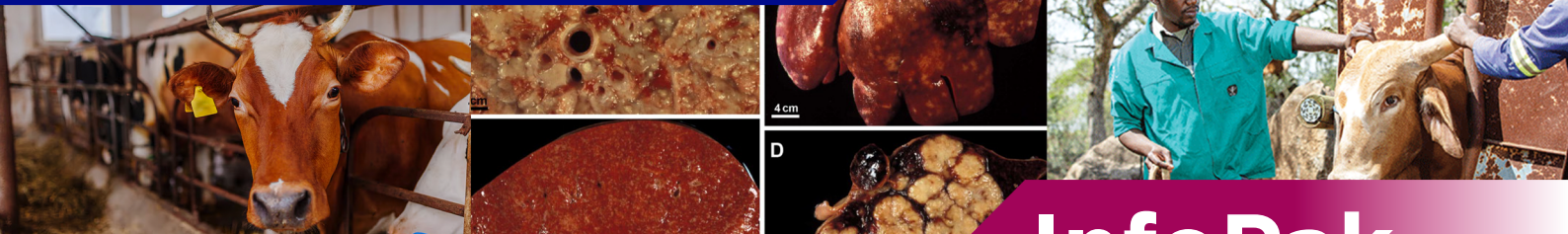


Bovine Tuberculosis is a controlled disease under the Animal Diseases Act (Act No. 35 of 1984)

Abattoirs: BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS



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WHAT IS BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS?

- TB is a bacterial disease that affects many animals especially cattle and buffalo
- People can get TB from infected animals
- Unfortunately it is still a relatively common disease and has serious economic consequences as well as poses a severe health threat to humans
- Infected animals shed the bacteria in respiratory secretions (coughing, sneezing), faeces and milk
- The disease usually causes a slow deterioration in affected cattle
 - Early infection often shows no signs
 - As the disease progresses, the animal typically shows decreased appetite, weight loss and mild fever
 - If the disease has affected the lungs, the animal will cough and can have difficulty breathing
 - If the digestive tract is involved, then the animal develops an on-going diarrhoea or constipation that comes and goes
- Treatment is not recommended due to developing a carrier status where infected animals can continuously shed the disease within the herd without showing clinical signs
- If you suspect your animal has TB you are required by law to report it to your nearest State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician.



TB in humans

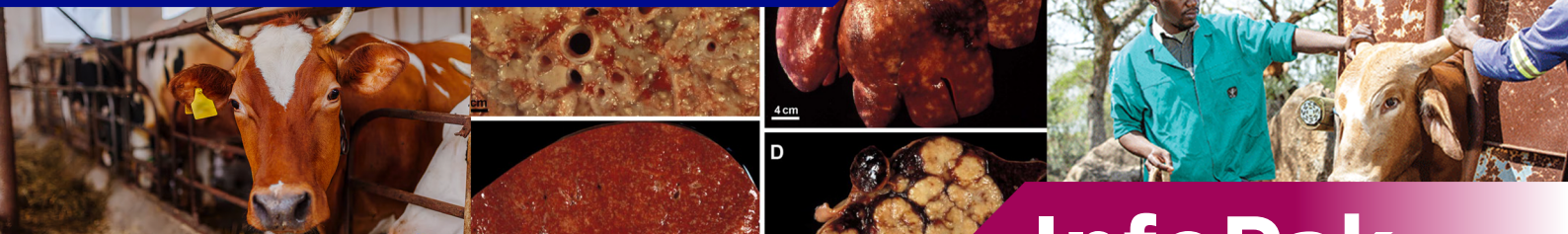
- The most common way people become infected with TB is from drinking raw, unpasteurized milk or eating dairy products produced from raw milk
- Less commonly, people can become infected by breathing in the bacteria or through direct contact via breaks in the skin
 - People working with cattle are most at risk
- TB affects infected people in a variety of ways:
 - They can show no signs of infection
 - The disease can affect the lungs causing fever, chest pain and a serious cough (can result in coughing up blood)
 - The disease can also spread to other parts of the body including the kidneys, spine and brain

Tuberculosis Symptoms



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- Treatment requires long courses (up to six months sometimes) of antibiotics

Prevention:

- o As always, prevention is the best way through awareness and safe management practices
- o The best way to prevent infection in people is to control the disease in our animals
 - Any suspect cases should be reported immediately to your nearest veterinarian for advise and what measures to take
- o Do not drink raw milk or eat dairy products containing raw milk
 - Pasteurisation is effective at killing TB bacteria in milk
- o People working with animals should make use of personal protective equipment such as gloves

Reference:

Spickler, Anna Rovid. Zoonotic Tuberculosis in Mammals, including Bovine and Caprine Tuberculosis. October 2019.

https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/bovine_tuberculosis.pdf

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