



Animal disease outbreak events

Rabies was diagnosed in another seven **Cape fur seals** in June, on samples taken between August 2022 and 27 June. Three historical samples were tested with immunohistochemistry and the remainder with the fluorescent antibody test. Five of seven cases were found around the **Cape peninsula**, one at **Die Dam** (June) and one in **Plettenberg Bay** (April). Two were found dead; one with signs of old wounds and one with no obvious signs, two showed aggression, one was alive but non-responsive, one showed slightly abnormal behaviour and one had bite wounds but no abnormal behaviour was reported.

A **dairy** cattle herd near **Hopfield** has tested positive for **Brucella abortus** after cows aborted. Positive cattle were branded and the pregnant cows were slaughtered.

An **ostrich** farm in the **de Rust** area tested seropositive for **avian influenza**. No virus was detected and serology did not indicate subtype after follow-up sampling, so a previous undefined, non-H5, -H6, -H7 Influenza A virus infection is therefore concluded.

Two **sheep** farms in the **Philadelphia** and **Kliprand** areas were found to be infested with **sheep scab** mites (*Psoroptes ovis*). One had introduced a ram from a previously-infested farm. The other was detected by an AHT at an auction, and the animals were sent back to the farm. Treatment was done under official supervision on both farms.

A **broiler breeder** farm in the **Philadelphia** area tested positive for **Salmonella Enteritidis** on boot cover samples.

Two **sheep** farms near **Stanford** were diagnosed with **red lice** infestation.

The local AHT was called to farms in the **Kliprand** area and treated **bloat** in a **calf** and observed **joint and navel ill** (omphalitis and arthritis) in **lambs**.

A **sheep** farm near **Prince Albert** experienced late term **abortions and still births**. Samples taken from one lamb tested *Chlamydia*, and *Coxiella* PCR negative, so the cause is still unknown. The same farm had sheep with healed lesions around the ears, muzzles and coronary bands, that were suspected to be healed **geeldikkop** (toxic photosensitivity) lesions.

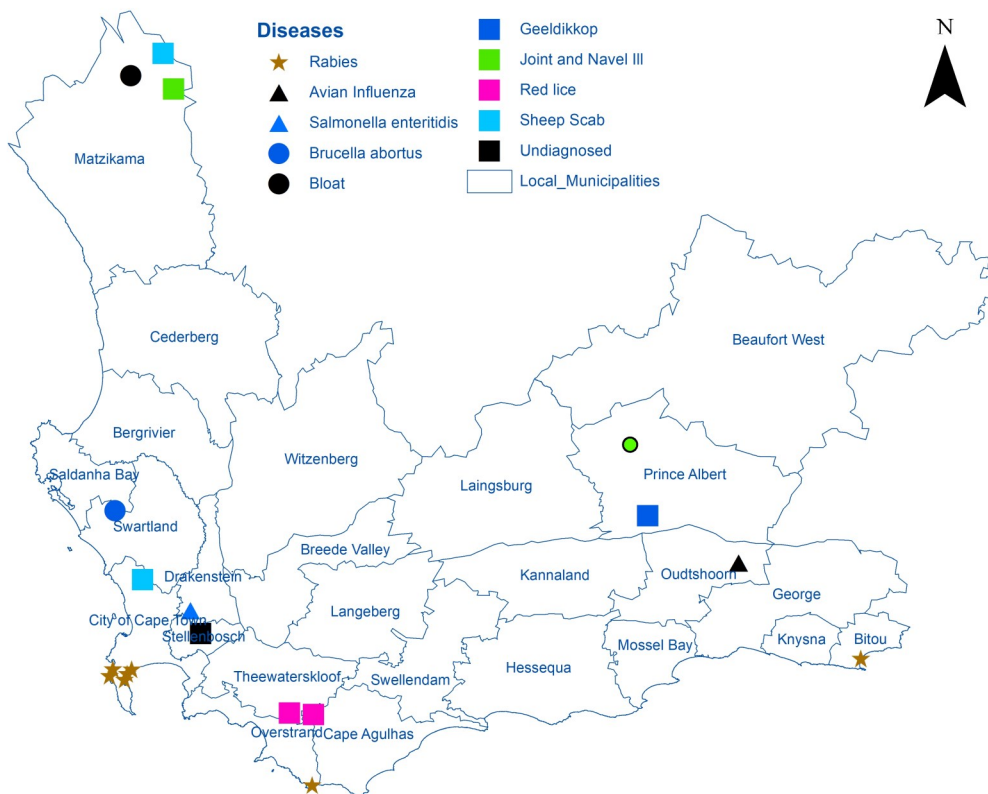


Figure 1: Animal diseases reported to Western Cape Animal Health in June 2024

Epidemiology Report edited by State Veterinarians Epidemiology:
Dr Lesley van Helden (Lesley.vanHelden@westerncape.gov.za)
Dr Laura Roberts (Laura.Roberts@westerncape.gov.za)
Previous reports are available at <https://www.elsenburg.com/vetepi>

Disclaimer: This report is published on a monthly basis for the purpose of providing up-to-date information regarding epidemiology of animal diseases in the Western Cape Province. Much of the information is therefore preliminary and should not be cited/utilised for publication