



## Agriculture & Rural Development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



AgriCentre Building

Cnr. Dr. James Moroka and  
Stadium Rd

Private Bag X2039, Mmabatho 2735

### CHIEF DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Tel: +27 (18) 389 5719/5684

Fax: +27(18) 384 4571

E-mail: [Esetlhako@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:Esetlhako@nwpg.gov.za)

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Att : ALL EDITORS**

**Media Houses**

**Date: Tuesday, 08 October 2019**

### DEPARTMENT DELIVERS ON ITS PROMISE OF EFFECTIVE ANIMAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

**OTTOSDAL**-Pet owners in and around Ottosdal area brought their animals for free rabies vaccinations as part of a month long departmental rabies campaign aimed at extending services to communities.

The month of September has been declared as Rabies month by the OIE- World Organization for Animal Health which is the international body of disease control worldwide. Statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that in spite of all the knowledge and technology the world knows, rabies still continues to kill more than 55 000 people every year around the world.

Deputy Director Animal Health in Ngaka Modiri Molema District, Dr Simon Mosenogi said that it was important to vaccinate pets, especially cats and dogs annually as a means to effectively preventing the contraction of rabies in animals and the spread thereof. This is a potentially fatal disease if left untreated and humans can easily contract rabies as they are in close contact with their pets.

"We appreciate our communities for taking precautionary measures and heeding the call to vaccinate their pets annually. This year (2019) marks the highest number of pets that we have vaccinated in a day which is 1305 dogs and 29 cats. Pet owners in the North West are continuously being reminded and educated about the importance of vaccinations which can be done at the department's State Veterinary Offices for free throughout the year," said Dr Mosenogi.

In addition to the rabies vaccination, Provincial Veterinaries and Animal Health Technicians de-wormed the animals in partnership with the National Department of Agriculture and the North West University technical students. Jacob Mohepadira from Letsopa Township has been a dog owner for 2 years and said

that he had been using state veterinary services from 2017 and is grateful for the efforts made by the North West to extend services to those that are unable to access vaccinations closer to their areas.

Florence Fortuin who also had her two dogs vaccinated on the day applauded the department for continuously raising awareness about the disease. Fortuin said, "I have been a dog owner for eight years and every year I have been able to access vaccinations within Letsopa Township. These services give me peace of mind because I have young children who play with dogs and can be easily exposed to any kind of viruses which dogs contract".

Rabies is caused by a virus that affects the nervous system of the affected animal. It is caused when the virus enters the body from saliva of infected animals through a bite wound.

The exposure may include bites, but it is important to note that small nicks that break the skin or even licks of the eyes, nose and mouth are regarded as exposure.

The clinical signs that are expected in a positive rabies case are signs related to the dysfunctional nervous system. They are classified either as "dumb form" or "aggressive form". In the dumb form, these animals show signs of lethargy and progress to facial paralysis. In the aggressive form they show signs of extreme aggression and as they get paralysed in the face, they tend to produce a lot of saliva. Some animals may simply show hindquarter paralysis.

Experts say human beings are extremely susceptible to rabies. The spill of rabies into humans usually starts from the wild animals (Sylvatic rabies). Wild rabies is transmitted to the domestic animals like dogs and cats. Once infected, they show aggression and tend to bite anything including humans. In that way humans tend to get it. Once a human being contracts rabies, it becomes a dead end host, like most of our herbivorous animals because they cannot transmit it to others by biting but they die.

Since the beginning of this year (2019), North West Province alone has reported at least eighteen (18) cases of Rabies. Eight of these outbreaks occurred in the Bojanala Platinum District. In Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Districts there were (4) four outbreaks recorded for each, while Dr Kenneth Kaunda District recorded two (2) outbreaks.

To curb this, officials from the Department are constantly embarking on activities across the province to educate and bring awareness to communities on the importance of vaccinating pets and why it is important to neuter or spay pets.

Earlier this year, MEC Desbo Mohono assured communities of North West Province that her department will continue to ensure that all threats to animal health are detected early and dealt with decisively.

Community members are further advised to report any suspicious symptoms of rabies to any local state vet offices and health facilities in the province. For more information, community members can contact their nearest State Veterinary Services Office or call any of the following offices for further investigation and laboratory confirmation.

**NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT**

Mahikeng State Vet Office : 018 381 3449,  
Ratlou State Vet Office : 018 336 1121  
Tswaing State Vet Office : 053 948 1188  
Ditsobotla State Vet Office : 018 632 4061  
Ramotshere State Vet Office : 018 363 3144

**BOJANALA DISTRICT**

Madibeng State Vet Office: 012 709 1108  
Moretele State Vet Office: 012 714 3914  
Moses kotane State Vet Office: 014 555 6023  
Rustenburg State Vet Office: 014 592 9281/2  
Kgetleng State Vet Office: 014 544 0607

**DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT**

Klerksdorp State Vet Office : 018 468 6955  
Potchefstroom State Vet Office: 018 294 5378  
Ventersdorp State Vet Office : 018 264 3159  
Wolmaranstad State Vet Office: 018 596 3094

**DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOMPATI**

Molopo State Vet Office : 053 937 0047  
Kagisano State Vet Office : 053 998 3528  
Naledi State Vet Office : 053 927 2274  
Mamusa State Vet Office : 053 963 1140  
Lekwa teemane State Vet Office: 053 433 1415  
Greater Taung State Vet Office: 053 994 2238

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**Issued by the Communication Services Directorate**

**Enquiries: Ms Emelda Setlhako**

**Tel: 018 389 5684**

**Cell: 060 745 4020**

**Email: [ESetlhako@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:ESetlhako@nwpg.gov.za)**

**Website: [www.nwpg.gov.za/Agriculture](http://www.nwpg.gov.za/Agriculture)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dard](http://www.facebook.com/dard)**

**Twitter: @nwpg\_dard**