

VETFLASH!

Dear Member,

Following substantial interaction and engagement with government and ultimately the Legal and Regulatory workstream of the NATJOINTS we received formal clarification surrounding Animal Care as an essential service, where animal grooming is specifically mentioned.

As per our previous communication, SAVA's position that medically and welfare indicated grooming is an essential service has been confirmed. This was done through an email sent by Brigadier JA Van der Walt, Section Head: Operational Legal Support on the 22nd of May 2020. We do not know if there will be further communication (in terms of amendment of Regulations). If we receive same, we will be sure to communicate this with you.

For the purposes of the length of this VetFlash, I duplicate excerpts from the mail here. However, I also attach the mail in its entirety – the reason is that we appreciate that some members may be approached by law enforcement in this regard, and they may not have had sight of the clarification as yet. Use this e-mail to show law enforcement officers that may challenge the functioning of grooming services.

Excerpts from mail:

*"The matter was discussed this afternoon in the Legal and Regulatory Workstream and it was agreed that pet grooming services is an essential service **to the extent that the service is rendered for animal medical, health or welfare purposes and not for cosmetic purposes.**"*

*When the above provisions of regulation 16(1),(2) is read within the context of Item 11, Par B, Annexure D (Animal Care and Veterinary Services) it becomes clear that the care of animals is indeed a permitted service **provided that the service is rendered for medical, health or welfare purposes and not for cosmetic purposes.**"*

SAVA supports the clarification provided and kindly request SAVA members and non-SAVA members to ensure that any service rendered to animals must be justifiable from a medical, health or welfare perspective.

It is appropriate in this regard to thank a number of people that assisted in this coordinated effort from various angles to ensure that the health and welfare of animals are not compromised:

Dr Mike Modisane (Chief Veterinary Officer, DALRRD), Dina-Marie Stoltz (Acting Registrar, SA Veterinary Council), SAVA Board of Directors, Dr Quixi Sonntag (Animal Ethics and Welfare Committee, SAVA), Dr Katje Bier (SAVA member) and Ms Roeleen Bloemhof (Chairperson of the National Pet Groomers Association of South Africa) and all members and non-members that provided us with information that allowed us to successfully petition government.

Best regards,
Gert Steyn
Managing Director

