MINI CONGRESS

21 JUNE 2016

ROLE OF ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS IN PRIMARY ANIMAL HEALTH CARE
• Definition of Primary Animal Health Care – General care, disease prevention, parasite control, husbandry, housing and feeding of animals.

• Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC) must be practiced within the different scopes of practice as regulated by the SAVC.

• Successful PAHC relies on an integrated system of support by all stakeholders:
  • Veterinarians – Disease diagnosis and therapeutic interventions
  • AHTs – General care and disease prevention
  • Pharmaceutical industry – Supply of veterinary medicines
  • NGOs – General care
CHALLENGES REGARDING PAHC

- South Africa has a skewed distribution of veterinary service – More services in the urban areas than rural areas.
- Veterinary services also skewed towards companion animals as opposed to livestock production.
- There is a huge number of unemployed Animal Health Technicians across the country.
- Perceived or real bias of the SAVC for veterinarians as opposed to para-veterinary professionals???
QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Is there a need to review the scope of practice for AHTs in relation to PAHC?
- Can and should AHTs be permitted to diagnose certain animal diseases?
- Is the scope of training for AHTs adequate to enable them to service communities independently of veterinarians?
- OIE PVS Mission finding – There is overreliance on AHTs in the delivery of veterinary services in South Africa
  - Is this a problem?
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

• SAVC to review the scope of practice for AHTs

  Permit AHTs to diagnose certain animal diseases

  Permit AHTs to open private practices (within a defined scope of practice)

• Empowering AHTs to own cooperatives and provide essential remedies to communities.

• Public private partnerships – Private AHTs and State Veterinarians

• Private veterinarians to employ AHTs to extend veterinary services into rural communities.

• Livestock industry to employ AHTs to service rural communities.
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

• State veterinary services to create more posts for AHTs in rural communities?
• State veterinary service and the private partners to capacitate rural communities with the necessary resources to provide PAHC.
• Implementation of CCS for AHTs to service rural communities.
THANK YOU