Veterinary extension services
the basis of
Primary Animal Health Care
amongst
Small Scale Stock Owners

Dr Danie Odendaal
Matthew Carter
Afrivet Training Services

Model for livestock health service delivery

Client: Commercial Livestock Producer

- High number of animals in concentrated area – few farmers
- Sophisticated production management system
- Low profit margin per animal – economy of scale
- Management time is focused on continuous production process (Feeding, breeding, milking and marketing)

- Provide technical skills (reproductive, diagnostic and surgical) and advice
- 24 Hour emergency basis
- Regular planned farm visits
- Based on broad scientific knowledge base and experience

Veterinary professional offer skills and knowledge for a fee

Client: Small Scale Livestock Owner

- Low number of animals per owner – high number of owners spread over large area
- Very little planned management
- Low income due to low off take or market access
- Management time is focused on finding daily grazing and water

- Transfer basic animal health knowledge and skills to livestock owners pertaining to the management of identified animal health problems.
- Ongoing support through animal health remedy distribution system.
- Little emergency based service
- Regular interaction on group basis
- Based on transferring broad scientific knowledge and experience

Veterinary professional offer training and support as the basis of Primary Animal Health Care

Livestock health service delivery

Client: Commercial Livestock Producer

- 24 Hour emergency basis
- Regular planned farm visits

Veterinarian offer technical skills and knowledge for a fee

Client: Small Scale Livestock Owner

- Little emergency service
- Regular interaction on group basis

Veterinarian offer technical skills and knowledge for a fee

Veterinary professional offer training and support as the basis of Primary Animal Health Care

Sustainable Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC)

Sustainable and broad based PAHC to all small-scale stock owners can only be provided through an ongoing and targeted animal health knowledge transfer.

The most important difference is that the veterinary professional doesn’t provide a service only practicing his/her own skill or knowledge, -but provides a service only when the appropriate skill and knowledge is transferred to the livestock owner.

Clinical Veterinary Service

- Provide a clinical and diagnostic service including veterinary procedures, treatment and disease prevention advice

Veterinary professional must be available on call to provide a service to individual farmers

Veterinary Extension Service

- Provide a service based on the transfer of relevant knowledge and skills

Veterinary professional give ongoing training and support to groups of farmers
PAHC Skills and knowledge needed by small scale stockowners
- a comprehensive understanding of the income generating value of healthy animals and the monetary and other benefits gained as a result of disease prevention and animal health care.
- a fundamental understanding of the benefits/lessons of healthy, and productive livestock.
- a system whereby the signs of health can be monitored on a daily basis and the first signs of disease detected, recorded and treated.
- a basic understanding of the most important diseases affecting livestock and humans living with livestock, causing mortality and economic losses from livestock.
- a basic understanding of the prevention of diseases by vaccination, the early detection, armed management and early treatment of acute and chronic diseases.
- a basic understanding of available livestock remedies for the treatment of prevention of parasitic and the most important infectious diseases.
- an effective interaction with the provider of livestock remedies so that critical needed remedies are readily available and that the ordering of seasonally required remedies, like parasitic control products and vaccines occur timely.
- the skills to treat basic disease conditions, like open wounds and to manage production related conditions, such as assistance of newly born livestock.
- an understanding of when to seek advanced help from a veterinary professional (veterinary and/or animal health technician).
- a system for recording disease observations to enable more effective communication with veterinary professionals when support services are needed.

Education needed by veterinary professionals to provide a veterinary extension service
Already in the curriculum of veterinary training
- Broad-based livestock health knowledge, broad-based livestock disease knowledge, training in veterinary diagnostics, treatments and procedures.

Training that needs to be added at pre- or post graduate level
- Principles of extension
- Rural development
- Extension educational systems
- Extension teaching methods
- Audio and visual aids
- Rural sociology as applied to extension education
- Communication skills
- Programme planning and evaluation
- Extension programme management
- Evaluation of extension results
- Managing ongoing support networks