

AVBC ATTRIBUTES OF VETERINARY GRADUATES

(Annex 5, AVBC Accreditation Standards)

ESSENTIAL COMPETENCES REQUIRED OF VETERINARIANS

Attributes relating to knowledge and understanding

Graduates will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Scientific method at a level adequate to provide a rational basis for present veterinary practice, and to assimilate the advances in knowledge which will occur over their working life;
- The normal structure, function and development of animals, their interactions with their environment and the factors which may disturb these;
- The underlying basis of health and disease in a broad range of species;
- Fundamental clinical skills in a broad range of species;
- The principles of epidemiology, of diseases and zoonoses and their impacts on the environment;
- Public health and food safety;
- Economically and environmentally sustainable animal production systems;
- The veterinary legislative environment.

ATTRIBUTES RELATING TO SKILLS

Graduates will have developed the following skills:

- The ability to acquire information from and about clients and perform and record a clinical examination of their animals and to store and retrieve such information;
- To collect, organise and analyse information in relation to specific problems, assessing its validity and reaching probabilistic judgements;
- To perform basic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures;
- To work and communicate effectively and empathetically with colleagues and clients through a range of media with compassion, courtesy, respect, honesty and without discrimination;
- An ability to perform effectively in a workplace including an understanding of organisational systems, human and physical resource management, performance indicators, occupational health and safety, knowledge management and quality control;
- Self-management and group leadership.

ATTRIBUTES RELATING TO ATTITUDES AS THEY AFFECT PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

During their veterinary education, students should acquire the professional standards which are outlined in professional codes of conduct and the following attitudes which are regarded as fundamental to veterinary practice:

- An appreciation of the complexity of ethical issues, the diversity of stakeholder perspectives and the range of cultural values;
- A desire to promote animal welfare;
- An awareness of the need to communicate with clients and to involve them fully in planning and management;
- An ability to recognise when a clinical problem exceeds their capacity to deal with it safely and efficiently and of the need to refer the case for help from others when this occurs;
- A willingness to work effectively in a team with other relevant professionals;
- A recognition that it is not always in the interests of clients to do everything that is technically possible to make a precise diagnosis or attempt to modify the course of a disease;
- Recognition of the critical role of veterinarians in biosecurity and in the management of veterinary issues that have national and international implications.