To: All veterinary and para-veterinary professionals

UNACCREDITED AND UNAPPROVED TESTS FOR CONTROLLED AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Dear colleagues,

The Directorate: Animal Health wishes to remind you of the correct procedure to follow when utilising diagnostic testing for controlled and notifiable animal diseases, both to safeguard yourself as a professional and to ensure that you are practicing within the framework of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984).

Regarding the diagnostic testing for controlled and notifiable animal diseases, the Animal Diseases Regulations (R.2026 of 1986) states the following:

12B. Registration for Diagnostic Testing for Controlled and Notifiable Animal Diseases

(1) A person or a laboratory that does diagnostic testing or screening for a controlled animal disease or a notifiable animal disease in any animal species, shall be registered with the director.

(2) A veterinarian, person or a laboratory that does diagnostic testing or screening for a controlled animal disease or a notifiable animal disease, shall comply with the prescriptions for the diagnostic testing or screening for a controlled animal disease or a notifiable animal disease as prescribed by the director.

(3) A veterinarian, person or a laboratory that does diagnostic testing or screening for a controlled animal disease or a notifiable animal disease, shall report on all the diagnostic testing or screening for such animal diseases and the results thereof in the format as prescribed by the director.

(4) A person producing, distributing and or importing any reagents or kits for the diagnostic testing or screening of controlled animal diseases or notifiable animal diseases, shall be registered with the director and shall comply with the standards and the reporting procedures as prescribed by the director.
Only South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) accredited and Directorate: Animal Health of DALRRD (DAH) approved laboratories, with the applicable tests listed on their testing schedule, may be utilised for the diagnostic testing of controlled and notifiable animal diseases. These laboratories with their respective testing schedules are listed on the departmental website at the following link: https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/Epidemiology/Approved-Laboratories
If you have any queries or are aware of unaccredited and unapproved laboratories conducting diagnostic testing for controlled and notifiable animal diseases, please contact RietteT@Dalrrd.gov.za and KeneilweR@Dalrrd.gov.za

Testing for bovine tuberculosis using the intradermal test method may be conducted by registered veterinarians and registered animal health technicians (operating under the supervision of a registered veterinarian), using a tuberculin product that is registered for this purpose under the applicable legislation within South Africa, as described in the Bovine Tuberculosis Manual of September 2016 (available at: https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy ). No other “pen-side” testing is currently approved for any other controlled and notifiable animal diseases.

The purpose of regulation of diagnostic tests for controlled and notifiable animal diseases is to provide the best possible assurance of the quality of the diagnostic tests that are fit for purpose for South African circumstances and to aid in reporting of potential outbreaks. In instances were unaccredited and unapproved tests are utilised as diagnostic tests, this is in contravention of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984), and there may be other potential criminal and civil liability legal consequences of false positive and false negative reactions detected by a non-sanctioned test and the subsequent actions decided upon following such a result.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Regards,

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Date: ________________