



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To: All individual horse owners
Breed Registering Authorities
Breed Societies
Artificial Insemination and Breeding Centres
Press and Media
SAVA
SAVC
SAEVA
SANEF
SAHRA

RE: REVIEW OF CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM) SURVEILLANCE PROTOCOL AND THE VALIDITY EXTENSION OF CEM CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

Following the letter issued from this office titled “Contagious Equine Metritis Annual Screening to Continue in South Africa” dated 16 September 2015, we would like to advise you of amendments made to the CEM surveillance protocol in South Africa.

The Directorate Animal Health (DAH) has undertaken to review the existing CEM surveillance protocol with the aim of formulating a refined standard that will assist South Africa in its endeavour of self-declaration for CEM freedom. This decision was taken following feedback from the equine industry regarding the existing surveillance protocol.

Targeted surveillance in stallions over the past 4 years has indicated no new positive cases of CEM, allowing us to adopt the following interim measures to encourage compliance with the current CEM surveillance protocol which will be vital in South Africa's self-declaration of CEM freedom;

- The validity of all existing CEM clearance certificates will be extended to a period of 2 years from the date of issue
- All new CEM clearance certificates issued will be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue
- For semen donation, stallions will require an annual CEM clearance certificate

In the interest of the animal health status of South Africa, the continued co-operation of all members of the horse industry in applying and promoting the required screening and control measures for CEM is much appreciated.

Kind regards,



Dr Mpho Maja

DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH

Date: 2016 -05- 1 0