

NEWSLETTER JANUARY

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Dear clients,

2023 is well on its way already! Of course, we will continue writing newsletters, and we truly hope you keep on reading them! If you have any feedback or suggestions, we would love to hear it! In this edition we give a summary of our new article 'Measles in game and livestock'. We would like to ask you to have a look at some oryx photos, and to tell us if you have seen something similar in game? Lastly, we explain our regional WhatsApp groups once again.

Kind regards, the Wildlife Vets Namibia team

HAPPY 2023!

A new year, a new beginning!

We would like to thank you once again for all the support throughout the years, and we hope we can be of your assistance again in 2023! We are very much looking forward to this new year. Some great projects are already lining up, and we hope to be in the field as much as possible! Of course we will also continue with the newsletters (if you have topics in mind that you want us to write about, let us know!) and we hope to organize some courses again this year.

We wish you a wonderful 2023, in good health and with many great moments!

Best regards from the Wildlife Vets Namibia team.



REMINDER

-  We would like to remind you that **if you have any big jobs planned** this year, to please let us know well in advance. Then we make sure our schedule stays open!
-  If you have any **particular requests**, e.g., pregnancy testing, microscopic examination etc. let us know beforehand, so we can bring the necessary equipment.
-  When we work with **horned antelopes**, make sure you have plastic pipes ready to put on the horns when we handle the antelope. This is for your worker's safety.
-  When you apply for your game capture permits, make sure you apply for all species, and **include your management plan**. This makes it easier for game dealers to buy your animals for the export market.



ADHDINOS

MEASLES IN GAME AND LIVESTOCK

On our website you can find our latest article; Measles in game and livestock. With an increased number of people in the field (e.g., charcoal production) without proper field facilities, the risk of people defecating in the bush is very high. If these people are infected with tape worm, they will contaminate the field, which in turn might result in your game and/or livestock to become infected.

When we think of measles, we usually think about the human variant, whereby one gets a red rash (Rubella, caused by a virus). In the article we are talking about meat measles, which are parasite cysts found in the muscle(s) of animals. On our website you can read the [full article](#), here we give you a summary.

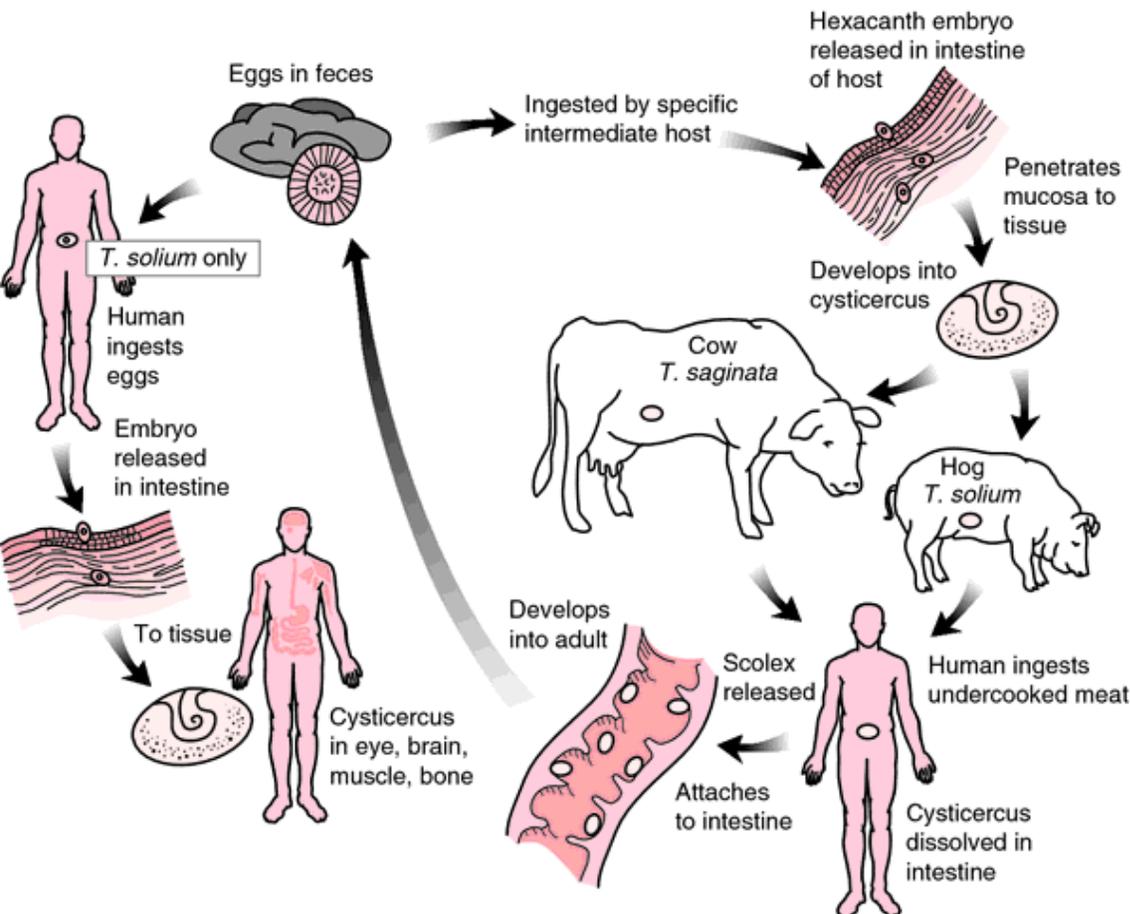
Measles are caused by several different types of tapeworm. Affected meat typically shows a few to thousands white-ish, (usually) pea-sized nodules. The economic impact of measles might be limited to cutting away the infected area, but it can also be so severe that the carcass has to be destroyed!

The transmission of the many different types of tape worm is in most cases quite similar. Some are spread by human faeces, other by dogs, dog-like animals such as jackals or carnivores. In general; the tape worm is excreted in the faeces of the definitive host, either a human or dog (carnivore). Livestock and/or game ingest the eggs and/or segments via contaminated grass, leaves etc. The eggs hatch inside the intestinal tract, are released into the blood stream and settle into the muscles where they form white and/or fluid-filled little cysts. Usually, one does not notice anything wrong with the animal, until slaughtering.

Below you can see a schematic image of how the beef or pork tape worm spreads.

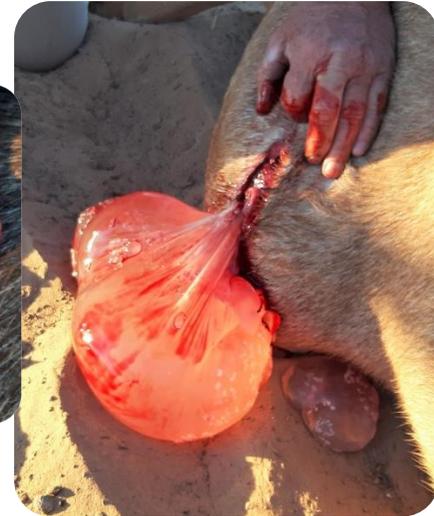


Meat measles are characterized by small white nodules. © [University of Pretoria](#)



This image shows the schematic life cycles of the Taenia tapeworm (beef or pork tape worm) species. In short, infected faeces from humans is ingested by cattle or swine, and the tapeworm creates cysts in the muscles. When humans consume contaminated undercooked meat, they can become infected. The tapeworm latches onto the small intestine, where it can live for years. Segments and eggs are excreted in the human faeces, which can be ingested again by cattle or swine. © [Mahon and Manuselis, 2000](#).

Often, the cysts don't cause much harm, but it is always better not to take a chance, and to discard the affected meat. However, it is important to understand that some of the tapeworm species can cause serious problems!! *Taenia multiceps*, found in sheep can cause turning sickness' ('malkopsiekte' or 'draaisiekte' in Afrikaans) in animals. *Taenia solium*, the pork tape worm, can cause neurological symptoms and seizures in humans. The *Echinococcus granulosus*, spread by dogs and carnivores, can cause big cysts all over the body in herbivores and humans.



Prevention

Since measles-infested carcasses are at the least downgraded and at worst rejected out of hand, this can have a significant negative economic impact on a farmer's income. As a result, prevention is better than cure! There are a few things you can do to avoid contamination on your farm:

- 🐾 Avoid faecal contamination by providing farm workers and their families with a toilet or long drop, and strictly enforce their use.
- 🐾 Educate farm workers and their families about proper hygiene, and possible contamination of meat via faeces. Always wash hands when working with meat, and after going to the toilet!
- 🐾 Consider regular deworming of all the farmworkers as well as their families (including you and your families) with a good quality dewormer effective against tape worm. Make sure that the drug used also kills tape worm!
- 🐾 Train your workers how to identify measles and always do a proper meat inspection! If you or your workers find white spots when processing the meat, do not cut them open! Cut away the affected meat and discard (e.g., burn) it. Don't feed the affected meat to your dogs.
- 🐾 If you treat or handle possible affected animals, make sure you wash your hands well afterwards, or wear gloves (discard properly after usage).
- 🐾 Be careful with eating raw or undercooked meat when this originates from a farm practising questionable meat hygiene.
- 🐾 Deworm your livestock as recommended by your veterinarian.
- 🐾 Deworm your dogs every 3-6 months with an effective dewormer (don't buy the cheapest you can get in the shop, they are rarely effective and thus a waste of money), especially when they walk around kraals and can come into contact with sheep and goats.
- 🐾 Do not let dogs or jackals walk around your slaughter house/meat room.
- 🐾 When you feed sheep/goat meat to your dogs, preferably freeze the meat for at least 10 days, or cook the meat.

*This roan had a lump on her hip. It was examined by inserting a needle and drawing up clear fluid. Due to the clear fluid, the suspicion was strong for cystic echinococcosis, caused by the tape worm *Echinococcus granulosus*. A surgery was performed and one big cyst and one smaller cyst came out. The white little dots (2-7 mm long) are the larvae, which live in a fluid-filled cyst. If the cyst would break, all the larvae will disperse throughout the body, spreading the infection. © M. Bijsterbosch*

Click [here](#) to read the full article
on our website.

SKIN LESIONS IN GAME

This oryx in the photos below, was shot in the Otjiwarongo area, and was covered in hard masses. We have a strong suspicion that this is a case of sarcoid, caused by the bovine papilloma virus and likely transmitted by flies to wounds. It is a common tumour-type in equids and has been described as a problem in closed mountain zebra herds.

So, our question to you... Have you seen such skin lesions in game? Do you perhaps have photos? Even better, would you be able to take samples (we can advise you on how to do this)? If you have more information, please share it with us! We would greatly appreciate it and would like to learn more about this condition! Our contact details are found at the end of this newsletter. Many thanks 😊



HAVE YOU SEEN
SUCH SKIN LESIONS?



This oryx (Otjiwarongo area) had hard masses all over his body. Have you seen something similar in game?

We would like to learn more about this condition, and would appreciate it if you could contact us.

Our contact details:

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REGIONAL WHATSAPP GROUPS

A while ago we have created regional WhatsApp groups. For those who don't know about it, here a short explanation!

When we are called out to a certain area, we will notify this group. If you happen to have a job that needs to be done, you can jump in and share kilometre costs. These groups will only be used to notify that we will be working in a specific area. To respect your privacy, we won't mention names or farms, just the area where we will be working in. If you want us to come, or have a question, please contact us directly and do not use this group. We are sure you agree that there are already too many 'chat'-groups taking up our time! We don't always share on the group where we are going, as sometimes we have limited time or other obligations. But whenever we can, we will notify the group.

We have created groups for the following regions:

- 🐾 North of Windhoek (e.g., Okahandja/Otjiwarongo/Outjo/Tsumeb etc. area)
- 🐾 East of Windhoek (e.g., Omitara/Witvlei/Gobabis etc. area)
- 🐾 South-east of Windhoek (e.g., Dordabis/Nina etc. area)
- 🐾 South of Windhoek (Rehoboth and south)

If you want to be added to the group, feel free to contact us!



Wildlife Vets Namibia

WhatsApp groups

Join our regional WhatsApp groups!
How does it work?



When we are called out to a farm, or have a prospective job in an area, we notify the group.
If you happen to have a job that needs to be done and you want us to come, call us, or send a message.



Save km, Save \$\$
The more farms that join in on one trip, the cheaper the travel cost for all!

Our regional groups are:

- North of Windhoek
- East of Windhoek
- South-east of Windhoek
- South of Windhoek



Are you a farmer/farm manager, and you want to be added to one of the regional groups? Or you want more info? Feel free to contact us!

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New Year's Resolution

1. Do More Yoga.

Zzzzz...



Great posture!

PandaAndPolarBear.com

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