



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 specialists to be registered as 'Australasian specialists' provided the applicant satisfies the legal requirements of the local registration authority.

The Council refers applications for specialist registration to the AVBC Advisory Committee on Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS), on which New Zealand is represented. This committee assesses the qualifications and experience of the applicant concerned and makes a recommendation to the Council as to whether registration should be granted. 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.

4 Specialist registration flowchart

