KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Volume 1 Issue 4

KZN Veterinary services

Quarterly Report

1 January 2024 - 31 March 2024

Contents

Introduction

This report covers the animal diseases status of KwaZulu Natal (KZN) province for the fourth quarter of the financial cycle 2023-2024 (January 2024-March 2024).

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to inform farmers, veterinary communities, and general members of the public of the current disease trends in the province. Furthermore, these reports will assist KZN farmers in planning their herd health programmes. Quarterly reports will be released in the second week of April, July, October, and January.

Controlled diseases: Overview

State veterinary services are legally obliged to provide resources and disease management programmes aimed at detecting, preventing, managing, or controlling state-controlled diseases. Private veterinarians and farmers are under legal obligation to report any incidences of suspected state-controlled or notifiable diseases to the nearest state vet office.

This past quarter, the province has witnessed the detection and control of Rabies.

Controlled animal disease cases

Please see attached **Annexure 1** for a list of diseases classified as state controlled or notifiable in South Africa.

Foot-and-mouth Disease (FMD)

There were no new positive FMD cases between 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024. The FMD calf surveillance program has been concluded and a decision to declare the outbreak over is currently pending.

Rabies

During the reporting period between 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, there was a downward trend in the percentage of positive rabies cases reported (as depicted by the trend line in **Figure 1)**. The highest percentage of positive cases (39.5%) was reported in the month of November 2023 (15-rabies samples tested positive out of 39 submitted samples).

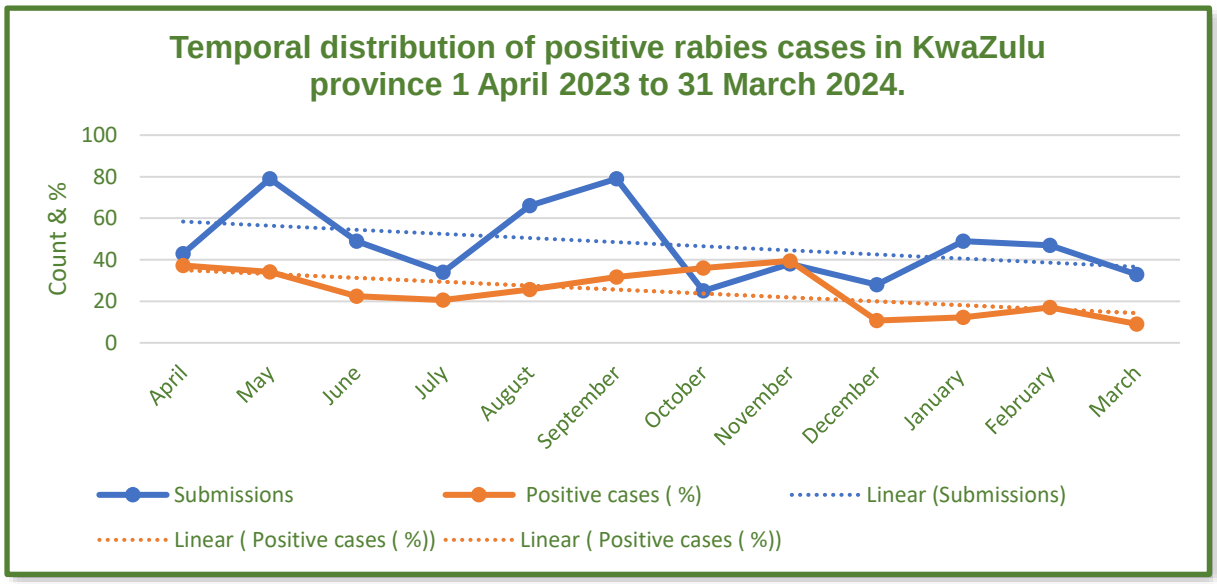

Figure 1. Temporal distribution of rabies submissions and percentage of positive cases during the period 1 April 2023 o 31 March 2024.

Rabies in species

Of the positive rabies cases, 86.1% (n=130) were canines and 6% (n=9) were bovines, as depicted in **Table 1.**

Table 1. Species distribution of rabies positive cases in KwaZulu Natal province during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

	Species						
State Veterinary Area	**Canine**	**Feline**	**Bovine**	**Caprine**	**Pig**	**Donkey**	**Mongoose**
Amajuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethekweni Metro	70	2	1	0	0	0	0
Ilembe	6	0	1	2	0	0	0
Harry Gwala	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jozini (uMkhanyakude)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hluhluwe (uMkhanyakude)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
King Cetshwayo	7	0	5	0	1	1	0
Nongoma (Zululand)	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Umgungundlovu	16	0	1	0	0	0	4
uGu	18	0	0	2	0	0	0
uMzinyathi	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vryheid (Zululand)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uthukela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**130**	**2**	**9**	**4**	**1**	1	4
Grand Total	**151**						

Spatial distribution of rabies in KwaZulu Natal province

Most of the rabies cases in the past quarter occurred in the state veterinary areas of Ethekweni Metro, followed by uGu and Umgungundlovu as depicted in **Table 1 and Figure 2**. Nongoma SV area experienced an outbreak in the last quarter (**Figure 2**).

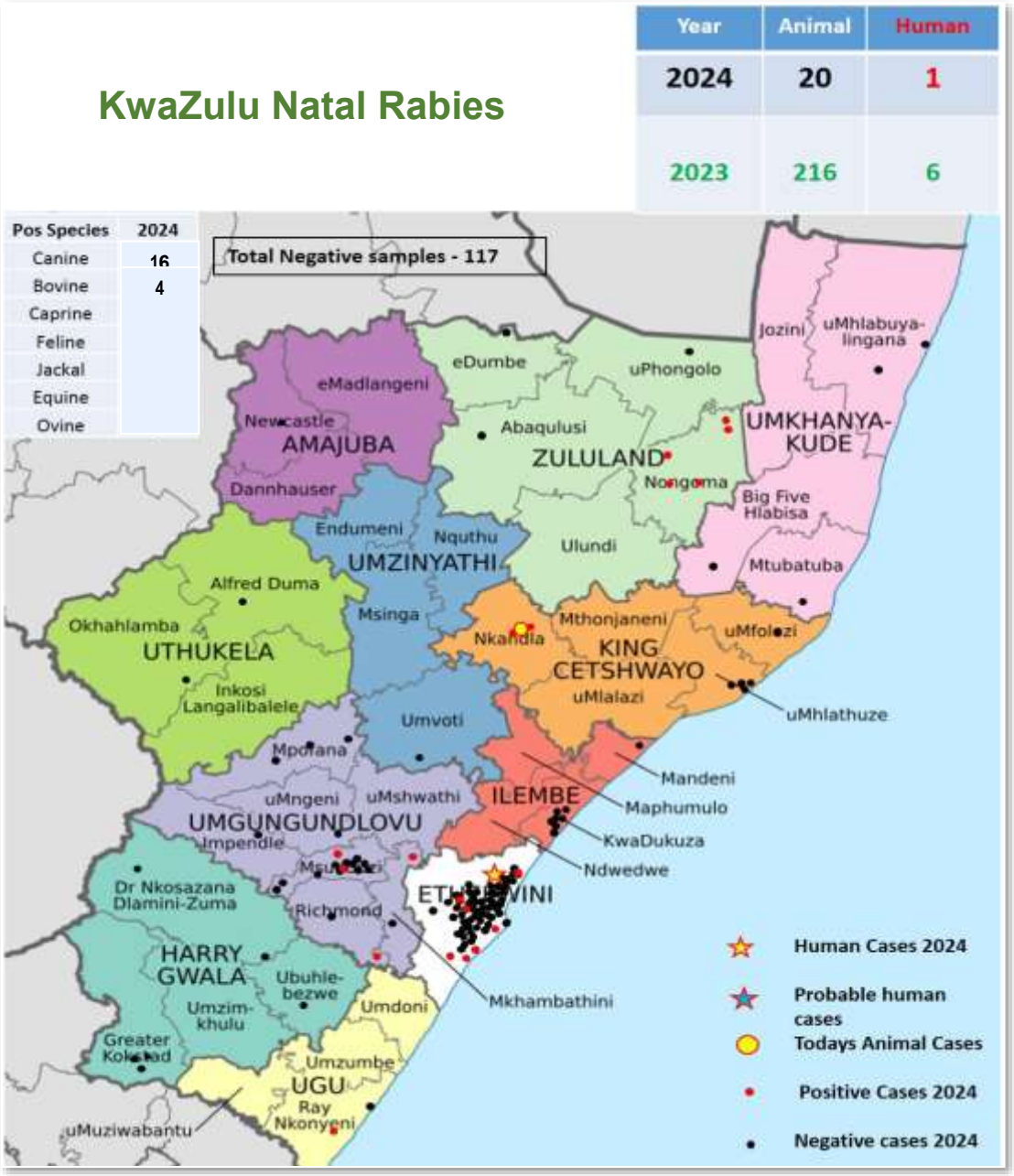

Figure 2: Geographical distribution of positive rabies cases in KwaZulu Natal between January and March 2024 (*Map provided by Epidemiology, KZNDARD*).

Rabies Vaccinations

A total of 220074 rabies vaccinations have been administered to dogs and cats in the province over the past four quarters of 2023-2024 (1 April 2023-31 March 2024). Ethekweni Metro and uGu SV areas had the highest number of vaccinated animals, these high numbers are influenced by the high percentage of positive rabies cases (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Description of annual vaccinations stratified by SV area.

State veterinary area	*Total vaccinations*
Amajuba	10 058
Ethekweni Metro	30 090
Ilembe	13 429
Harry Gwala	24 612
Jozini (Umkhanyakude)	15 227
Hluhluwe (Umkhanyakude)	1 555
King Cetshwayo	27 915
Nongoma (Zululand)	21717
Umgungundlovu	11184
uGu	29 935
uMzinyathi	13 414
Vryheid (Zululand)	872
Uthukela	20 066
Total	**220 074**

Rabbit Haemorrhagic disease (RHD)

Although no further cases of RHD have been reported this quarter, continued biosecurity measures are encouraged.

Report produced by Mrs. Cooke, Mrs. Govender, Mr. Le Roux and Dr. Chisi.

(Epidemiology Unit, KwaZulu Natal Veterinary Services).

Authorized by Dr. S.L. Chisi (Director Veterinary Support Services)

Signature: 

Date: 14 April 2024

Annexure 1: CONTROLLED AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

UNDER THE ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, ACT 35 OF 1984 AND THE ANIMAL DISEASES REGULATIONS, R.2026 OF 1986:

WHY ARE CERTAIN DISEASES CONTROLLED BY GOVERNMENT?

Certain diseases require government control as they affect individual animal owners and also pose serious risks to other farmers or consumers of animal products. Some diseases may even, through their negative impact on trade, compromise the agricultural sector as a whole. Therefore, the following criteria are proposed for the definition of controlled animal diseases, subject to compliance with at least three of these five risk factors:

• Zoonosis: The disease is transmissible to and able to cause disease in humans.
• Rapid spread: The disease is highly transmissible and has the potential for rapid spread, independent of the actual movement of diseased animals and irrespective of farm boundaries.
• Collective control: The disease is more effectively managed by collective control strategies than by the efforts of an individual animal owner.
• Threat to industry: The disease poses a potential serious threat to the performance of the agricultural industry if the current epidemiological and geographic distribution status in South Africa changes.
• Trade sensitive: The disease can be regarded as a highly trade-sensitive issue and poses a potential serious threat to South Africa's international trading status. According to the provisions of the present legislation, "any animal disease … which is not indigenous or native to the Republic" is included automatically in the list of controlled animal diseases.

Controlled Animal Diseases

• Any animal disease or infectious agent that is not known to occur in South Africa
• African horse sickness (AHS)
• African swine fever (ASF)
• Anthrax
• Aujeszky's disease
• Avian influenza
• Bacterial kidney disease (in fish)
• Bovine contagious pleuropneumonia (CBPP)
• Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)
• Brucellosis (B. abortus, B. melitensis, B. canis, B. suis)
• Classical swine fever (CSF)
• Contagious equine metritis (CEM)
• Contagious hematopoietic necrosis (in fish)
• Contagious pancreatic necrosis (in fish)
• Corridor or Buffalo disease
• Dourine
• East Coast fever
• Equine infectious anaemia (EIA)
• Equine influenza (EI)

- Equine viral arteritis (EVA)
- Foot and mouth disease (FMD)
- Glanders
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia (in fish)
- Johne's disease
- Koi herpes virus disease
- Nagana (Trypanosomiasis)
- Newcastle disease
- Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)
- Psittacosis
- Rabies
- Rinderpest
- Salmonella Enteritidis
- Salmonella Gallinarum (Fowl typhoid)
- Salmonella Pullorum (Bacillary white diarrhoea)
- Scrapie
- Sheep scab
- Skin conditions in sheep
- Swine vesicular disease
- Tuberculosis (in all animal species)

Notifiable Animal Diseases

- Bovine malignant catarrhal fever (Snotsiekte)
- Bluetongue
- Lumpy skin disease
- Rift Valley fever
- Strangles
- Swine erysipelas

IF YOU SUSPECT OR HAVE CONFIRMED THAT YOUR ANIMAL(S) OR ANIMAL PATIENT(S) HAS ANY OF THE DISEASES AS LISTED ABOVE - CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STATE VETERINARIAN.

References:

Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984
Policy on Animal Disease Control (Veterinary Services)
www.daff.gov.za