

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, Sheep scab, 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-controlled 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 administration of these vaccines.

Implementation of parasite control programs in livestock, in order to prevent, and/or control animal parasites and 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 be able to use a dosing gun
- c. Restrain sheep and goats for vaccination, examination of feet and trimming using a hoof knife or hoof trimmer.

5. Primary Animal Health Care

Provide 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. Organise farmer's days and prepare and present lectures on different animal diseases 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. Perform extension service to local farmers at dip tanks.

8. General knowledge

- a. Recognition and correct use of the equipment of importance to the AHT.
 - i. McIntock 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]