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SAPS Hunting Association Accreditation Number: 1300018 | SAPS Sport Shooting Association Accreditation Number: 1300104  
NPO Registration Number: 241-187 NPO

3 MAY 2022

TO: ALL CHASA MEMBERS AND HUNTERS

## **FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HOW DOES IT EFFECT ONE'S HUNTING PLANS**

The following was compiled by Dr Gary Bauer on request of the CHASA Exo and can be distributed to all CHASA Members and co-hunters, to take notice of:-

### **Introduction and Background:**

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a viral disease affected all cloven-hoofed animals – cattle, sheep, pigs, wildlife, etc. It is harbored in some wildlife species (buffalo being the most known host) and causes clinical and severe debilitating symptoms when carried over to domestic stock. This can be transmitted in a number of ways including close contact, contaminated vehicles clothing personnel, air (wind driven), body fluids, sharing a same eating / drinking areas, etc.

Because of its severity in domestic stock, the disease is a notifiable controlled disease with South Africa, and in fact, worldwide. Countries free of FMD (up till recently, including RSA) are extremely vigilant and strict in preventing the accidental introduction of the virus. Recent outbreaks in RSA have been caused by feeding of kitchen waste to pigs, as well as more recently, exposure of animals across the FMD redline along the western boundary of the Kruger National Park and North-Eastern Natal. Control measures have not ensured fast control of these outbreaks and most





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recently, illegal movements of infected animals to North-West Province have resulted in the new outbreaks in North-West, Free State and Gauteng.

Remember that FMD does not affect people at all.

Properties and districts where outbreaks are, are placed under strict quarantine with NO movement of animals (live or dead) or animal products within and out of the area without a state veterinary certificate.

### **What does this mean for me as a hunter?**

If your hunts are booked in areas where there is no FMD imposed quarantine, this will have NO effect on your hunt or you. Remember though, that you should avoid travelling through FMD quarantine areas with your meat after your hunt. Please request the landowner to provide you with a written undertaking that his property does not fall within a quarantined area if you are concerned that it is close to the areas under FMD quarantine – these change daily / weekly as cases are reported, so please check the Department of Agriculture Website or contact your local State Veterinarian for the latest affected areas.

If your hunts are booked in an area which is under quarantine, there will be major implications for you and the animals you hunt – exactly the same as if you were hunting east of the FMD redline along the KNP western boundary. These implications include but may not be limited to the following:

- 1) The hunt itself can proceed as normal
- 2) No fresh, unprocessed meat or animal products (horns, skins, etc.) will be allowed to be moved out of the area
- 3) Biltong can be made on site, dried until it is snap dry, packaged and moved after inspection and a certificate is issued by a state veterinarian.





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- 4) Trophies must be salted, cured and dried for a minimum of 6 weeks, where after they can be moved following onsite inspection and certification by a state veterinarian
- 5) All products referred to above that may be moved, **MUST** be accompanied at all times by the state veterinary permit authorizing the move

Please note that if you are found to be guilty of spreading FMD through transportation of products or animals or contaminated equipment, etc, you face both criminal and civil charges and it is not worth the risk.

The CHASA Exco wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to Dr Bauer for taking the time in his busy schedule for this informational piece.

Kind regards

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CHAIRMAN





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