



NAMIBIAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

Chairperson: Dr Siegfried Khaiseb
Tel: +264-61-305 643
Fax: +264-61- 218 332

Registrar: Dr Janeke Kirchner
PO Box 20307, Windhoek, Namibia
E-mail: vcn@iafrica.com.na

DAY 1 SKILLS FOR THE VETERINARY HEALTH TECHNICIAN

Veterinary Health Technicians should be able to practically perform, demonstrate or explain how to perform the following functions:

1. Regulatory functions

Disease surveillance and inspection of all livestock and poultry

- a) Collect a sample from a suspect rabid animal with correct completion of documentation.
- b) Do a skin scraping/wool scraping
- c) Assist with the performance of an intradermal tuberculin test
- d) Collect blood from the appropriate site in applicable species
- e) Restrain the head of a bovine and pull out the tongue

2. Disease control (Non-notifiable 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 enzootic stability in the population.***

- a) Examine and evaluate the mucous membranes of an animal
- b) Take the temperature, pulse and respiration of an animal.
- c) Read a thermometer quickly and easily.
- d) Examine the palpable lymph nodes in applicable species
- e) Recognise various categories of drugs such as an antibiotic and anti-inflammatory and know when or under what circumstances they could be used
- f) Apply appropriate maintenance of cold chain during drug storage and applicable withdrawal times
- g) Recognise prohibited substances (feed and medicines) according to Namibian legislation
- h) Recognise a dipping remedy and calculate dip wash strengths for the various dipping methods
- i) Recognise other ectoparasiticide remedies and their different routes of administration

3. Sampling

Carry out basic post mortem examinations and collect and submit samples for microbiological, toxicological, histopathological, and serological investigation.

- a) Prepare a blood and/or brain smear from the appropriate species
- b) Collect specimens from PM for bacteriology, toxicology, serology and histopathology
- c) Collect faecal samples.
- d) Assist with collection, handling and transport of sheath scrape samples
- e) Implement correct and safe packaging of samples and correct and safe transport of 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 enzootic stability in the population.

- a) Calculate dosages of drugs based on the live mass of the animal and give an intramuscular and subcutaneous injection at the appropriate sites
- b) Pass a stomach tube in a bovine and be able to use a dosing gun, in appropriate species
- c) Apply correct methods of physical restraint and safe handling in applicable species
- d) Examine the feet of applicable species and trim hooves using a hoof knife or hoof trimmer
- e) Apply principles of biosecurity
- f) Apply import and export control and inspection and administer appropriate quarantine protocols
- g) Apply animal movement controls, traceability and animal identification within the country

5. Primary Animal Health Care

Provide extension services (including training and education) to the public to protect and promote the health and well-being of animals.

- a) Lance an abscess on an animal
- b) Clean a wound on an animal
- c) Perform debudding, non-surgical dehorning, branding and bloodless castrations

6. Jurisprudence

Knowledge of relevant Acts pertaining to animal health. Able to implement relevant and applicable provisions of these Acts.

- a) Veterinary and Veterinary Para- Professions Act, (Act 1 of 2013) including Regulations and Rules
- b) Animal Health Act, (Act 1 of 2011) including Regulations as amended
- c) Prevention of Undesirable Residues in Meat Act, 1991 (Act 21 of 1991) and Regulations as amended
- d) Stock Brands Act (Act 24 of 1995)
- e) Medicines and Related Substances Control Act (Act 13 of 2003), including Regulations as amended
- f) Meat Industry Act (Act 12 of 1981) as amended
- g) Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962)

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 the community at large and inform them regarding zoonotic diseases such as rabies

c) Perform extension services to the community at large including production, nutrition and pasture management and herd health management

8. General knowledge

a) Recognise and know the correct use of the equipment of importance to the VHT:

- i. McIntock syringe
- ii. Burdizzo
- iii. Dehorning iron
- 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

b) Explain and apply the five freedoms of animal welfare to all species of animals:

- i. freedom from hunger and thirst
- ii. freedom from pain, injury and disease
- iii. freedom from fear and distress
- iv. freedom to express normal behaviour
- v. freedom from discomfort