

## **MOVEMENT CONTROL IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL DISEASES**

Amongst a variety of measures used by veterinary services to limit the spread of infectious pests and diseases of animals is the control of movement. As a measure, movement control is premised on the understanding that certain disease-causing organisms remain in an infective form in affected animals, on surfaces of materials, equipment and clothing and can thus be transferred upon movement of those objects or animals to other places. This type of transfer depends on the nature of the organism and its ability to survive in certain conditions. Disease-causing viruses for example Avian influenza, Foot and mouth Disease or African swine fever and others, are very easily transmitted through translocation of contaminated equipment, products or living animals including people when moved from a source of infection or areas under quarantine. Such diseases also happen to be high of impact and of national economic importance. However, not all disease-causing organisms may be transmitted in this way, for example certain parasites in muscles like beef measles.

Therefore for certain diseases, animal movement control is a standard measure stipulated in the animal health laws to enable veterinary services to contain outbreaks at their source, thereby limiting the impact of the disease in question. Animal owners and stakeholders associated with animal movements such as buyers, traders and transporters should always take heed and abide with animal movement restrictions where they exist, in order to limit disease spread and the associated costs of disease control by the state. All animal movements should be accompanied by a veterinary movement permit indicating approval by the local veterinary office and acceptance by the veterinary office at the receiving end.

From the DVS communication desk