



GAUTENG PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: World Veterinary Day 2016

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The Marketing and systems Administrator
South African Veterinary Council
26 Victoria Link Street, Route 21 Corporate Park,
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Dear Sir/Madam

WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2016

The Veterinary Services of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) will be hosting and celebrating World Veterinary Day at the end of April 2016. Celebrated on the 30th of April; this year's theme for World Veterinary Day is: *"Continuing Education with a One Health Focus"*.

With this letter, GDARD would like to formally invite the South African Veterinary Council to join us in our celebrations. It would be an honour to have the Department take part in World Veterinary Day and your presence will be much appreciated.

The Department will be having many activities the entire week leading up to **our main event that will take place on Friday the 29th of April at a Community Hall in Block X of Soshanguve.** These include sterilization and vaccination campaigns, awareness to basic pet and livestock care, client education etc. Our mission with this year's World Veterinary Day is to create awareness to what veterinarians and other related parties do with regards to our role as key players to ensure a safe future for animals and humans. Please read the attached addendum for a more detailed description about our focus towards World Veterinary Day.

Our target audience will mostly be aimed at rural and developing communities of Northern Gauteng. Proper advertising and youth involvement will be done to involve the immediate communities, emerging farmers and scholars from the surrounding areas.

We would like to request that the South African Veterinary Council take part in our main event on the 29th of April in Soshanguve. The basic idea is to have many relevant stakeholders present to showcase their contributions to the veterinary field. Along with veterinary contributions, we also would like to focus on the human aspects linking up with the “One Health” concept. It provides for a great opportunity to promote our work as veterinarians whilst doing community work through education and client interaction. We will make use of various media platforms to reach as many people possible. Our aim is to enter our World Veterinary Day celebrations into the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) competition that can generate international interest to our cause.

What GDARD would like from the South African Veterinary Council:

- On the 29th of April, have an South African Veterinary Council gazebo with an exhibition featuring the various services available. (Best would be to have your own table, chairs etc.)
- Anything else that you feel, you would like to contribute as an institution would be welcome.

If you would be so kind **to respond to this invitation by the 21st of March 2016**; stating your involvement to our proposed World Veterinary Day – it would be greatly appreciated. After confirming participation, a more detailed program of our celebrations will be sent through to you.

Responses can be made to:

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Addendum: World Veterinary Day

Veterinarians play a crucial role in protecting global health. In all areas of the profession, they have opportunities and responsibilities to improve the health and welfare of animals, and therefore, to improve the health of humans. In the current era of globalization, the emergence

or re-emergence of unexpected sanitary events is accelerating. It is estimated that five new emerging infectious human diseases appear each year, of which three are zoonotic.

The recent Ebola epidemic as well as the too numerous human deaths caused each year by rabies, dreadfully remind us of the strong links existing between the health of people, animals and environment and consequently the need for multi-sectoral approaches illustrated through the 'One Health' concept. All countries depend on the performance of their national Veterinary Services, in their public and private components, not only to successfully control these diseases, but also to tackle food safety issues and to effectively prevent and control any biological disasters.

Therefore, veterinarians should be well trained to preserve animal health and welfare, as well as to tackle public health issues. Provided that the Veterinary profession and science are constantly evolving, continuing Education is essential for veterinarians to keep their knowledge updated with the latest developments, skills, and new technologies required to enable them to efficiently control health risks at their animal source. Therefore, this year, the WVD's theme focuses on how veterinarians continue their education efforts to increase their expertise on One Health topics, such as zoonotic diseases, food safety or antimicrobial resistance, and how they collaborate with the human health sector to tackle these issues.

Yours faithfully,



DR M DE BUDE
CHIEF DIRECTOR: VETERINARY SERVICES AND SRM

DATE: 9 / 03 / 2016