I assent.

(L.S.) **MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO**
President

3rd December, 2024

ACT No. XXXVII of 2024

AN ACT to amend various laws related to veterinary services and animal welfare.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. The short title of this Act is the Various Laws related to Veterinary Services and Animal Welfare (Amendment) Act, 2024. Short title.

PART I
AMENDMENTS TO THE VETERINARY SERVICES ACT

2. This Part amends the Veterinary Services Act and it shall be read and construed as one with the Veterinary Services Act, hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "principal Act". Amendments to the Veterinary Services Act. Cap. 437.

3. In article 25 of the principal Act, in the Maltese version only, the words ", wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kap tal-Laboratorju Veterinarju Nazzjonali," shall be deleted. Amendment of article 25 of the principal Act.

4. In article 26 of the principal Act, in the Maltese version only, the words ", wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kap tal-Laboratorju Veterinarju Nazzjonali," shall be deleted. Amendment of article 26 of the principal Act.

Amendment of article 27 of the principal Act.

5. In article 27 of the principal Act, in the Maltese version only, the words ", wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kap tal-Laboratorju Veterinarju Nazzjonali," shall be deleted.

Amendment of article 43 of the principal Act.

6. Article 43 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(1) sub-article (5) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-article:

Cap. 451. S.L. 451.03.

"(5) Without prejudice to sub-articles (2) and (3), and in accordance with the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act and the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Regulations, a person may provide veterinary services in Malta, on a temporary and occasional basis, provided that he is legally established in another Member State for the purpose of pursuing the profession of a veterinary surgeon in such Member State.";

(2) sub-article (6) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(a) paragraph (a) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) in sub-paragraph (iii) thereof the words "and of his practice during the preceding ten years" shall be deleted;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (iv) thereof the words "as it may be applicable;" shall be substituted by the words "as it may be applicable."; and

(iii) sub-paragraph (v) thereof shall be deleted; and

(b) sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) of paragraph (b) thereof shall be deleted;

(3) in paragraph (a) of sub-article (6A) thereof the words "of languages necessary for practising the profession in Malta" shall be substituted by the words "of either the Maltese language or the English language"; and

(4) sub-article (7) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph (a) thereof the words "approved for the provision of" shall be substituted by the word "providing"; and

(b) in paragraph (b) thereof the words "during that year:" shall be substituted by the words "during that year." and the proviso thereof shall be deleted.

PART II
AMENDMENT TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

Amendment to the Animal Welfare Act. Cap. 439.

7. This Part amends the Animal Welfare Act and it shall be read and construed as one with the Animal Welfare Act, hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "principal Act".

Amendment of article 45 of the principal Act.

8. Sub-article (1) of article 45 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in the first proviso thereof immediately after the words "as the Court may determine" there shall be added the words "and shall order the Registrar of the Criminal Courts and Tribunals to notify the Commissioner with the judgement imposing such prohibition"; and

(b) in the second proviso thereof immediately after the words "becomes *res judicata*" there shall be added the words "and shall order the Registrar of the Criminal Courts and Tribunals to notify the Commissioner with the decree imposing such prohibition".

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 289 of the 27th November, 2024.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Clerk of the House of Representatives

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