Dear Drs Rabolao and Ntshabele

RE: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS INTENDED FOR EXPORT PURPOSES

The SAVC is in receipt of the attached notice dated 27 February 2013. It supports the principle and intends to publish the notice on its website for information of the veterinary profession with an insert in its March 2013 Newsletter advising the veterinary profession thereof.

However, the Executive Committee of the SAVC resolved to share the SAVC's concerns with the Gauteng Agriculture and Rural Development Provincial Authority and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF] as follows:

- The notice as is appears to only be a notice and its legal standing is questioned as the SAVC is not aware of any amendment to the Animal Identification Act, Act No 6 of 2002 and therefore reserves its opinion at this stage;
- The SAVC requested in the past that a proper traceability system be implemented in the country. It appears that the notice in question deals with the issue piecemeal and not holistically;
- The SAVC has not finalised its policy on micro-chipping as the SAVC consulted [at a meeting held on 11 February 2012] DAFF and is postponing the finalisation of its policy pending the input of DAFF in particular on who should be permitted to micro-chip animals and under what circumstances; and

6 April 2013
• The SAVC is concerned that the issue of traceability is not dealt with expeditiously and holistically within the country and is of the opinion that the delay is not only affecting export and trade but also food safety, conservation and animal sport in the country.

We look forward to your soonest response.

Yours faithfully

Lynette Havinga
Registrar

Copy:  Mr J Mamabolo Registrar, Livestock Improvement
       Dr S Meyer Registrar, Animal Identification