

# SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

## High Standard Veterinary Practice



## THE SETTING OF VETERINARY FEES IN SOUTH AFRICA

- All veterinarians who render veterinary services in South Africa must be registered with the South African Veterinary Council [SAVC].
- The SAVC publishes an annual Guideline of Tariffs for practising veterinarians.
- The guideline is available on the website of the SAVC at: [www.savc.org.za](http://www.savc.org.za)
- The SAVC recognises that, especially in a diverse country such as South Africa, there are a wide range of services rendered by veterinarians, therefore the guideline is primarily to assist veterinarians in setting a fair fee, taking into consideration the geographical distribution, clientele and economic environment in their area of practice.
- South Africa has strict anti-collusion legislation, the guideline is therefore only a guideline and is in no way anti-competitive.
- It is very important for clients to request an estimate of costs prior to procedures being carried out on their pets.
- The client and the veterinarian need to regularly discuss updates on costing when treatment is prolonged, as circumstances may change in dealing with cases which may result in costs increasing unexpectedly.
- Clients expecting their pets to be treated with the latest and most modern technology, and by highly skilled staff should take cognisance of the costs thereof.
- Veterinarians are not allowed to lower prices primarily as a means of procuring clients, this is regarded as touting.
- Written estimates agreed to and signed by clients serve a useful purpose in ensuring that no confusion arises regarding costs after the animal has been treated.
- The minimum duty expected from a veterinarian in dealing with emergencies is the treatment of pain and shock as a matter of urgency and relieving the patient from its suffering. The client is ultimately still liable for the costs incurred with this treatment.