



# Veterinary Defence Association South Africa

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## APPLICATION FOR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

[PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS]

<b>First Names:</b>	_____	<b>Last Name:</b>	_____
<b>Preferred Name:</b>	_____	<b>ID Number:</b>	_____
<b>Phone (H):</b>	_____	<b>Phone (W):</b>	_____
<b>Cell phone:</b>	_____	<b>Fax:</b>	_____
<b>Email:</b>	_____		
<b>Address:</b>	_____		
	_____		
<b>Postal address (if different):</b>	_____		
<b>Year you will graduate:</b>	_____	<b>Qualification:</b>	_____

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for VDA membership and agree to the following terms and conditions, as amended:

1. The VDA material that will be supplied to me during the period of my membership is strictly copyrighted and I agree not to copy or disseminate this material in any manner for any purpose. I agree to destroy or delete all of this material upon termination of my VDA membership.
2. I understand that it is recommended that, once I graduate, I should remain a VDA member for the duration of my career as a practising veterinarian and that I should continue run-off protection and general liability insurance cover for at least three years after I retire.
3. In the event of a dispute with the VDC, VDA, and their directors, consultants, staff, agents or representatives ('the organisation'), I agree to use the organisation's alternate dispute resolution procedures. I hereby absolve the organisation from all actions arising, directly or indirectly, from my membership.
4. I understand that student membership is free and provides me with advice and guidance as well as regular newsletters only. It does not provide me with cover for complaints, claims, awards, judgments, fines or penalties made against me. [Cover is provided only with full VDA membership].
5. I understand that the VDA communicates with its members only by e-mail and on its website at [www.veterinary-defence-association.org](http://www.veterinary-defence-association.org) and that the onus is on me to receive, read, implement and abide by the contents thereof, and to notify the VDA of any changes to my email address and other contact details. I will receive communications at the following *personal and private* email address:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Where did you hear about the VDA?

- From another student       On the web, via search engine       On a web search using the VDA web address
- Through the \_\_\_\_\_ veterinary organisation       At a VDA presentation for students
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Office Use Only		
Membership No.	SA	Date received:
Referrer :		Assigned Consultant:

### *Congratulations on joining the VDA family!*

You have become a member of an elite club within the veterinary profession whose common interest is the protection of veterinarians in private veterinary practice in South Africa and internationally. The VDA is a mutual non-profit professional defence association of veterinarians that operates for veterinarians, is owned and run by veterinarians and is dedicated to safeguarding your interests and to protecting you and your practice from the financial and psychological stress and damage caused by disputes and litigation.

The mission of the VDA is to protect the professional integrity and reputation of its members. The VDA achieves this by providing basic defence services to its student members and a complete bouquet of protection and defence services to its post-graduate members. This includes:

- Immediate assistance and guidance with problems, disputes and practice management issues provided by the VDA's trained veterinary Consultants.
- Alternate Dispute Resolution with aggrieved clients.
- Complete defence in SAVC disciplinary proceedings (veterinary licence defence), malpractice lawsuits and in any other administrative tribunal, consumer tribunal or any other legal or statutory forum.
- Claims Prevention measures, including consent forms, model certificates and VDA Bulletins detailing protocols on best practice.
- VDA discretionary reserve fund cover, which pays civil claims and costs for proven negligence and will cover costs for the defence of SAVC license defence.
- Accreditation of VDA member veterinary practices.
- Representation of members' interests in legislation affecting the veterinary profession.
- Access to a psychology counsellor for members who experience anxiety, stress, depression, burn-out or have suicidal feelings.
- Regular newsletters distributed via e-mail and published on our website at [www.veterinary-defence-association.org](http://www.veterinary-defence-association.org) (click the 'VDA News' dropdown menu on the Home page and then the 'Barks'n Bytes' tab).