

CENTRAL KAROO

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

VECTOR CONTROL



The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

OUR FUNCTION

The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health. In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- Water Quality Monitoring;
- Waste Management and Monitoring;
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- Communicable Diseases Control;
- **Vector Control**;
- Chemical Safety; and
- Management of Human Remains.

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities they serve. We act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers (enforcing health policies), ensuring people are able to live, work & play in safe, healthy environments

STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

WHAT ARE VECTORS?

Vectors are living organisms that serve as vehicles to transmit a pathogen (a disease-causing agent like a virus or parasite) from a host to a human or to an animal or both. They are predominantly pests, such as insects and ticks.

Some vectors actively transmit pathogens, whereas others are passive transmitters.

Mosquitoes are undoubtedly the most important vector of human disease and *actively* transmit diseases like malaria. By biting infected people, they acquire the malaria parasite, which they then carry and pass on when they bite someone else.

Houseflies in comparison *passively* transmit diseases. They contaminate the food they come into contact with, which is then consumed and contaminates humans.

Ticks are a typical example of vectors that can transmit diseases not only to humans but also to animals (domestic and livestock, such as dogs or cattle).

Birds and mammals such as rats and mice can also be considered vectors, as they both can carry diseases and transmit them.

WHAT IS VECTOR CONTROL?

Vector control is about using preventive methods to eradicate or control vector populations, in order to limit the transmission and spread of diseases.

WHY IS VECTOR CONTROL IMPORTANT?

Given the dramatic impact vector-borne diseases can have on humans and animals, vector control must play a vitally important role in public health and livestock management programmes.

Without these interventions, dangerous diseases would proliferate unchecked and with the increased movement of

populations and livestock, the global spread of disease is a growing concern.

Even for vector-borne diseases for which effective and targeted medical treatment exists, such as malaria, issues such as cost, delivery, correct diagnosis, drug resistance and other challenges make disease control through the use of medical drugs alone an unrealistic alternative to disease prevention by vector control.

THE ROLE OF PESTICIDES

Chemical control of vectors using pesticides is a key element in the fight against vector-borne diseases.

When used properly and as part of integrated vector management (IVM), pesticides can effectively and safely control disease-transmitting pest populations and prevent potential outbreaks. In many situations the use of pesticides is the most cost-effective method available.

VECTOR PREVENTION

Successful prevention of rodents and other vectors requires long term commitment by all stakeholders to these objectives:

- Proper sanitation;
- Proper storage practices;
- Proper landscape management;
- Eliminate standing water to prevent mosquitoes that can carry diseases;
- Perform routine inspections and regular monitoring.

ABOUT RODENTS

There are more rumors and myths about rats and mice than perhaps any other pest. While many myths seem feasible,

it is important to know the difference between fact and fiction for proper rodent control.

Here are some of the most common rat and mouse myths.

Myth:

Cheese is ideal bait for rodent traps.

Fact:

Professional trappers usually prefer meats, peanut butter, or even chocolate to cheese for effective baits. Mice prefer seeds and fruit to cheese.

Moist foods will be ideal especially in dry climates because mice, remember, get most of their water through foods. Materials such as cotton balls may also be effective since female rodents will collect it for nesting.

Myth:

There is an effective, homemade rodenticide formula.

Fact:

If there were an effective rodenticide made from household or all-natural products, it (hopefully) would have already been on the market.

For those concerned with rodents' discomfort or more "humane" ways to get rid of rats and mice, remember that the human health hazards associated with rodents - particularly in food establishments - should far outweigh concerns for the rodents themselves.

Live traps are available for mice and rats, but always check legal health regulations for rodent control in sensitive areas like food handling establishments, schools, and hospitals.



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