

The responsibilities of all owners of land where livestock is kept in terms of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984)

Notice: All land owners



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The liability of land owners

Any land owner who rents or allows animals to be kept on his/her land and does not ensure that those animals are kept and managed in accordance with Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984) is in contravention of the Animal Disease Act (ADA) and will be guilty of an offence. Related disease control measures, such as the Government Gazette Notice 50977 of 26 July, describing FMD movement requirements for livestock, equally apply.

Basic infrastructure is required to enable this. If neither the land owner or the animal owner can provide the infrastructure necessary to allow treatment of animals and prevent spread of disease, animals should not be kept on such land. The basic recommended infrastructure includes, for example, species-appropriate fencing (perimeter, camps, and isolation areas), animal handling facilities (holding areas, crushes, neck clamps, etc), animal loading facilities, vehicle washing and disinfection facilities and appropriate storage for feed and equipment.

A land owner should **refuse access** to his land to any animals of which the owner is unable or unwilling to comply with Section 11 of the ADA, including related biosecurity and disease control measures, as stated above. He/she should **contractually prohibit access** to any animals that are known to, or are suspected to be infected with a controlled animal disease to his/her land. This should include animals transported from or through high-risk provinces and “disease management areas”, where restrictions are in place to control the outbreak of an animal disease.

How can land owners mitigate the risk of spreading FMD?

To protect yourself and our province, every land owner in the Western Cape Province should implement the following steps:

1. Ensure compliance by all livestock owners on your land with the 26 July 2024 Government Gazette Notice requirement that cloven hoofed livestock may only be moved if accompanied by a **health declaration from the owner** of the animals, attesting to their health at the time of moving. No cloven-hoofed animals may be moved from FMD Disease Management Areas or from properties under quarantine.
2. You should also strictly enforce the July 2024 Gazette Notice requirement that all cattle, sheep, and goats newly brought onto your land must be kept **separated from the resident herds for at least 28 days**. The **owner of animals** on your land should provide a declaration to that effect, that should accompany every consignment of livestock moving to your land.
3. Cattle vaccinated against FMD in a DMA should be branded with an “F” mark, usually on the right-hand side of the neck, and should not be moved, except when it is directly to an abattoir for slaughter, under cover of a red-cross permit issued by their state veterinarian. If you see or hear of cattle in the Western Cape with such a brand, please report them immediately to the local state veterinarian.
4. In addition, it is also within your right to require a **veterinary health certificate** for all animals that are moved into the province from any other province, especially the high risk neighbouring Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, where active outbreaks of FMD are currently reported.
5. Animal transport vehicles (fomites) can also be a source of FMD virus. Insist on a **valid wash certificate** before access to your land is granted to any vehicle that transports livestock, feed, animal products or other farm necessities. **Provide washing facilities** for vehicles before entering or leaving your land.
6. It is highly recommended that bedding and feed from a livestock transport vehicle be burned, buried or composted immediately. Provision for this is prudent.
7. To monitor and investigate possible high-risk livestock movements in and to our province the Western Cape Veterinary Services made an online cloven-hoofed movement notification portal available. You should require all

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livestock owners on your land to register and use the registration link to **report every consignment of livestock movement**. An automated reference number is emailed and can be used as proof of compliance and that you are assisting to protect our province. The link to register <https://smarttech.elsenburg.com/survey/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=558864&lang=en> or **QR code (right)**, is also available on the Elsenburg website: <https://www.elsenburg.com/veterinary-services/animal-health-and-disease-control/>



8. If any person becomes aware of a suspect high-risk movement of livestock into our province or your area, **please report** it to the local livestock theft unit of the SAPS and to the local state veterinarian.
9. Should any suspicious clinical symptoms (salivation, blisters in the mouth, limping or hoof lesions, severe mastitis in lactating dairy cows) be seen, it should be reported to the local State Veterinarian immediately and such **animals must not be moved under any circumstances**. The contact details for your local state veterinary office are available at: <https://rb.gy/tii7zw>
10. **Identification of animals** is not only useful to prove ownership, but is a legislative requirement in terms of the Animal Identification Act, [Act No. 6 of 2002](#) and the Stock Theft Act, [Act No. 57 of 1959](#). It can also help to trace movements of animals, which is valuable for disease control purposes. As landowner, it is your right to require that all animals should be identified correctly with the registered brand of the animal owner.

Together we can prevent FMD from entering our province and the severe economic losses that can accompany this.

For further information and examples of all documents mentioned, please visit the Western Cape Veterinary Services website at <https://shorturl.at/Hxfeo>

To learn more about FMD, visit the WCDa website: <https://bit.ly/3PpeK8R>

Contacts:

TITLE	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
State Veterinarian: George	044-803-3771/0	SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za	4 Varing Avenue, George
State Veterinarian: Boland	021-808-5028/ 5253	SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za	Western Cape Department of Agriculture building, Muldersvlei road, Elsenburg
State Veterinarian: Swellendam	021-808-5059/ 028-425-4850	DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za	67 Voortrekker St, Swellendam
State Veterinarian: Beaufort West	023-414-9220/1	DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za	Blyth St, Beaufort West
State Veterinarian: Vredendal	027-201-3514/-0	DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Matzikama and Noord St. Vredendal
State Veterinarian: Malmesbury	022-433-8915/0	DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Spoorweg and Munisipale St, Malmesbury
State Veterinarian: Oudtshoorn	044-203-9443/5	DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za	43 Van Der Riet St, Oudtshoorn
State Veterinarian: Worcester	021-808-5052	DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za	30 Van Arckel St, Worcester

Land Owners

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www.elsenburg.com



DOA.Info@westerncape.gov.za



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