



Policy on Specialist Registration

1 Legislation

The Veterinarians Act provides that

- 7 Entitlement to registration as specialist
- (1) The Council may, by notice in the Gazette, —
 - (a) designate any branch of veterinary science as a branch in respect of which a veterinarian may practise as a specialist;
 - (b) amend or revoke any notice under paragraph (a).
 - (2) A veterinarian, on payment of the prescribed fee, is entitled to be registered as a specialist if the veterinarian satisfies the Council that, in relation to the branch of veterinary science in respect of which he or she seeks to be registered as a specialist, he or she —
 - (a) is appropriately qualified; and
 - (b) has had sufficient training and experience to justify practising as a specialist in that branch of veterinary science.

2 Rationale and Purpose

Registered veterinary specialists are those with higher qualifications and skill levels in a particular branch of veterinary medicine who have undergone recognised advanced and supervised training and passed recognised specialist examinations.

Under section 33 of the Act, only registered specialists may claim specialist status.

The Council introduced specialist registration to ensure that the public has access to advanced veterinary expertise. Veterinarians who wish to be registered as specialists must meet the requirements Council has defined in relation to qualifications, experience and training before specialist registration will be granted.

Council has issued by NZ Gazette Notice the branches of veterinary practice Council has approved for specialist status.

3 Procedures and Guidelines

New Zealand specialist registration is part of an Australasian initiative, which enables New Zealand specialists to be automatically registered as Australian specialists under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition provisions (and vice versa and provided the applicant satisfies the legal requirements of the local registration authority)

To ensure harmonisation of specialist registration standards all applicants for specialist registration in New Zealand and Australia have their qualifications, training and experience assessed by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) Advisory Committee on Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS). ACRVS

undertakes this role on behalf of the eight Australian veterinary Boards and the Veterinary Council of New Zealand. The Council is represented on ACRVS.

ACRVS assesses the qualifications and experience of the applicant concerned and makes a recommendation to the Council as to whether registration should be granted.

Specialist registration applicants, on receipt of the ACRVS assessment, are required to make a separate application to the Veterinary Council for specialist registration.

The Council has delegated the power to approve specialist registration applications to the Registration Committee subject to report back to the next Council meeting and any debatable applications or recommendations to decline being referred to Council.

Only Council has the power to decline specialist registration applications.

Refer to the flowchart below for further detail on the process.

4 Specialist Practices

Unless all veterinary practitioners working out of a practice are registered veterinary specialists or are undergoing a recognised specialist training programme under the direct supervision of a registered veterinary specialist, the trading name of the practice may not contain the word 'specialist' or an derivation of it. Such a practice may for instance be designated a Referral Centre.

5 Specialist registration flowchart

