

**{To various recipients, including DALRRD, SAVA, SAVC, NPGSA,SAPS}, 22 May 2020, 18:43.**

The NPGASA letter to the NCC, SAPS, SANDF and the DTIC dated 19 May 2020 refers as well as subsequent communications per email. I also had the privilege of speaking to Dr Modisane telephonically and I wish to thank him for his time.

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.**

The reasoning is as follows: The COVID-19 regulations state the following:

***Operation of economic sectors***

*28. (1) Businesses and other entities as set out in Table 1 may commence operations.*

The relevant part of Table 1 to the regulations (referred to as the “COVID-19 regulations) provides as follows:

***PART P HEALTH, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES***

*1. Medical and veterinary services permitted.*

It is clear from Item 1 that “veterinary services” must be read in its context – in other words together with the phrase “medical services”. The ordinary meaning of “veterinary” means activities related to the diseases, injuries, and treatment of farm and domestic animals. Pet grooming services for cosmetic reasons obviously do not fall within the ambit of veterinary services for purposes of the COVID-19 regulations.

We further take note of the following [our underlining]:

***Movement of persons***

*16. (1) Every person is confined to his or her place of residence.*

*(2) A person may only leave their place of residence to-*

*(a) perform an essential or permitted service, as allowed in Alert Level 4;*

*(b)...(c)...*

*(d) obtain services that are allowed to operate as set out in Table 1 to the Regulations;*

*(e)...(f)...*

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.**

My office will, as soon as the opportunity arises, disseminate this to our SAPS members on ground level.

Kind regards

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