Re: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS INTENDED FOR EXPORT PURPOSES.

This letter serves as a notification that as from 01-04-2013, all live animals intended for export purposes will have to be positively identified by means of a permanent identification device or any other recognised permanent identification mark.

The background to this decision is that there has been an increase in the number of fraud/forgery cases involving the export of live animals which is jeopardising the integrity of both the signing state veterinarian and the certification process. Positive identification of animals will be one of the mitigating factors against this in tandem with the use uniquely numbered water-mark papers and veterinary name stamps during export certification. There are professional, legal and financial implications to the state veterinarian who issues the final international export health certificate whose integrity has been called into question due to a lack of verification of the intended export product or animal.

Positive identification of either an animal or product is the cornerstone of certification in that you can only certify for what you can verify. Identifying the animals by means of a permanent device or mark is the one of the ways Gauteng veterinary services can also give a guarantee to our trading partners that the animals certified for are indeed the same ones imported into their countries. This will safeguard the integrity of the export certification process resulting in a higher confidence level in regard to exported animals and animal based-products. This can only be good for the export trade in the long term as our certification standards start reflecting internationally acceptable certification norms.

Below are the types of identification which will be acceptable for export certification purposes;

- **Dogs; Cats and Horses**: ISO compliant Microchips or Permanent Tattoos
- **Birds**: Closed Leg rings or ISO compliant microchips (depending on size and species)
- **Livestock and wild animals**: ISO compliant Microchips or Permanent Tattoos or a recognised unique Permanent Identification system

Your co-operation in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Dr W Rabolao

Director: Veterinary Public Health and Export Facilitation

2013/02/28