrary intention for the purposes of section 12 (1) of the Interpretation Act (which contains additional provisions with respect to powers to make subordinate legislation).

20. (1) The Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap, V3, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is hereby repealed.

Repeal, savings  
and  
transitional  
provisions.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection 1 of this section:

(a) any register kept in pursuance of the repealed enactment shall be deemed to be part of the registers to be kept in pursuance of this Bill;

(b) any Regulation made by the Minister under the repealed Act shall remain valid and shall be deemed to have been made under relevant sections of this Bill.

(3) (a) Any person whose name was immediately before the coming into force of this Bill included in the register maintained under the repealed enactment shall, without further application or payment of any other fee, be deemed to be registered under the appropriate provision of this Bill.

(b) Any person whose name was not immediately before the coming into force of this Bill included in the register maintained under the repealed enactment, by reason of having been erased or removed in consequence of inquiry into his conduct held under section 14 of that Act shall be deemed to have had his name removed from the Register maintained under this Bill.

(4) Any institution approved by Council to grant qualification to persons who have completed a course of study in veterinary medicine conducted at an institution recognized by the repealed Act, the institution, course and qualification shall be deemed to be approved under section 8 of this Bill.

(5) The persons who were elected to serve as elected members of the Council before the activities of Council were interrupted in 2015, shall continue to serve as elected members of the Council under this Bill and shall complete their tenure of five years as provided for in section 2 (1) of this Bill.

(6) Where any offence, being an offence for continuance of which a penalty was provided, has been committed under the repealed enactment, proceedings may be taken under this Bill in respect of the continuance of the offence after the commencement of this Bill, in the same manner as if the offence had been committed under the corresponding provisions of this Bill.

(7) Any document referring to a provision of the repealed enactment shall be construed as a reference to the corresponding provision of this Bill.

(8) Any document referring to a provision of the repealed Act shall be construed as a reference to the corresponding provision of this Bill.

(9) As from the commencement of this Bill, the President without reference to any person or authority, shall convene a regular meeting of the Council.

(10) All assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable assets or properties which immediately before the commencement of this Bill were vested in the Council established in the repealed enactment shall by virtue of this Bill and without any further assurances vested in the Council.

(11) As from the commencement of this Bill:

(a) the rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the Council referred to in subsection 10 of this section existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or

instrument or at law or in equity are hereby assigned to and vested in the Council without further assurance; and

(b) any such contract or instrument shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of the Council and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively as if instead of the Council mentioned in the repealed enactment, the Council has been named therein or had been a party thereto.

(12) Any proceedings or cause of action pending or existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill by or against the Council mentioned in the repealed enactment in respect of any right, interest, obligation or liabilities of the Council aforesaid may be continued or, as the case may be, commenced and any determination of a court of law, tribunal or other authority or person may be enforced by or against the Council to the same extent that any such proceeding, cause of action or determination could have been continued, commenced or enforced by or against the body aforesaid as if this Bill had not been made.

**21.** In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say: Interpretation.

"abattoir" means premises where animals are slaughtered and where ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection are carried out by the Veterinary surgeons to detect and prevent transmission of diseases to man;

"animal" means horse, mule, donkey, camel, cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, swine, dog, cat, laboratory animals, rabbit, lion, non-human primates, tortoise, snakes, crocodiles, and poultry including domestic fowl, turkey, duck, goose, pigeon, guinea fowl, ostrich, bees, aquatic animals which shall include fish, molluscs and crustaceans and any other domestic or wild animal species;

"Animal facility" means premises where animals are kept for research;

"approved" means for the time being approved under section 9 of this Bill;

"approved qualification" means a qualification which is approved under section 9 of this Bill;

"Board of Examiners" means the Board of examination established under section 12 of this Bill;

"the College" means the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons established under this Bill;

"the Council" means the Veterinary Council of Nigeria established under this Bill; and vested with the authority to set standards and authorize tasks for each category of animal health workers (Veterinary surgeons and Veterinary para-professionals) depending on qualifications, training and needs;

"the Director" has the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 (1) (c) and (e) of this Bill;

"elected member of the Council" has the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 (1) (g) of this Bill;

"Externship" means a field practice programme in a veterinary hospital or clinic, livestock farms, zoological garden, fish ponds, diagnostic laboratory, abattoir and veterinary control posts;

"ex-officio member" means a member of the Council by virtue of holding an office in the public service;

"the Federal Gazette" means an official periodic publication of the Federal government of Nigeria authorized to publish legal and public notices;

"Foundation fellows" includes registered Veterinary surgeons that were awarded Fellowships at the inception of the College's academic programme in 1998;

"investigation panel" has the meaning assigned thereto by section 13 of this Bill;

"Internship" means a qualified veterinary surgeon who works in an approved hospital or veterinary practicing premises in order to gain work experience or satisfy requirements for full registration;

"the Minister" means the Minister of the Government of the Federation responsible for matters relating to animal health and production;

"the Panel" has the meaning assigned thereto by section 13 of this Bill;

"prescribed" means prescribed by regulations;

"President" means the President of the Council elected in pursuance of section 2 (l) (a) of this Bill;

"Register" means a register maintained under this Bill, and "registered" shall be construed accordingly;

"the Registrar" means the registrar appointed in pursuance of section 6 of this Bill;

"regulations" means Regulations made by the Minister;

"State" means any of the states listed in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 or any other such state created in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

"the Disciplinary Tribunal" has the meaning assigned thereto by section 13 of this Bill;

"Veterinary" means the practice or science of prevention and cure or alleviation of disease and injury in animals and other measures for the protection of animal health and welfare;

"Veterinary drugs" means any substance of plant, animal or mineral origin or any organic or inorganic preparations or admixture thereof, applied or administered to any animal species for the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease, disorder, abnormal physical state or the symptoms thereof in animals; and restoring, correcting or modifying organic functions in animals; and for disinfection or the control of vermin, insects or pests;

"veterinary drug formulary" means a compendium of drugs, vaccine and biologics that are approved to be prescribed in the national animal health care system, published by the Council and included recommended doses, the side-effects, contra-indications and withdrawal periods of such drugs, vitamins, vaccines and biologics;

"veterinary emblem" means the symbol indicating a registered veterinary practicing premises issued by

the Council;

"Veterinary para-professional" means a person who is authorized by the Council to carry out certain diagnostic and clinical tasks on animals depending on qualification and delegated under the supervision and responsibility of a Veterinary surgeon; and these shall include Veterinary nurses, superintendents, technologists, Veterinary radiographers and Veterinary pharmacists;

"veterinary practicing premises" means any premises established either partly or wholly for the purposes of providing veterinary services under this Bill, or for dispensing any medicines or drugs, or other substances for the care and treatment of such animals or livestock and shall include premises used as House call, Veterinary clinic, Veterinary hospital, Veterinary pharmacy and Abattoirs;

"Veterinary surgeon" means a person trained and certified with a degree in Veterinary Medicine registrable by the Council in accordance with this Bill;

"veterinary surgery" means the art and science of veterinary surgery and medicine and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing shall be taken to include:

- (i) the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- (ii) the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- (iii) the medical or surgical treatment of animals;
- (iv) the performance of surgical operations on animals;
- (v) ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of animal slaughter for food for man and animals; and
- (vi) handling, uses and sale of veterinary drugs, medicaments, vaccines, biologics, and veterinary medical devices;

"wild animals" include monkeys, chimpanzee, gorilla other non-human primates, elephant, antelope, hyena, tiger, lion, leopard, monkeys and tortoises, turtles, terrapin, snakes, crocodiles, cane rat, civet cat, parrot, owl, peacock, peahen, pigeon, and any other aquatic or terrestrial wild animals.

**22.** This Bill may be cited as the Veterinary Surgeons Bill, 2022.

Citation.

## SCHEDULES

### FIRST SCHEDULE

#### NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY

1. Subject to the provisions of Section 2 (1) g of this Bill, whenever at the expiration occurs among the elected members of the Council and that vacancy is required under this Bill to be filled by a fresh election, the Registrar shall:

- (a) inform all registered persons then in Nigeria of the vacancy;
- (b) invite nominations to fill the vacancy; and
- (c) require that such nominations shall be received by him on or before a date fixed by the President.

*Signing of nominations*

2. No person other than a registered:

- (a) Veterinary surgeon shall propose or second a nomination of a registered Veterinary surgeon; and
- (b) Veterinary para-professional shall propose or second a nomination of a registered Veterinary para-professional.

*Election of persons nominated*

3. If, by midnight on the date fixed for the receipt of nominations, the number of nominations received does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed elected.

*Voting papers*

4. If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies the Registrar shall:

- (a) issue to each registered Veterinary surgeon and each registered Veterinary para-professional a voting paper on which shall be recorded the number of vacancies to be filled and the names of the persons nominated to fill them; and
- (b) require that such voting paper be returned to him on or before a date fixed by the President.

*Methods of voting*

5. Each registered Veterinary surgeon shall vote either manually or by electronic means:

- (a) record his vote by marking a line through the name or names of the person or persons for whom he wishes to vote for provided that the number of names so marked shall not exceed the number of vacancies; and
- (b) sign the voting paper, and return it to the Registrar by means provided for in the election rules.

*Counting of votes*

6. (1) The Registrar shall appoint two persons to be approved by the Council (hereinafter called Scrutinizers), not being registered Veterinary surgeons or registered Veterinary para-professionals to count the voting papers received by the Registrar.

(2) On the day following the closing date fixed for the receipt of voting papers, the scrutinizers shall proceed to open the envelopes or voting portal and to count the votes at the office of the Registrar.

(3) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected. If there are two vacancies to be filled, the candidate receiving the higher number of votes shall be deemed to be elected



(4) The Scrutinizers shall then report the result of the ballot to the Registrar.

(5) The Scrutinizers shall reject any voting paper which has not been completed in accordance with these rules.

*Safe custody of voting papers*

6. All voting papers, whether valid or rejected, shall be retained in safe custody by the Scrutinizers until the Council directs their destruction.

*Announcement of results*

7. (1) On completion of the election, the Registrar shall inform the successful candidates of their election in a letter sent by post or by electronic means.

(2) The results of the election may also be published in the Federal Gazette and in popular National Newspapers, after 14 days that the results have been announced to the successful candidates

*Power to order fresh election*

8. (1) Any person nominated as a candidate for election who is dissatisfied with the conduct of an election may lodge a complaint in writing with the Registrar within 14 days of the announcement of the result of the election.

(2) The Council shall inquire into such complaint and may, in its discretion, annul the election and order a further election to be held forthwith.

*Citation*

9. These rules may be cited as the Veterinary Council (Elections) Rules, 2022

SECOND SCHEDULE

[Section 2(2)]

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

*Eligibility and tenure of office of a member of Council*

1. (1) Subject to the provision of Section 2 (1) of the Principal Act, a person shall not be a member of the Council unless he is registered with the Council.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the term of office of an elected member of Council elected in pursuance to Section 2 (1) (g) of the Principal Act, shall be five years and the day on which a member of the Council ordinarily retires shall be the day immediately before the regular general meeting of the Council.

(3) The President and Vice-President of the Council shall each hold offices for a term of three years and be eligible for one more term of two years, so however that a person who ceases to be a member of the Council shall cease to be a President or Vice-President.

2. An elected member of the Council may at any time by notice in writing addressed to the Registrar, resign his office as

a member.

3. An elected member of the Council shall cease to hold office if he ceases to be a registered person.

4. If any University or institution ceases to be an approved institution for the purposes of this Bill, any member representing that University or institution on the Council shall there upon cease to hold office.

*Elections, Appointments and Casual Vacancies*

5. A member of Council convicted for offense under this Bill or fraud or dishonesty shall cease to be a member of the Council.

6. Elections or appointments to fill any vacancy occurring under paragraph 1 of this Schedule shall be held or made before the regular general meeting of the Council at which the vacancy occurs.

7. (1) Where a casual vacancy occurs among the elected members of the Council, the vacancy shall be filled:

(a) by the unsuccessful candidate at the previous ordinary election of such members who at that election received the greatest number of votes and has not since become a member; or

(b) if two or more such candidates received an equal number of votes, by the candidate who has been registered longest on the Register or, if two or more such candidates have been registered longer than any other but for the same period as each other, by one of them with the lowest Veterinary Council number; or

(c) if there were no unsuccessful candidates at that election by a person elected from among themselves by registered persons at a special election: provided that no such election need be held if an ordinary election of elected member will take place within twelve months after the casual vacancy occurred.

(2) Where a casual vacancy occurs among members of the Council appointed by the Minister the vacancy shall be filled by the Minister.

(3) A person filling a casual vacancy among the elected members of the Council shall hold office until the date on which the person whose vacancy he fills would have regularly retired.

8. A person ceasing to be a member of the Council shall be eligible to be re-elected or reappointed.

9. Elections of elected members of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with rules made by the Council.

10. (1) When in the opinion of the Council the President is temporarily unable to perform the functions of his office or due to allegations of misconduct against him, the Vice-President shall perform those functions; and in the absence of the Vice-President, a person elected by the Council shall perform those functions.

(2) The Council may suspend a member of Council from attending one or two meetings of Council for unruly behaviour and may refer the case to the Veterinary Council Investigation Panel.

*Powers of the Council*

11. (1) Subject to the following sub-paragraph and to any directions of the Minister under this Bill, the Council shall have power to do anything which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of its functions.

(2) The Council shall not have power to pay remuneration including pensions, allowances or other expenses to any member, officer or servant of the Council or to any other person except in accordance with scales approved by the Federal government, except on items that there is no existing approved scale, in that case, Council shall approve as appropriate.

(3) The Council shall be represented at local and international conferences or meetings organized to promote animal health, veterinary education, aquaculture and public health by the President, Registrar and any member or person, provided Council has approved the attendance.

*Proceedings of Council*

12. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Council shall make Rules regulating its procedure and those of its Committees.

(2) The Council shall hold regular general meetings two times in each year, and may hold such other meetings as the President of the Council may determine.

(3) Subject to Sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph, the meetings of the Council shall be held on such days and at such place and time as the President of the Council may determine.

(4) Every member of the Council shall be entitled to vote on any question coming or arising before the Council, and all such questions shall be determined by a majority of the members present and voting thereon.

(5) The President of the Council shall be the Chairman at all meetings of the Council and when he is absent the Vice-President shall preside, but when both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

(6) At any meeting of the Council, the President or Vice-President or the member presiding at the meeting, as the case may be, and nine other members, of whom at least three shall be elected members, shall form a quorum.

(7) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person upon any particular matter, the Council may co-opt that person to be member for any meeting or meetings of the Council, and that person while so co-opted shall have all the powers of a member, save that he shall not be entitled to vote on any question and his presence at any meeting shall not count towards the constitution of a quorum.

(8) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Schedule and to Section 27 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for decisions of a body to be taken by a majority of the members of the body and for the chairman to have a second or casting vote), the Council may make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Council or any of its Committees.

*Committees*

13. (1) The Council may appoint one or more Committees to carry out, on behalf of the Council, such of its functions as the Council may determine.

(2) A Committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council, and not more than one-third of those persons may be persons who are not members of the Council; and a person other than a member of the Council shall hold office on the Committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.

(3) A decision of a Committee of the Council shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.

*Supplementary*

14. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the President or Registrar or of some other member authorized generally or specially by the Council to act for that purpose.

(3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Council shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.

15. The powers of the Council and of any of its Committees may be exercised notwithstanding any vacancy, and no proceedings of the Council or any of its Committees shall be invalidated by any defect in the election or appointment of a member or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

16. A person shall not, by reason only of his membership of the Council, be treated as holding an office of emolument under the Federal Government or the government of a State.

17. A person shall not, by reason only of his membership of the Council, be treated as holding an office of emolument under the Federal Government or the government of a State.

18. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say:

"elected member" means a person elected into Council by virtue of election conducted in accordance with Section 2 (1) (g) of the Principal Act;

"ex-officio member" means a person who is a member of Council by virtue of holding an office in the Public service;

"Public service" means government institutions and agencies providing public duties such as education, health care, security and municipal services to the people.

*Citation*

19. These Regulations may be cited as the Supplementary Provisions Relating to Council, 2022

THIRD SCHEDULE

[Section 8(7)]

THE OATH OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

1. The Veterinary Oath

"Being admitted to the profession of Veterinary Medicine, I, ..... Solemnly declare and pledge to use my scientific knowledge and professional skills for the benefit of the society, through the protection of animal health, promotion of animal welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of animal production and public health and the advancement of veterinary medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously with dignity, respect for my teachers and senior professional colleagues and in keeping with the principles of veterinary ethics. I accept as a life-long obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence", so help me God.....

Signature of Declarant.....

Signature of Registrar.....

Signature of Dean.....  
Faculty/College of Veterinary Medicine

Date.....

2. Veterinary para-professional Oath

I, ..... being admitted to the Veterinary para-profession declare and pledge that I shall dedicate myself to aiding society by collaborating with the Veterinary Surgeon in providing excellent care and services for the relief of animal suffering, the promotion of animal production and public health.

I accept as a life-long obligation to practice my profession conscientiously and with dignity, adhering to the Code of Ethics of the Veterinary para-profession and furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to life-long learning.....

So help me God.

Signature of Declarant.....

Signature of Registrar.....

Signature of Head College of Animal Health.....

Date.....

(3) The Council shall have the power to amend the oath in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) from time to time but such amendments will not take effect until it is approved by the Minister.

FIFTH SCHEDULE

[Section 12(6)]

VETERINARY COUNCIL (DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL (AND ASSESSORS) RULES, 2022

*Composition of Tribunal*

1. (1) There shall be five members of the Tribunal of whom at least two shall be elected members; one of which shall be a Veterinary Para-professional.

(2) Where the person to appear before the Tribunal is a Veterinary para-professional, an elected Veterinary para-

professional is to serve as a member of the Tribunal.

(3) For the purpose of advising the Tribunal on questions of law arising in proceedings before it, there shall in all such proceedings be an assessor to the Tribunal who shall be a legal practitioner of not less than ten years of practicing experience.

(4) The quorum of the Tribunal shall be three of whom at least one shall be an elected member of the Council.

(5) The President of the Council, or in his absence anyone appointed in that behalf among themselves, shall be the chairman of the Tribunal.

#### *Composition of Tribunal Panel for Hearing*

2. Whenever any case of professional misconduct against any registered person is referred to the Tribunal by the Panel, such a case shall be heard by a division of not less than three members of whom at least one shall be an elected member.

#### *Parties and appearances*

3. (1) Parties to proceedings before the Tribunal shall be:

(a) the complainant;

(b) the respondent;

(c) any other person required by the Tribunal to be joined or joined by leave of the Tribunal.

(2) Any party to the proceedings may appear in person or be represented by a legal practitioner, so however that the Tribunal may order a party to the proceedings to appear in person if it is of the opinion that it is necessary in the interest of justice but without prejudice to his right to counsel.

#### *Notice of hearing and service*

4. (1) On the direction of the chairman, the Secretary shall fix a day for the hearing of the case and forth with thereafter shall, in the form in the Appendix to these Rules, serve notice thereof on each party to the proceedings.

(2) The Secretary shall serve on each party, other than the complainant, copies of the report and all the charges prepared by the Panel and all documents considered by the Panel.

(3) It shall be sufficient compliance with this rule; if, any process required to be served is handed to the party concerned or effected personally or is sent by registered post to the last known place of residence or abode of the party, or electronically or by publication in a popular Newspaper.

#### *Hearing in absence of parties*

5.(1) Subject to the next succeeding paragraph, the Tribunal may hear and determine a case in the absence of any party

(2) Any party to the proceedings before a Tribunal who fails to appear or be represented may apply, within thirty days after the date when the pronouncement of the findings and directions of the Tribunal were given, for a re-hearing on the ground of want of notice or other good and sufficient reason: and the Tribunal may, in appropriate cases, grant the application upon such terms as to costs or otherwise as it thinks fit.

*Witness and evidence*

6. The Tribunal may in the course of its proceedings hear such witnesses and receive such documentary evidence as in its opinion may assist in arriving at a conclusion as to the truth or otherwise of the charges referred to it by the Panel; and in the application of this rule, the provisions of the Evidence Act or Law in force in the State where the Tribunal holds its sitting shall apply to any such proceedings.

*Amendment of charges*

7. Any party to the proceedings may appear in person or be represented by a legal practitioner, so however that the Tribunal may order a party to the proceedings to appear in person if it is of the opinion that it is necessary in the interest of justice but without prejudice to his right to counsel.

*Proceedings to be in public*

8. The proceedings of the Tribunal shall be held, and its findings and directions shall be pronounced, in public.

*Adjournment of hearing*

9. The disciplinary tribunal may, of its own motion, or upon application of any party, adjourn the hearing on such terms as to costs or otherwise as the disciplinary tribunal may think fit.

*Witness and evidence*

10. If any person willfully gives false evidence on oath before the Tribunal during the course of any proceedings, or willfully makes a false statement in any affidavit sworn for the purpose of any such proceedings, the disciplinary tribunal may refer the matter to the Attorney-General of the Federation for any action he may deem fit.

*Findings and costs*

11. If after the hearing, the disciplinary tribunal adjudges that the charge of professional misconduct has not been proved, the disciplinary tribunal:

(a) shall record a finding that the respondent is not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matters to which the charge relates;

(b) may, without any misconduct proved against the respondent, nevertheless order any party (except the complainant) to pay the costs of the proceedings if, having regard to his conduct and to all the circumstances of the case, the disciplinary tribunal thinks fit so to order.

*Publication of disciplinary tribunal's findings*

12. Subject to section 15 of the Bill (which relates to appeals), any direction given by the Tribunal shall be published in the Federal Gazette as soon as may be after the direction takes effect.

*Records of proceedings*

13. (1) Shorthand notes, electronic records and transcripts of proceedings may be taken by a person appointed by the Tribunal and any party who appeared at the proceedings shall be entitled to inspect the records thereof

(2) The Secretary shall supply to any person entitled to be heard upon an appeal against the direction of the Tribunal, and the Council, but to no other person, a copy of the records of such records of proceedings on the payment of such charges as may be determined by the Registrar.

(3) If no shorthand notes are taken, the chairman shall take a note of the proceedings and, accordingly, the provisions of these Rules as to inspection and taking of copies shall apply to such notes.

#### *Dispensing with certain provisions*

14. The Tribunal may dispense with any requirement of these Rules respecting notices, affidavits, documents, service or time in any case where it appears to the Tribunal to be just to do so; and the Tribunal may in any appropriate case extend the time to do anything under these Rules.

#### *Power to retain exhibits pending appeal*

15. The Tribunal may order that any documents or other exhibits produced or used at the hearing shall be retained by the Secretary until the time within which an appeal may be entered has expired, and if notice of appeal is given, until the appeal is heard or otherwise disposed of.

16. (1) An assessor, when nominated in accordance with paragraph 1 (3) of this Schedule to the Act, shall be appointed by the Council by instrument, and the assessor shall hold and vacate office as provided in the instrument; and where the appointment is not a general one, it shall have effect only in respect of a particular meeting of the Tribunal.

(2) Subject to the terms of his appointment, an assessor shall attend any meeting of the Tribunal as and when requested to do so by notice in writing given to him by the Secretary not later than three clear days before the date appointed for the meeting; and he shall there advise the Tribunal on questions of law arising in proceedings before it.

(3) Except where the Tribunal is deliberating in private, the advice of the assessor on questions of law as to evidence, procedure and as to compliance with the Act shall be tendered in the presence of every party or of his counsel.

(4) If the advice by the assessor to the Tribunal is given otherwise than in the presence of all parties, or as the case may be of their counsel, the assessor shall, as soon as may be thereafter.

(5) Fees to be paid to the assessor shall be such as may be determined by the Council from time to time with the consent of the assessor.

#### *Interpretation*

17. In these Rules unless the context otherwise requires:

"chairman" means the chairman of the Veterinary Council Disciplinary Tribunal;

"complainant" means the Veterinary Council Investigating Panel or any member thereof;

"respondent" means the person required to answer any charge of professional misconduct;

"Secretary" means a person appointed to act as the Registrar under section 1 (5) of the Act.



"Secretary" means a person appointed to act as the Registrar under section 5 (1) of the Act.

*Citation*

18. These Rules may be cited as the Veterinary Council (Disciplinary Tribunal and Assessors) Rules, 2022.  
*Appendix*

Notice of hearing by the Veterinary Council Disciplinary Tribunal in the matter of the Veterinary Surgeons Act; and  
In the matter of A.B. a Veterinary Surgeons or a Veterinary para-professional

Take Notice that the report and charges prepared by the Veterinary Council Investigating Panel in the above matter are fixed for hearing by the Veterinary Council Disciplinary Tribunal at.....on the day of ....., 20.....

COPIES of:

- (a) the report;
- (b) the charges; and
- (c) are annexed hereto.

Dated at ....., this ..... day of ....., 20.....

SIXTH SCHEDULE

[Section 14 (2)]

VETERINARY PRACTICING PREMISES REGISTRATION AND CONTROL REGULATIONS, 2021

*Special Powers of Council on Veterinary Practicing Premises*

1. Council shall have power to:

- (a) approve the application for veterinary practice and practicing premises of all categories;
- (b) appoint Veterinary inspectors for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of these Regulations;
- (c) cause investigations to be conducted to ascertain persons involved in offences under these Regulations;
- (d) determine whether any person has committed an offence under these Regulations; and
- (e) close any practicing premises for breaching any of the following conditions:
  - (i) change of ownership without approval of Council;
  - (ii) non-compliance with prescribed standard of practice, including breach of professional ethics, non-engagement of adequate and qualified veterinary personnel;

- (iii) in appropriate location or unsanitary conditions of the premises;
- (iv) unsanitary conditions of premises;
- (v) on the request of the owner of the premises;
- (vi) operating without a license;
- (vii) operating without registration or possession of a valid annual license.

*Establishment of Veterinary Practicing Regulation Committee for the States*

2. (1) There is hereby established a Veterinary Practicing Regulation Committee for each State and the Federal Capital Territory (hereafter in these Regulations referred to as "the Committee ").

(2) The Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the Director of Veterinary Services of the State or Head of Animal Health Section of Federal Capital Territory (as the case may be) as the Chairman;
- (b) Zonal or State Officer of the Council;
- (c) Chairman of the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association of the State or of the Federal Capital Territory;
- (d) Chairman, Association of Private Veterinary Practitioners of the State or Federal Capital Territory;
- (e) representative of the Federal Department of Veterinary Services;
- (f) the Coordinator of Veterinary Inspectors (to be appointed by the Committee); and
- (g) any other person that may be co-opted by the Committee on the approval of the Council.

*Establishment of Veterinary Practicing Committee of Council of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria*

3. (1) There is hereby established a Veterinary Practice Premises Regulation Committee of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria.

(2) The Committee shall consist of five members to be appointed by Council.

(3) The Committee shall be charged with the following functions:

- (a) receive, collate and analyse reports of Veterinary Practicing Committees of States and the Federal Capital Territory;
- (b) submit quarterly reports of to the Council;
- (c) advice Council on matters relating to Veterinary Practicing Regulations;

(d) implements decisions of the Council on Veterinary Practicing Regulations;

(e) carry out any other functions directed by Council.

*Categories and Location of Veterinary Practicing Premises*

4. (1) There shall be the following types of Veterinary Practicing Premises, namely:

(i) Veterinary or Animal Hospital;

(ii) Veterinary or Animal Clinic;

(iii) ambulatory services or house call,

(iv) Veterinary Pharmacy;

(v) Veterinary Diagnostic Center;

(vi) Animal Hotel or animal boarding for veterinary care;

(v) Animal security outfit;

(vi) Veterinary day shop;

(vii) Abattoirs (including slaughter house and slaughter slabs);

(2) Except veterinary pharmacy, no premises shall be located in market places, motor parks or an environment where commercial activities are conducted.

(3) No premises shall be located in an unhygienic environment or any area subject to flooding.

(4) Any premises located in any such places as stated in sub-regulation (2) and (3) of this regulation shall relocate to a suitable place not later than 90 days after formal notification to that effect by the Veterinary Inspector.

*Powers of Veterinary Inspector*

4. The Veterinary inspector shall have power to:

(a) enter into any premises in which he reasonably believes that an article to which these regulations apply is manufactured, prepared, stored., preserved., packaged., dispensed, or marketed therein;

(b) examine any article in the premises to which these Regulations apply which he reasonably believes is used or its capable of being used for the manufacture, preparation, preservation, packaging, storage or sale of any such article;

(c) take sample or specimen of any article to which these Regulations apply, open and examine while in the premises and in the presence of the owner or his representative any container or package which he reasonably believes may have any article to which these Regulations apply;

- (d) examine any books, documents or other records found in the premises which he reasonably believes may contain information relevant to the enforcement of these Regulations and to make copies of the same;
- (e) seize and detain for such time as may be necessary any article by means of which he reasonably believes any provision of these Regulations has been contravened;
- (f) seize and detain for such time as may be necessary any article kept, displayed, sold or dispensed in any unauthorized premises or place;
- (g) seize and detain for such time as may be necessary any article he may reasonable grounds to suspect that such items are or likely to be unwholesome, impure, fake, expired, adulterated or banned;
- (h) inspect premises proposed for registration as veterinary practicing premises and make appropriate recommendations to the Committee; and
- (i) conduct periodic inspection on all categories of the premises with or without prior notice.

#### *Seizure of articles*

5. (1) Any article seized under these Regulations shall be kept or stored in such place as the Veterinary inspectors may direct.
- (2) Any such article seized under these Regulations may be submitted to an analyst for examination for the purpose of determining its chemical properties and content.
- (3) The analyst making such examination shall issue a report setting out the result of his findings on the article.
- (4) The Veterinary inspector shall on demand deliver a copy of the analyst's report to the owner of the article if it is a subject of proceedings under these Regulations.
- (5) If upon examination the article is found to conform with the requirements of these Regulations, the Veterinary inspector shall return it to the owner or the person from whom it was seized without paying any compensation.

#### *Duty of owner of veterinary Practicing Premises*

6. (1) The owner or person in charge of any premises where veterinary articles are kept, displayed, sold or dispensed (whether authorized or not), and every person found therein shall co-operate with and give all necessary assistance to Veterinary inspectors, including making available to such inspectors such information as may be required for the purpose of giving effect to these Regulations.
- (2) Any person who conducts business in any premises which, in the opinion of a Veterinary inspector, amounts to selling or dealing in veterinary drugs, wares, vaccines, agro-chemicals or veterinary devices (whether wholesale or retail) shall, on being required by the Inspector, state the name and other particulars of the owner of the business and produce all books, documents and other information as may be necessary for the purpose of verifying the nature and status of such business by the Inspector.

*Requirement for Registration of Veterinary Practicing Premises*

7. (1) (a) Personnel — All Veterinary or animal hospital, veterinary or animal clinic, veterinary pharmacy, ambulatory services or House call shall have a registered Veterinary Surgeon as the head of the medical team.

(b) A veterinary or animal hospital shall have the following facilities:

- (i) reception room;
- (ii) examination rooms or facilities for small and large animals;
- (iii) functional laboratory;
- (iv) sterilization room and facility;
- (v) small and large animal surgical theatre;
- (vi) avian clinic;
- (vii) hospitalization facility for all animal species;
- (viii) post mortem room;
- (ix) incineration or carcass disposal facility;
- (x) consulting rooms;
- (xi) facilities for aquatic practice (where applicable);
- (xii) hospital pharmacy;
- (xiii) store;
- (xiv) radiography;
- (xv) electro-cardiography; and
- (xvi) ultrasound.

(c) Conditions:

- (i) a Veterinary Surgeon shall be available 24 hours on service to attend to in-patients and out-patients, and such other staff as animal health technologists, laboratory attendants, cleaners, etc must be present round the clock to ensure continual veterinary care for patients;
- (ii) clinical standards must be maintained and improved by monitoring performance and outcome of treatment;
- (iii) quality range of facilities and equipment must be available at all times;

(iv) the standard of the premises and facilities must be examined periodically to ensure cleanliness and sterility; and

(v) a hospital shall satisfy the Council that it has met the diagnostic and hospitalization requirements specific to its type of practice as the type of care and facilities suitable to meet the needs of animals vary.

(2) To register a veterinary or animal clinic, the proprietor shall:

(a) a complement of staff headed by a Veterinary surgeon;

(b) provide 24 hour emergency services to patients either by the clinic itself or by an emergency house call provider affiliated to the clinic;

(c) have arrangement for taking care of patients kept overnight;

(d) have a system for monitoring the outcome of treatment;

(e) show on-going commitment to educating and training feedback;

(f) keep the premises clean and well maintained;

(g) have a policy for communicating with clients and obtaining feedback;

(h) ensure that clients are given estimates of the costs of treatments and that their consent is obtained before procedures are undertaken;

(i) have access to laboratory facility for diagnosis;

(j) meet legal and health safety requirements covering its premises, equipment, clients and employees;

(k) must establish a good referral system;

(l) must establish a good referral system; and

(m) a good record system.

(3) For the purpose of registration, the proprietor of an ambulatory services or house call shall have:

(a) a permanent communication base;

(b) a specific non-mobile area set aside for the storage of drugs and equipment, sterilization facility and other facilities for minor surgery;

(c) a record of Veterinary examination with procedures and confidentiality strictly maintained; and

(d) animal restraining equipment for the type of practice.

(4) To register a veterinary pharmacy, the applicant shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) a well-ventilated, air-conditioned room for display of drugs;
- (b) availability of compartmentalized drug shelves;
- (c) veterinary drugs, veterinary vaccines and biologics which require cold storage must be put in drug freezers and refrigerators;
- (d) a sworn and signed statement averring that only drugs, biologics and equipment for veterinary use will be kept and dispensed;
- (e) sanitary control shall be ensured at all time;
- (f) drugs on shelves shall have adequate labels and literature to guide users;
- (g) manufacture and expiry dates must be visible on the containers;
- (h) a special room or a drug box or cupboard for controlled veterinary drugs; and
- (i) a special room shall be provided for animal feeds.

*Application and approval procedures*

8. (1) An applicant requesting for registration of a premises shall obtain the Veterinary Practicing Premises Application Form from any office of the Council or office of the Director of Veterinary Services of each State or Head of Animal Health section of the Federal Capital Territory.

(2) The duly completed application form shall be submitted to the Council through the Committee accompanied by:

- (a) an application fee of ₦5,000.00 (five thousand Naira);
- (b) list of facilities and equipment of the proposed practice;
- (c) a copy of the certificate of registration of the Veterinary Surgeon(s) in charge and his/their current practicing license or certificates of any person in charge (for premises that does not need the presence of a veterinary surgeon); and
- (d) photocopy of the registration certificate of the company or business entity with the Corporate Affairs Commission or any other registration document acceptable to Council.

(3) A report of the inspection conducted to the proposed premises by the States Veterinary Practicing Premises Regulation Committee shall accompany the documents submitted by the applicant to the Council.

(4) The approval given by the Council shall relate to, and be used, only for the premises indicated on the application form, subject to review from time to time.

*Fees*

9. (1) The annual registration fees shall be as follows:

Veterinary animal hospital — ₦20,000.00;

Veterinary or animal clinic — ₦15,000.00;

Ambulatory services or House Call — ₦10,000.00;

Veterinary pharmacy — ₦20,000;

Animal hotel and Animal security outfit — ₦10,000

Abattoir (including slaughter house or slab — ₦20,000.00);

(2) The Council shall have power to review all fees stated in these Regulations from time to time.

*Interpretation*

10. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise appears:

"Ambulatory services or house call" means a veterinary practice that offers health care services to animals and its environment in places where animals are kept and managed including a private home, a livestock farm, a poultry, a zoological garden and fish pond;

"Animal hotel or animal boarding" means premises used for accommodation and feeding of animals on behalf of the owner for a fee;

"Article" includes any veterinary drug, veterinary device, agro chemicals or anything used in the manufacture, preparation, preservation, packaging and storing of any veterinary drug, agro chemicals or veterinary device and any labelling or advertising of material relating to or for use in with any veterinary drug or veterinary device, agro chemical;

"Prescribed officer" means a person duly authorized by the Council to perform a duty or exercise a power in relation to which the expression is used;

"Veterinary or animal clinic" means a veterinary practicing premises for rendering primary veterinary services for small animals, farm animals, equines or emergency veterinary services for sick animals but may not include hospitalization for animals undergoing treatment;

"Veterinary or animal hospital" means veterinary practicing premises which provides secondary or tertiary animal health services and which includes hospitalization for animals undergoing treatment;

"Veterinary day shop" means a premises where animal accessories such as collars, animal models, horse shoes, animal grooming and restraining equipment are sold;

"Veterinary Inspector" means a registered Veterinary Surgeon duly appointed by the Council as such under these Regulations;

"Veterinary pharmacy" means a building or premises designated for sale, procurement and dispensing veterinary drugs, veterinary vaccines, biologics, pet food agro-chemicals and veterinary medical equipment;

*Citation*

11. These Regulations may be cited as the Veterinary Practicing Premises Registration and Control Regulations, 2022.



SEVENTH SCHEDULE

[Section 15(4)]

POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS NIGERIA REGULATIONS, 2021

*Administrative organs of the College*

- 1.(1) The administrative and academic organs of the College shall consist of the Congregation, the Academic Board (therein after referred to as "the Board") and the Heads of Specialties or Faculties.
- (2) Provost and Deputy-Provost, who shall be elected at the first meeting of the Board after the election of the Board by the Congregation.
- (3) There shall be a College Secretary who shall be a fellow of the College and shall serve as the administrative officer of the College.
- (4) The tenure of the College Secretary shall be determined by the Council.
- (5) The Provost shall be responsible to the Council.

*The Congregation*

2. (1) The Congregation shall consist of all the Fellows of the College.
- (2) The Congregation shall meet every three years, provided that the Provost may with the approval of the President of Council, call an emergency meeting of the Congregation.
- (3) The Provost shall be the Chairman of the Congregation when he is present, and in his absence, the Deputy Provost shall be the Chairman of the meeting.
- (4) The quorum at a regular meeting of the Congregation shall be twenty, provided that at least three members from each specialty are present.

*Power of the Congregation*

3. The Congregation shall have power to:
  - (a) elect members of the Board;
  - (b) consider issues concerning the academic programme of the College or issues of importance to the Veterinary profession, livestock production and zoonoses control in Nigeria and make appropriate recommendations to the Board and the Council; and
  - (c) consider any other issue or item referred to the Congregation by the Board and the Council).

*Membership of the Board*

- 4.(1) The Board shall consists of:

(a) four members of each Specialty elected among their members at Congregation;

(b) the Provost and the Deputy provost who shall be elected by the members of the Board from among their members and who shall be of different Specialties/Faculties;

(c) a representative of each study center;

(d) the Registrar of the Council.

(2) Where a vacancy occurs among the representatives of the specialty as a result of the election of the Provost and Deputy Provost, resignation, expulsion of a member due to act of misconduct or death or incapacity of a member, the vacancy shall be filled:

(a) by the unsuccessful candidate at the previous specialty election of such representative who at the election received the higher number of votes and has not since become a representative of the specialty in the Board;  
or

(b) if two or more such candidates receive an equal number of votes, by the candidate, who first obtained the Fellowship Diploma qualification and if two or more obtained the qualification on the same date, by the candidate who has been registered longest on the register of Council and if two or more such candidates have been registered on the same date, by the candidate with the lowest (oldest) Veterinary Council of Nigeria number (VCN Number);

(c) if there were no unsuccessful candidates at that election, by a person elected from among members of the specialty at a special election congress organized by the Provost, provided that no such election need be held if an election of representatives of the specialty will take place within 12 months after the vacancy occurred.

(3) A person may be co-opted to provide information or make a special contribution to the meeting of the Board, but his presence shall not count towards satisfying the requirements of a quorum and he shall not have a voting right.

#### *Tenure of Office of the Academic Board and Officers of the College*

5. (1) The tenure of office of an elected member of the Board shall be three years and may be re-appointed for a final term of three years.

(2) An elected member of the Board may resign his membership of the Board, by way of notice in writing to the Provost.

(3) No person can serve as Provost, Deputy-Provost and Head of Specialty for more than two terms.

(4) Where a member of the Academic Board conducts himself in an unruly manner, the Provost shall have the power to suspend him from not more two sittings of the Board, provided that he may be restored after showing remorse otherwise his case shall be referred to the Veterinary Council Investigating Panel.

(5) The Board shall remove a member if such a member is found guilty of an act of misconduct by the Veterinary Council's Disciplinary Tribunal.

#### *Meetings of the Board*

6. (1) The President of Council shall inaugurate the first meeting of the Board after the election of members at Congregation and supervise the election of the Provost and Deputy Provost, and Heads of Specialties.

(2) The Board shall meet two times a year, provided the Provost may with the approval of the President of Council call emergency meeting of the Board.

(3) The quorum at a regular meeting of the Board shall be eight members, provided there is at least one member from each specialty.

(4) The Provost shall be the chairman at all meetings of the Academic Board and in his absence, the Deputy Provost shall chair the meeting.

(5) In the absence of the Provost and the Deputy-Provost, the Board shall appoint a Fellow to act until a new Provost is appointed.

#### *Powers of the Board*

7. (1) The Board shall have power to:

(a) accredit institutions as study centers for College training;

(b) conduct all the academic activities including de-centralized examinations in study centers and centralized examinations of the College;

(c) appoint invigilators for each decentralized examination from a different study center;

(d) appoint external examiners for Fellowship final examinations;

(e) set rules and conditions for each examination of the college;

(f) assign distinct colour codes to each academic Specialty or Faculty;

(g) discipline erring students or residents and further refer the case to Veterinary Council Investigation Panel;

(h) recommend erring resource persons to the Veterinary Council Investigating Panel and erring staff of the College to Staff Disciplinary Committee of the Council;

(i) organize annual convocation of the College in consultation with the Council;

(j) consider the award of Honorary Fellowship (Honoury causa) to deserving members of the public subject to a prior approval by Council; and

(k) carry out any activity referred to the Board and the Council or any other activities for the progress of the College with the approval of Council.

(2) The Board may set up Committees on finance, residents or student discipline and any other Committee as the Board may consider necessary.

(3) The Board shall be responsible to the Council.

*Specialties of the College*

8. (1) There shall be the following specialties that is to say:

(a) medicine;

(b) surgery;

(c) theriogenology;

(d) pathology;

(e) public health and preventive medicine;

(e) pathology; and

(f) any other specialty as may be approved by Council on the recommendation of the Board from time to time.

(2) Each specialty shall be headed by a Head who shall be elected by members belonging to that specialty.

(3) The Head of Specialty shall coordinate all the academic activities of the Specialty and report to the Board.

(4) There shall be an academic supervisor for each specialty in each study centre, who shall coordinate the activities at each study centre and report to the Head of Specialty.

*Convocation*

9. (1) The Convocation of the College shall be held every year.

(2) The Convocation shall:

(a) award Fellowship Diplomas to deserving residents;

(b) award prizes and recognition of Distinctions for deserving residents;

(c) award Honorary Fellowship to deserving individuals;

(d) award any other certificates of the College to deserving individuals;

(e) carry out the investiture of the Grand Patrons and Patrons of the College; and

(f) carry out any other activities as may be approved by the Council from time to time.

*Interpretation*

10. In these regulations, unless otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meaning hereby assigned to

them respectively, that is to say —

"Academic Board" means the Board of the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria;

"College" means the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria established by the Veterinary Surgeons Act;

"Provost" means Provost of the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria elected by the Board of the College;

"Resident" means student of the College;

"Specialty" means a specialized training field recognized for the award of fellowship or other types of certificate by the College; and

"Study Centre" means a University or Institution which has been accredited by the College to conduct academic activities of the College in one or more Specialties.

*Citation*

11. These regulation may be cited as the Postgraduate College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria Regulations, 2022

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

*[Section 16(4)]*

VETERINARY COUNCIL STAFF AND STUDENTS DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

*Members of the Staff Disciplinary Committee*

1. (1) There shall be established the Staff Disciplinary Committee of Council (hereafter in this Schedule referred to as "the Committee").
- (2) There shall be five members of the Committee of whom at least two shall be elected members of the Council.
- (3) The Council shall appoint one of the members as the Chairman.
- (4) The Registrar or his representative shall be the Secretary.
- (5) No staff having a case or an allegation before the Committee shall serve in the Committee, except as a witness.

*Powers of the Staff disciplinary committee*

2. (1) The Committee shall have power to:
  - (a) set or amend its regulations for its operations, but such regulations shall not be applied until they are approved by the Council;
  - (b) co-opt any person to assist the Committee in its investigation;

(c) invite any staff or other persons that may provide useful information on any matter, to witness before the Committee; and

(d) set up a panel consisting of three persons including at least two of its members to carry out specific investigation on any matter before it, but shall not include the head of department or unit of the staff on trial or the complainant in each case.

(2) Regulations made in section 1 (a) of this Schedule, need not be published in the Federal Gazette but the Registrar shall bring them to the notice of all staff in such manner as he may from time to time determine.

#### *Meetings of disciplinary committees*

3. (1) The Committee shall meet at least once in a year and as regularly as may be necessary to prevent delays of cases.

(2) The quorum of the Committee shall be three, of whom at least one shall be elected member of Council, provided that the presence of any co-opted person or anyone attending the meeting in attendance shall not count towards the constitution of a quorum.

#### *Disciplinary procedures*

4. (1) The Committee on receiving a report in accordance with Section 15(4) of the Principal Act shall:

(a) give notice of those allegations in writing to the person; and

(b) afford him reasonable opportunity to defend himself including an opportunity to make representations in writing and in person on the matter to the Committee.

(2) Any person on trial or appearing as a witness before the Committee shall testify on oath, to be administered by the Secretary.

(3) In a situation that a case against a person under suspension is not concluded within three months, the Committee may extend his suspension for a specified period.

(4) The decisions of the Committee shall be arrived at by consensus or through a positive vote by a simple majority of members present with the Chairman having a deciding vote in case of a tie.

(5) Each case before the Committee shall be considered on its own merit.

(6) The decision of the Committee shall not be faulted by reason of any vacancy in the membership of the committee.

#### *Disciplinary penalties*

5. (1) The Committee shall submit its report to Council which shall include observations on whether the person is guilty of the allegation against him or not and a clear determination of the appropriate punishment for the staff if he is confirmed to be guilty.

(2) The Committee upon concluding investigation and trial, may recommend to Council that the staff or student be acquitted if the allegations against him cannot be established

(3) In case the person is confirmed to be guilty, the Committee may recommend that the staff be subjected to one or more of these sanctions:

- (a) reprimanded in writing;
- (b) loss of annual increment or delay in promotion for a specified period;
- (c) interdicted;
- (d) surcharged;
- (e) loss of headship or other administrative position or responsibility;
- (f) deferment of confirmation of appointment;
- (g) disciplinary probation for a specified period;
- (h) demotion;
- (i) forced resignation (non-compliance leads to termination of appointment);
- (j) termination of appointment; or
- (k) dismissal.

(4) In all cases, disciplinary sanctions shall depend on the level of involvement, the gravity of the offence and the person's previous disciplinary records.

#### *Handling of special cases*

6. (1) For a good cause, any member of staff may be suspended from his duties for a specified period or his appointment may be terminated or he may be reprimanded or warned by the Registrar based on the recommendations of the Committee, and for the purposes of this section, "good cause" means:

- (a) a conviction for a criminal offence by a court of law which the Committee considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office; and
- (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Committee, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold office or take part in the activities of the Council.

(2) Where a staff is found guilty of embezzling funds belonging to the Council, a client or a union or an association recognized by the Council, the Registrar shall take steps to recover the amount from the salary or other emoluments of the staff in addition to other sanctions that the Committee may impose on him.

#### *Handling cases of criminal offence*

7. (1) Where a staff is suspected to have committed such criminal offence as rape, cultism, murder, vandalism, armed robbery, possession of fire arms, possession, use of or trafficking in hard drugs, arson, advanced fee fraud, the Registrar

shall report the case to the Police for investigation and possible prosecution in a Court of competent jurisdiction and inform the Council and the Committee.

(2) If he is convicted, the Council may terminate his appointment on the recommendation of the Committee.

*Implication of suspension of a staff*

8. (1) Any staff placed on suspension, interdiction or disciplinary probation by the Registrar or on the recommendation of the Committee shall be paid half of his monthly emolument during the period of his suspension, interdiction or disciplinary probation.

(2) Where a staff under trial is acquitted of the allegations against him or he is to be warned or reprimanded, his emoluments that was withheld during the period of his suspension shall be paid to him, but if he is retired from service or his appointment is terminated, he shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments that was withheld.

(3) Any staff facing the disciplinary procedure cannot be considered for promotion to the next grade until the case against him is disposed of by the Committee.

(4) In case of professional misconduct involving a staff who is a Veterinary surgeon or a Veterinary para-professional staff and where the veterinary ethics or ethics of any other professional body is suspected to be violated by the action or inaction of the staff, the Registrar shall hereafter forward the report to the Veterinary Council Investigating Panel for further sanctions.

*Appeal*

9. (1) The Registrar shall ensure that the letter(s) containing the decisions of the Committee are promptly communicated to the staff concerned as soon as reasonably practicable.

(2) In case a person is dissatisfied with the decisions of the Committee against him, he shall within a period of 21 days from the date of the letter communicating the decision, address a petition to the Council to reconsider his case.

(3) The decision of the Council on the matter shall be final.

*Interpretation*

10. (1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say:

"Examination misconduct" shall include any acts or inaction of any staff or student especially in around the examination hall or carried out in any other place which is considered to be inimical to the integrity of the examination process;

"indecent behaviour" shall include sexual gestures, drunkenness, indecent dressing, crossing the lawn, violation of environmental rules of the Council, and any other behaviour that the Committee may regard as indecent behaviour;

"misconduct" means a specific act of wrong doing or an improper behaviour which is inimical to the image of the service such as habitual lateness to work, delays in treating official records, failure to keep records, unauthorized removal of public records, dishonesty, negligence, insubordination, refusal to carry out assignment, disregard for the dress code of the Council, malingering and any action or inaction which the Committee may regard as a misconduct;

"scandalous conduct" means immoral behaviour, unruly behaviour, use of foul language, assault, battery, improper dressing, sleeping on duty, discourteous behaviour of the public, sexual harassment, hawking merchandise within



Council's premises, and any action or inaction which the Committee may regard as a scandalous conduct.

"serious misconduct" shall include a specific act of very serious wrongdoing such as absenteeism, general inefficiency, falsification or suppression or damage to records, absence from duty without leave, cultism, false claim against government official, engaging in partisan political activities, bankruptcy and serious financial embarrassment, unauthorised disclosure of official information, bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, advanced fee fraud and holding more than one full paid jobs, nepotism, divided loyalty, sabotage, cybercrime, willful damage to public property and any action or inaction which the Committee may regard as a serious misconduct;

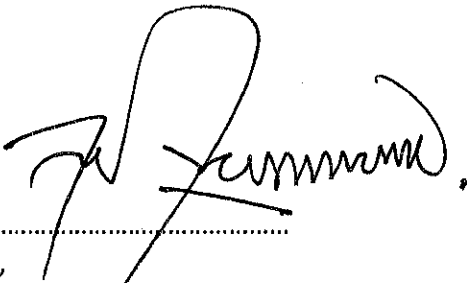
"unruly behaviour "means disorderly behaviour indicating lack of self-restraint especially on the premises of the Council.

(2) Such acts may include reckless driving, disturbance of peace, damage to Council or other persons' property, defacing public building or facilities, throwing missiles, fighting, pilfering, and other action or inaction which the Committee may regard as unruly behaviour.

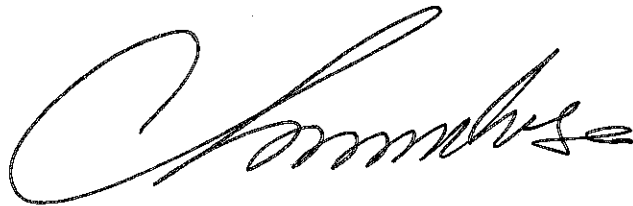
*Citation*

11. These Regulations may be cited as the Veterinary Council Staff Disciplinary Procedures, 2022.

**THIS BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022**



.....  
President,  
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



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Clerk,  
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria