
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**NO. 1062****06 NOVEMBER 2015****Draft Veterinary Strategy and the accompanying Strategic Implementation Plans in South Africa**

I, Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby

- (a) invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments on the draft Veterinary strategy and the accompanying strategic implementation plans, and to do so within 30 days from the date of publication of this Public Consultation Notice to the following address:

The Chief Director
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- (b) The above-mentioned Draft Veterinary Strategy and the accompanying Strategic Implementation Plans will be made available on the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za) for public viewing, at the following route: Branches → Agricultural Production, Health & Food Safety → Animal Health → Draft Veterinary Strategy

MR. SENZENI ZOKWANA

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE:
DRAFT VETERINARY STRATEGY AND THE ACCOMPANYING STRATEGIC
IMPLEMENTATION PLANS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Livestock production in South Africa is a fundamental element of socio-economic development and significant contributor to food security and food sovereignty. Veterinary Services play a key role in ensuring that the sanitary requirements for livestock production, health and trade are effective and efficient and that the food and other products produced from animals are safe for use.

Over the years, new challenges have emerged as diseases which were unknown a decade ago have appeared –EBOLA is an example – while others, such as foot and mouth disease and avian flu, have recently presented new challenges, reminding us that they remain very serious risks.

Trading conditions have also changed radically with the volume of trade in animal products increasing greatly, both within South Africa and internationally. It is important that the State provides national leadership to ensure that South Africa's veterinary services is positioned effectively to protect the ecosystem, animal and human health and ensure economic growth and wealth generation.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is pleased to present its proposal for a Veterinary Strategy to improve the performance of Veterinary Services in South Africa based on internal and external evaluation results including that of the World Organisation for Animal Health (Office international des Epizooties – OIE) and the stakeholder consultation on the animal diseases management plan among others. The current veterinary strategy has been developed with the mission “to ensure that human and animal wellbeing is optimized to strengthen the internal market and the competitiveness of the livestock sector value chain.

The proposed veterinary strategy provides a broad framework for the fulfillment of the national and provincial Departments of Agriculture's responsibilities to guarantee citizens of South Africa “the right to have access to sufficient and safe food of animal origin” and that “the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights”. The strategy therefore aligns itself with the New Growth Path (NGP), the National Development Plan (NDP) and Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) through the Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP) which seeks to assist in the achievement of decent employment through inclusive growth, and comprehensive rural development and food security.

The proposed veterinary strategy is accompanied by the animal diseases management plan, PVS Report, PVS Gap Analysis Report and Strategic implementation plans to the veterinary strategy namely:

1. Veterinary Public Health strategic implementation plan to the Veterinary Strategy
2. Animal Welfare strategic implementation plan to the Veterinary Strategy

3. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories strategic implementation plan to the Veterinary Strategy
4. Draft Policy for Animal Identification and value chain traceability in South Africa
5. Draft Community Animal Health Care Strategy
6. Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy Framework 2014-2024
7. Animal Welfare Strategic Implementation Plan to the Veterinary Strategy

This notice serves to invite comments on the Veterinary Strategy and the attached strategic implementation plans documents for a period of two (2) calendar months from the date of publication of this notice and or loading of the respective document on the website.

Copies of the documents may be obtained on request from the Chief Director: Animal Health and Production or alternately can be accessed on the DAFF website.

Public Consultation Workshops have been scheduled at the following dates:

Gauteng (Venue tbc) 18-22 January 2016

Activities: Day 1 & 2 (18-19/01/2016):

Food and Feed Safety

Control of the use and distribution of Veterinary Medicines and Substances in South Africa

Residue control and monitoring

Laboratory approval for Food Safety and Zoonosis analysis

Animal Welfare at Slaughter

Day 3 & 4 (20-21/01/2015):

Animal Welfare

Disease control and Surveillance

Authorization of Private Veterinarians

Veterinary Diagnostic laboratories

Day 5 (22/01/2015): Animal Identification and Access to markets

Free State (Glen Collage): 9-11 February 2016

Activities: Day 1 (9/02/2016):

Food and Feed Safety

Control of the use and distribution of Veterinary Medicines and Substances in South Africa

Residue control and monitoring

Laboratory approval for Food Safety and Zoonosis analysis

Animal Welfare at Slaughter

Day 2 (10/02/2015):

Animal Welfare

Disease control and Surveillance

Authorization of Private Veterinarians

Veterinary Diagnostic laboratories

Day 3 (11/02/2015): Animal Identification and Access to markets

Western Cape (Eisenburg) 16-18 February 2016

Activities: Day 1 (16/02/2016):

Food and Feed Safety

Control of the use and distribution of Veterinary Medicines and Substances in South Africa

Residue control and monitoring

Laboratory approval for Food Safety and Zoonosis analysis

Animal Welfare at Slaughter

Day 2 (17/02/2015):

Animal Welfare

Disease control and Surveillance

Authorization of Private Veterinarians

Veterinary Diagnostic laboratories

Day 3 (18/02/2015): Animal Identification and Access to markets