

Role of Veterinary Para-Professional in Africa

13 October 2015

SOUTH AFRICAN TESTIMONY
DR S MBIZENI - 13 OCTOBER 2015



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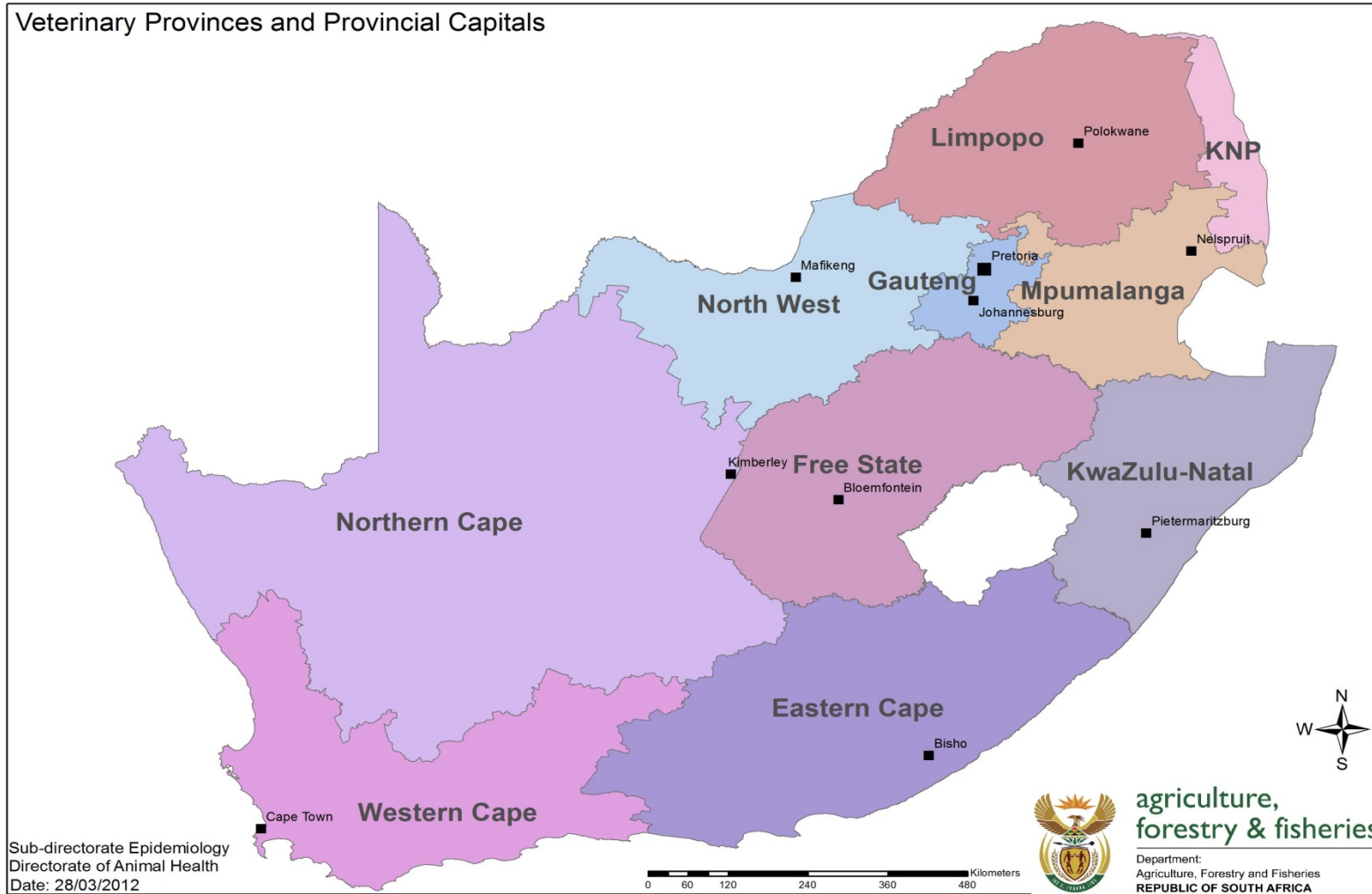
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Introduction

- **South Africa, is a country located at the tip of Africa:**
 - Divided into nine provinces; Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and Free State
- Neighbouring countries:
 - North western to eastern boundary; Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland.
 - Surrounded; Lesotho.
- Multi-ethnic nation with diverse culture and languages.
- 11 official languages though English is predominantly used for official communication.



South African Provinces



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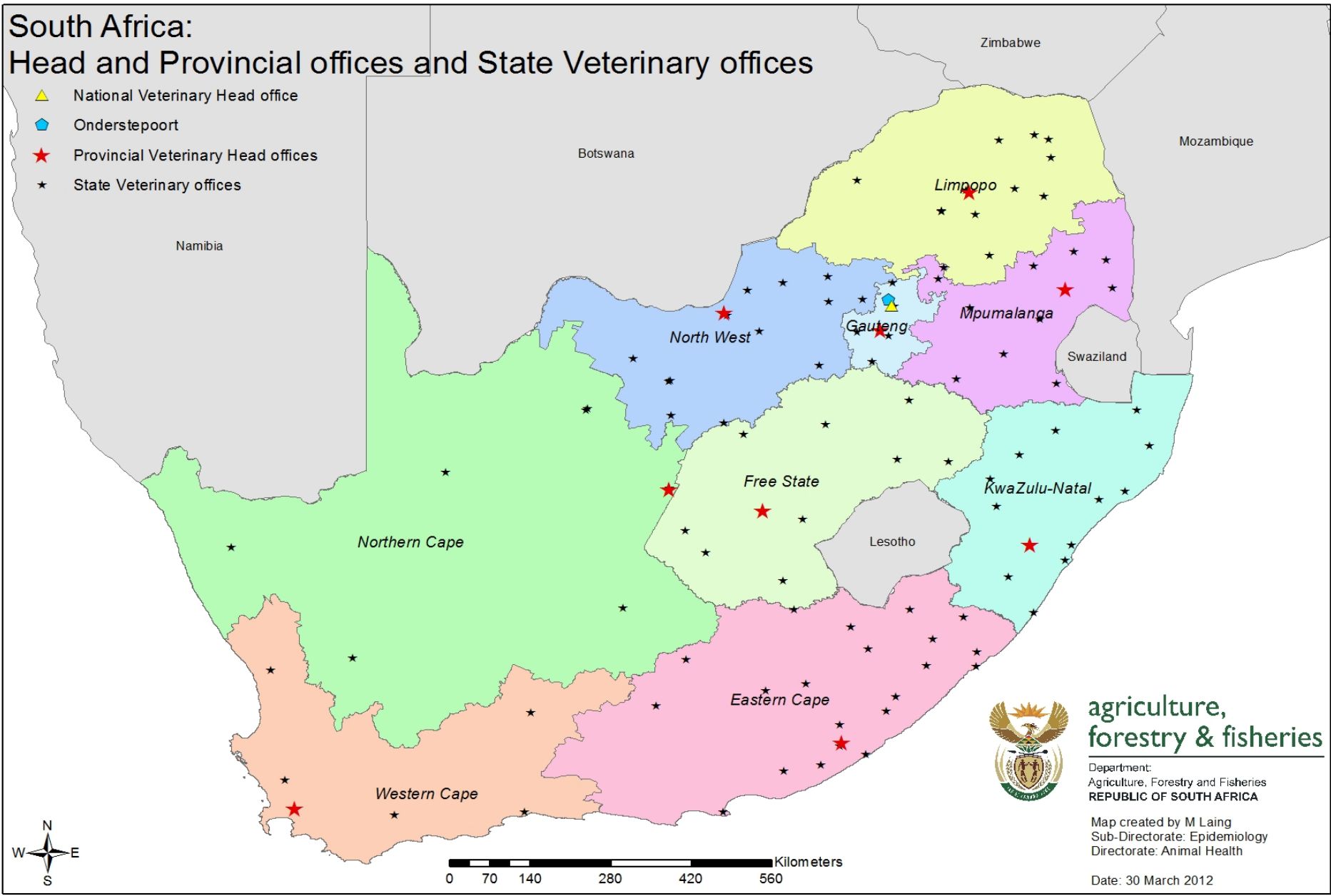
Veterinary Services in South Africa

- **South African Veterinary Services (VS):**
 - Decentralised system with National VS and 9 separate provincial VS.
 - Regulatory mandate/Authority.
 - Urban and rural animal practices/facilities.
 - Mainly as a private practices.
 - Animal Welfare practices.
- **National VS:**
 - State Vets and Para-Vets – policy development and legislative review.
 - National oversight – animal disease control matters.
- **Provincial VS:**
 - State Veterinary offices (District level): Field Vets, Para-Vets.
 - State Veterinary Laboratories: Lab. Vets and Para-Vets.
 - Veterinary Public Health: Vets and Para-Vets.



South Africa: Head and Provincial offices and State Veterinary offices

-  National Veterinary Head office
-  Onderstepoort
-  Provincial Veterinary Head offices
-  State Veterinary offices



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Map created by M Laing
Sub-Directorate: Epidemiology
Directorate: Animal Health

Date: 30 March 2012

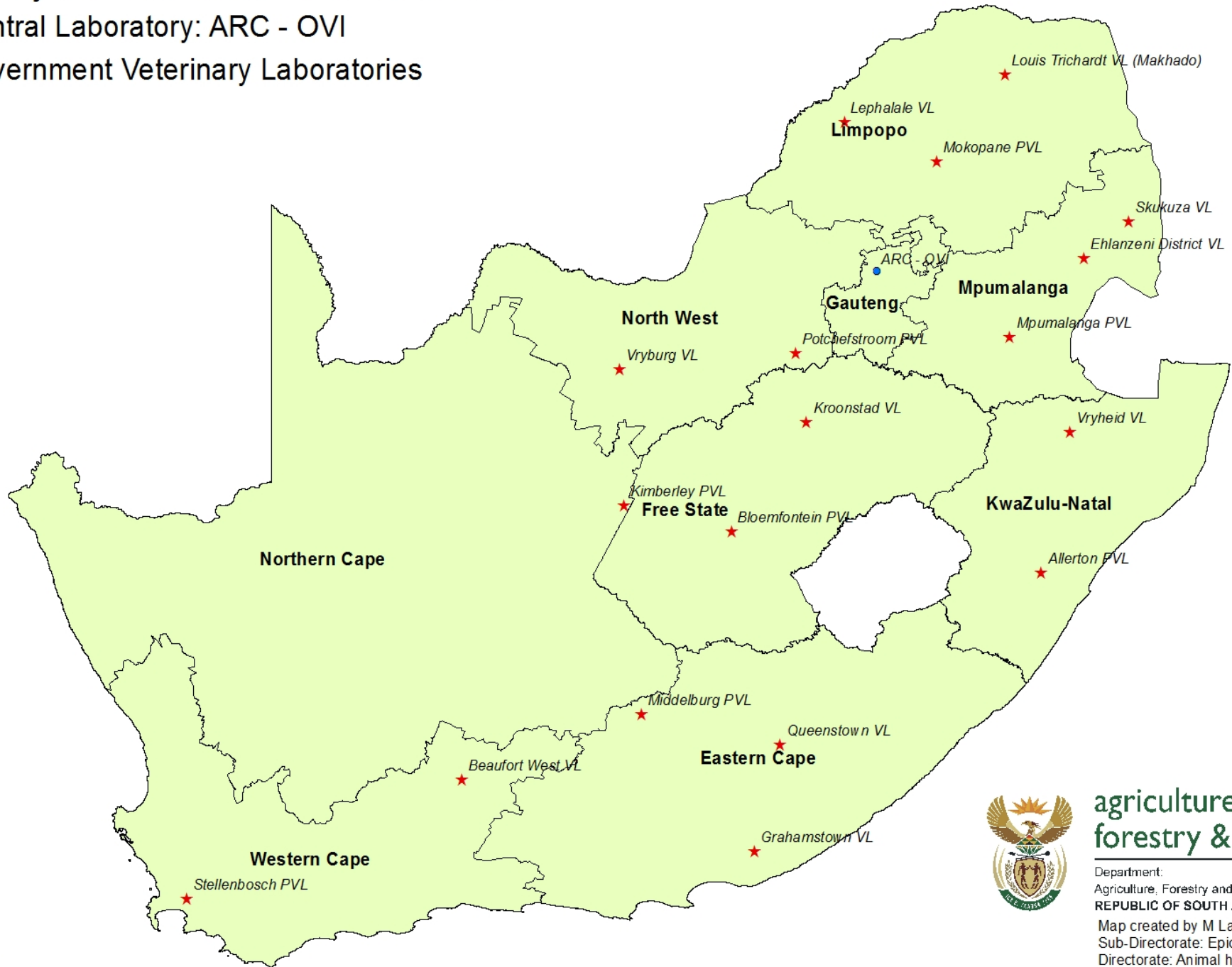


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Veterinary Laboratories in South Africa

- Central Laboratory: ARC - OVI
- ★ Government Veterinary Laboratories



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Map created by M Laing
Sub-Directorate: Epidemiology
Directorate: Animal health

Date: 15 March 2012

Constitutional and Legislative mandates

- **SA Constitution (Schedule 4, Part A):**
 - animal disease control is identified as a functional area of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence
- **Animal Diseases Act 35 of 1984;**
 - To provide for the control of animal diseases and parasites, for measures to promote animal health
- **Veterinary and Para –Veterinary Professions Act 19 of 1992:**
 - Registers and regulate the services of the Vets and Para Professionals.
- **Meat safety Act 40 of 2000:**
 - To provide for measures to promote meat safety and the safety of animal products;.
- **Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies And Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947:**
 - To regulate or prohibit the importation, sale, acquisition, disposal of stock remedies
- **Medicines And Related Substances Act 101 Of 1965:**
 - To provide for the registration of medicines and related substances intended for human and for animal use.



Oversight and coordination

- Provincial officials are authorized by the National Director to perform certain functions.
- There is a Protocol of Corporate Governance for the delivery of veterinary services
- Veterinary Working Group of MinTech:
 - meet regularly to ensure harmonization of policy implementation,
 - monitor trends on outbreak of diseases, propose policy options etc.
- Should there be an outbreak of a controlled diseases, the National Director takes leadership in such control measures.



Para-Professionals in South Africa

- **Recognised Para-Professionals :**
 - Animal Health Technicians
 - Veterinary Technologist
 - Veterinary Nurses
 - Laboratory Animal Technicians
 - Veterinary Public Health officers
 - Veterinary Welfare Assistance
 - Veterinary Physiotherapists



Employment of Para-professionals

Para-Professionals	Sectors
Animal Health Technicians	Mainly State Services, few in private practices
Animal Laboratory Technologist	Research institutions
Veterinary Nurses	Mainly private animal practices, animal welfare , few in State Services.
Veterinary Technologist	State and private laboratories, industry, academia, research, animal welfare.
Animal Welfare Assistant	Animal Welfare
Veterinary Public Health Officials	State VPH, abattoirs, etc.



Role of Para-Vets in Animal Health and Food Safety - SA

History disease control:

- **1800s and 1900s: cattle and horses were used for trekking and transport.**
 - Diseases of major concerns that were affecting the working livestock
 - Rinderpest, AHS, botulism (lamsiekte), babesiosis , CBPP and FMD.
 - Introduction of ECF in the early 1900s .
- **Veterinary field support services:**
 - Started in 1800s as brandziekte (sheep scab) inspectors,
 - dip inspectors, dip tanks inspectors
 - Smear examiners.



History disease control: Cont..

- **Stock inspectors (currently Animal Health Technicians):**
 - Construction of the FMD fence along the international borderline – 1960s.
 - Significant role in the eradication of major animal diseases, e.g. Rinderpest, ECF etc.
 - eyes and the ears of the veterinarians in the field veterinary services.



Source: Photograph provided by the South African Directorate of Animal Health.

FIGURE 4: Stock-proof boundary fence of over 2500 km for foot and mouth disease control along the entire South African international border, which was completed in 1964.



FIGURE 1.—Dipping cattle to eradicate ticks. The dipping vat contains a weak arsenical solution, harmless to cattle but fatal to ticks



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Animal Health Field Services – AHTs

- Socioeconomic and zoonotic diseases – **FMD, ASF, CA, TB, Rabies, etc.**
- Technical support services to the Veterinarians.
- Passive and Active field surveillance programmes:
 - Routine disease investigations, animal inspections, sample collections, and testing.
 - Dip tanks, farms, auction sales , peri-urban and communal areas.
- Animal Diseases control programmes:
 - Routine vaccinations.
 - Farmer awareness, social facilitation.



Animal Health Field Services: Cont..

- Emergency response programme: CSF, FMD PRRS, etc.
 - Erection and manning of codon points.
 - Stamping-out (if applied).
 - Vaccinations.
- Primary animal health care: indigent communities.



Veterinary Diagnostics – Lab Technologists,

- 1 National reference laboratory (OVI), 8 public provincial laboratories and 10 satellite laboratories and 14 approved private laboratories.
- Provide technical support on the laboratory diagnostic tests for wide-range of animal diseases.
- **Para-professionals have played a key role in diagnostic capacity of these laboratories:**
 - Registration of Laboratory technologists in the 1970s.
 - Prompt and credible diagnosis assisting with swift institution of control measures.
 - Crucial in surveillance programmes: early detection, monitoring.



Food Safety – VPHOs.

- Abattoirs/slaughterhouses :185 high through-put, 400 low throughput and 140 rural.
- Under the supervision of Veterinarians with the support of VPHOs.
- Ante- and post mortem inspections, diseases data collections, etc..



Private Animal Practices: Vets Or Animal Welfare.

- Nurses and Welfare assistances, AHT
- Provide veterinary support services to the Veterinarians.
- Perform basic primary animal health activities.
- Community outreach programmes



Conclusion

- In SA: Veterinarian and Vet. Para-professionals have a long history of good working relationship.
- Para –professional have contributed significantly in the animal disease control in the country.
- Instrumental in diseases preventions, early detection, control and eradication.
- Various livestock production system: Commercial, small holders and subsistence.
- Vastness of the livestock farming community:
 - Essential in the expansion of veterinary services to indigent communities.
 - Close-contact with livestock famers



END

THANK YOU



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