



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

VRYHEID VETERINARY LABORATORY JOINS THE "RABIES TESTING FRAY"

1. THE CHALLENGE

Confirmation of rabies infection diagnosis has over the years been done at Allerton Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (Allerton PVL). That meant couriating samples to Allerton and sometimes delays in getting results could lead to the delay in getting dog bite victims medical help.

2. BRIEF DISCUSSION

Challenges like lack of proper infrastructure, maintenance of cold chain whilst samples are in transit render the FA- golden test be less suitable for the developing countries.

As of July 2015, the Vryheid Veterinary Laboratory began participating in a research project established by the Viral Zoonosis Research Group located at the University of Pretoria. The project will focus on improving sample submission in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) whilst also testing a new diagnostic assay that is currently in a research phase. All research work taking place in this study will be performed in partnership with Allerton PVL.

Vryheid staff members have received training on the new diagnostic assay; and besides conducting the Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical test, it also becomes the collecting point for suspected rabid samples from the north region. Some of the collected sample aliquots will be sent to Allerton PVL for FAT confirmation.

3. CONCLUSION

Positive correlation between the two tests will mean rapid availability of results and where there are human contacts, immediate medical attention be instituted.