

The Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Paraprofessionals Act (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023

1. Amend Section 8. (1) The Council shall be appointed by the Cabinet Secretary and shall consist of—

Sno.	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Justification
1	(a) the Director of Veterinary Services who shall be the Chairperson	New (a) a chairperson who shall be a registered veterinary surgeon with at least fifteen years post-qualification experience, appointed by the President;	The Chairman was the Director of Veterinary Services (DVS) which is against government policy where state corporations are led by outsiders to inject diversity. On governance the DVS is expected to chair a board where his/her boss the Principal Secretary is a member. Further the DVS conducts clinical trials of medicines to be approved by the VMD creating a conflict of interest if he/she is in a position of influence.
2	(b) the Registrar of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board;	New (b) Replace with the Director of Veterinary Services	Removal of the Registrar of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board is informed by the very low number of pharmacists who have sought licences to open veterinary pharmacies. This position can be reviewed if there's growth in the number of pharmacists applying to register veterinary pharmacists.
3	(f) three veterinary surgeons nominated by the Kenya Veterinary Board	New (f) deleting the word "three" appearing in clause (f) and substituting therefor the word "two"	Reduction of veterinary surgeons from three to two since the Chairperson appointed by the President occupies the third slot.
4	(h) the Chief Executive Officer of the Directorate who shall be the Secretary to the Council and shall be an ex-officio member	Create new (h) one livestock farmer who is neither a veterinary surgeon nor a veterinary paraprofessional, who shall be appointed by the Cabinet Secretary	Inclusion of a livestock farmer who is a consumer of the services of VMD in the Council is international good practice and governance.
5	New clause (i)	the Chief Executive Officer of the Directorate who shall be the Secretary to the Council and shall be an ex-officio member	New numbering

2. Amendment of Regulation 13

Sno.	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Justification
1	(4) The Chief Executive Officer shall hold office for a term of five years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term	(4) The chief executive officer shall hold office for a term of three years and may be eligible for reappointment for a single further term, subject to satisfactory performance.	Shortening the tenure of service of the Chief Executive Officer from 5 to 3 years renewable once is good governance so that one has a chance to deliver and not be a stumbling block. This is the policy across most state corporations.