

REFERENCE : G2/135  
GSG/17E/26

TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS CONTROL BRANCH,  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES,  
P. O. BOX 8233,  
CAUSEWAY.

WPB/AES

23rd June, 1978.

The Director Veterinary Services.

Assistant Director Veterinary Services Ag, ✓  
Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control.

Provincial Veterinary Officer, Gwelo

TRYPANOSOMIASIS : LIVESTOCK POLICY

... I am enclosing a copy of a letter from the District Commissioner, Gokwe.

The missive, unreal as it is, clearly reflects the feelings, frustrations and difficulties of the writer. It begins with a couple of obvious truths, passes through a phase of tub thumping and ends on a plaintive note. However, at no stage, does Mr. Dix admit the truth, namely that we are powerless to enforce the Trypanosomiasis Regulations at this point in time, and that the disorderly entry of cattle into the cattle free areas of Gokwe and for that matter elsewhere, may be regarded as inevitable.

The final paragraph is a masterpiece of rhetoric echoing the vain hopes of all those who yearn for the return of order and discipline, factors which can no longer be imposed other than by the people themselves. I doubt that anyone can accurately forecast such an event, certainly it will be well into the future because self discipline is a rare virtue arising only as a result of privation and necessity.

Mr. Dix's note has however served to precipitate an event which has been in mind for more than a year : a major change of policy demanded by a changed and changing political situation. The late Assistant Director Veterinary Diseases (Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control) was aware of this necessity and had he survived, a thesis along these lines might already have been forthcoming. Difficult and unpalatable decisions are often shelved until their making becomes imperative, even if the events leading to their necessity have long been foreseen.

Briefly therefore I suggest that urgent and realistic consideration be given to the policy controlling livestock in tribal areas where restrictions have been imposed in the interests of trypanosomiasis control.

In the course of this review we must continually bear in mind the changed political and security situations. The axiom that legislation which cannot be enforced is better kept out of the statute books is a practical truth for such proposals can only expose the originators to ridicule.

It appears to me that the Tsetse Control efforts of the future will, for a time at least, have to take place in areas where cattle are depastured and compared with the past uncontrolled and maximum use will have to be made of aerial spraying.

Under the circumstances presently prevailing we have no right to expose staff to risks in the interests of maintaining an unrealistic policy which in any case can only be preserved for a few short months. This is the crux of the whole matter.

Please regard this minute as merely a starting point for what I regard as a pressing review.

*W.P. Boyd*  
(W.P. Boyd)

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER (TRYPANOSOMIASIS)

Mr. Boyl



File G 2/135/

Reference: AGR 9/6/78.

Office of the District Commission  
P.O.Box 100,  
Gokwe.

7th June, 1978.

The Senior Tsetse Field Officer,

P.O.Box 17,  
Gokwe.

LIVESTOCK IN TRYPANOSOMIASIS AREAS.

Further to my conversation with you on the above subject. I am continually receiving requests to be allowed livestock in the Huchu and Masuka Areas.

The people now point out that no control is maintained; and why should the people who flout the law be "allowed" livestock and those law-abiding citizens have to "plough" with badzas.

If control is to be relaxed then all should be allowed animals.

If control is to be maintained then no animals should be allowed. The present situation is to say the least embarrassing as no action is taken against the offenders.

Please confirm that an exercise is to be mounted to restore some discipline in this matter. I regret that I am unable to continue "fobbing off" people.

Headman Nembudzia also asks if he may be allowed cattle as he says he is "surrounded by cattle".

I would appreciate if a firm policy may be set in light of present circumstances.

P.G.Dix  
District Commissioner.