

24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Circular Ref: VMU-VRD Ref: 01/2023**

*To all veterinary pharmacies, veterinary wholesale distributors, veterinary surgeons, medicated feed business operators, manufacturers of veterinary medicinal products*

## **Re. Licensing of Veterinary Pharmacies in Chapter 437, The Veterinary Services Act, as amendments by ACT No. XIV.**

Legislative amendments in Chapter 437, The Veterinary Services Act, were approved by Parliament. The amendments were made through ACT No. XIV, published on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and in force since 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The ultimate aim of the update in the legislation is to provide a modern legal framework that permits better control of veterinary medicinal product. This could be found here <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/437/eng>

An important change is the introduction of Articles 62 to 70 about the licencing of Veterinary Pharmacies.

Previously, these establishments were unregulated. With the introduction of these Articles there are now a number of requirements that operators must abide with before starting operating. To mention just a few of the most important ones: licence to operate a veterinary pharmacy must be issued by the Veterinary Services after an inspection, a managing pharmacist shall be professionally responsible for all activities, transfer of a veterinary pharmacy shall be authorised only by the veterinary services, the veterinary pharmacy cannot be close unless a 24 hours notice is given to the Veterinary Services and a veterinary pharmacy which remained closed for a period of 5 consecutive days without authorisation will have its licence revoked.

In case of infringement the provision of Article 57 (1) will apply. This says that if a person contravenes any provision of the Act (including Articles 62 to 70 on Veterinary Pharmacies) he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of not more than 11,646.87 Euro.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Spiteri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Spiteri  
Senior Principal Pharmacist  
Veterinary Medicines Unit (VMU)  
f/ Director Veterinary Regulation Directorate