

MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

TO: All Media

DATE: 9 May 2018

SUBJECT: FREE RABIES VACCINATION IN TZANEEN AND THE SURROUNDING FARMS

The Mopani District Municipality Disaster Management Centre would like to urge residents of the of the Tzaneen, Politsi, George's Valley, Westfalia, Magoebaskloof, Haenertsburg, Agatha and Lushof areas to bring their dogs & cats for the annual inoculation against Rabies. Free vaccinations of dogs and cats will be offered by the office of the Tzaneen State Vet at various points from 08:30 till 17:30, from Monday 14 May 2018 to Friday 18 May 2018. All residents of the area are urged to utilise the opportunity to prevent any spread of the disease.

Vaccination points:

Date	Point 1	Point 2	Point 3	Point 4
14/05/2018	Tzaneen State Vet Office, No 20 A Peace Street	Tzaneen Showgrounds	OK Mini Market (Sugar Loaf)	Tzaneen Dam Jetty 3
15/05/2018	Tzaneen State Vet Office, No 20 A Peace Street	Mashutti Farm A&B 18	Basani Packers	
16/05/2018	Tzaneen State Vet Office, No 20 A Peace Street	Lushof	Zabana Farm	

17/05/2018	Tzaneen State Vet Office, No 20 A Peace Street	George's Valley (Grysappel Store & School)	Politsi Store/Westfalia	Modjadjiskloof: Caravan Park, Modjadjiskloof Hospital & Makgoba Village
18/05/2018	Tzaneen State Vet Office, No 20 A Peace Street	Haenertzburg Post Office	Pot 'n Plow	Wegraakbosch Farms

Rabies is a fatal viral disease which can affect all mammals, including humans. In South Africa, the disease is endemic and is primarily carried by dogs and jackals in the northern & eastern areas of the country. Rabies is typically spread through the saliva-contaminated bite of an infected animal, but may also be transmitted through saliva contamination of the mucous membranes (such as through licking). Once the virus gains entry into a new host, it spreads along the nervous system until it reaches the brain, upon which symptoms will typically appear. Behavioural changes, especially aggression and unprovoked attacks, are the most common indicator of rabies in dogs, but symptoms can vary between different species. A paralytic, or dumb form of the disease is also recognized in which progressive paralysis and profuse salivation occur. In animals, death typically occurs within 10 days, and five days or less in the case of humans. In humans, rapid administration of the post-exposure prophylactic treatment immediately following exposure to an infected animal is highly effective in preventing the disease from developing. Once symptoms appear however, death is inevitable.

Since rabies is a notifiable disease, the office of the State Vet must be informed of any animal suspected of being infected with the disease. The animal will have to be euthanised and the brain preserved in order for laboratory confirmation of the disease. The outcome of this test will guide the response which will follow. The office of the State Vet must also be informed when dogs or cats die from signs of the nervous system as mentioned above. High levels of vaccination of domestic animals, particularly dogs, are required to prevent the rapid spread of the disease following a single case. The cooperation of all residents of the Tzaneen municipality is thus requested to prevent the further spread of the disease.

For more information, please contact the office of the State Vet in Tzaneen at (015) 307-2800. Look out for posters with dates for Rabies vaccination for an area near you.

#Working to eliminate deaths from canine Rabies by 2030