

## **SAVC DAY 1 SKILLS FOR THE ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN**

Animal Health Technicians should be able to practically perform, demonstrate or explain how to perform the following functions:

### **1. Regulatory functions (TB, CA, Sheepscap, etc.)**

*Disease surveillance and inspection of all livestock, poultry and game*

- a. Collect a sample from a suspect rabies animal with correct completion of documentation.
- b. Do a skin scraping / wool scraping
- c. Perform an intradermal tuberculin test and interpret after 72 hours.
- d. Collect blood from the coccygeal vein (tail) and jugular veins
- e. Restrain the head of a cow and pull out the tongue

### **2. Disease control (Non-control diseases)**

*Implementation of vaccination programs in livestock, in order to prevent, and/or control animal diseases and to strive towards establishing a disease free animal population and to administer these vaccines.*

*Implementation of parasite control programs in livestock, in order to prevent, and/or control animal parasites and to strive towards establishing a parasite free animal population.*

- a. Examine and evaluate the mucous membranes in an animal
- b. Take the temperature, pulse and respiration of an animal.
- c. Read a thermometer quickly and easily.
- d. Examine in the live animal the main lymph nodes, for example, the mandibular, prescapular, prefemoral, popliteal and supramammary lymph nodes.
- e. Recognise various drugs e.g. an antibiotic, anti-inflammatory, oxytocin, oestrogen, etc. and tell when or under what circumstances they could be used
- f. Recognise a dipping remedy and calculate dip wash strengths for the various dipping methods.

### **3. Sampling**

*Carry out basic post mortem examinations and the collection and submission of samples for microbiological, toxicological, histopathological and serological investigation.*

- a. Prepare a blood and or brain smear from a cow, horse, sheep, goat or dog
- b. Collect specimens from PM for bacteriology, toxicology, serology and histopathology, e.g. liver, kidney and fix in formalin including collection of faecal samples.
- c. Collect handle and transport sheath wash samples

#### **4. Disease prevention**

*Implementation of vaccination programs in livestock, in order to prevent, and/or control animal diseases and to strive towards establishing a disease free animal population and to administer these vaccines.*

*Implementation of parasite control programs in livestock, in order to prevent, and/or control animal parasites and to strive towards establishing a parasite free animal population.*

- a. Calculate dosages of drugs based on live mass of animal and give an intramuscular, intravenous and or subcutaneous injection in the various locations, i.e. tail vein, jugular, etc.
- b. Pass a stomach tube in a cow and being able to use a dosing gun
- c. Restrain sheep and goats for vaccination, examination of feet to trim using a hoof knife or hoof trimmer

#### **5. Primary Animal Health Care**

*Extension services (including training and education) to farmers, community members and their children, to protect and promote the health and well-being of animals.*

- a. Put a nose tong (nose lead) in the nose of a cow
- b. Attend to a swelling on an animal that is suspected of being an abscess or a septic wound
- c. Perform dehorning, branding and or castrations.

#### **6. Jurisprudence**

*Knowledge of relevant acts pertaining to animal health. Able to implement parts of these acts.*

- a. Animal Diseases Act
- b. Meat Inspection Act
- c. Animal Improvement Act
- d. Permit control

#### **7. Extension services**

- a. Organize farmer's days and prepare and present lectures on different animal disease of importance at these days as well as at personnel meetings.
- b. Visit schools in the region and inform them regarding rabies and relevant diseases
- c. Extension to local farmers at dip tanks

## **8. General knowledge**

- a. Recognition and correct use of the most important equipment of importance to the AHT.
  - i. McLintock Syringes
  - ii. Burdizzo
  - iii. Hot dehorning bolt
  - iv. Hoof trimmer for small stock
  - v. Hoof trimmer for large stock
  - vi. Hoof knife
  - vii. Trocar and cannula
  - viii. Dosing gun/dosing syringe
  - ix. Nose tongs
  - x. Different gauges and lengths of hypodermic needles and what they are used for.
  - xi. Different sizes of syringes and what they are used for.

**[Council accepted: 23 October 2012]**