

# GHANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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## Veterinary Council of Ghana (VCG) and Ghana Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)

28th March, 2020  
Press Release

### **VCG and GVMA on COVID-19: Veterinary Surgeons and Para-Professionals to offer essential services for Public Safety, Animal Health & Welfare and Food Animal Production**

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The VCG and GVMA, congratulates the Government of Ghana for the measures put in place so far in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana. We are also grateful to Government in considering the use of some veterinary facilities and personnel in the testing for COVID-19 which is in the spirit the one health concept.

We wish to inform the general public and relevant stakeholders of the continuous delivery of Veterinary Services which are essential for Ghana's economy, the health of humans and animals.

#### **Food Animal Production & Safety**

Veterinarians and Para-professionals play a pivotal role in food animal production ranging from planning, medication, vaccination to health management. Veterinary services should still be available to farmers to have their animals healthy and productive for food production to feed our nation.

#### **Animal Health & Welfare**

Veterinary services for pets and animals for sports and tourism should be available when needed to keep these animals healthy and alive since they are part of the ecosystem.

#### **Public safety**

The public must be protected from delicate diseases especially zoonotic diseases (diseases from animals to humans), and other that could further compromise the already delicate public health situation in the country. Veterinary professionals must continue to play this important role by ensuring:

1. **Inspection and approval of animal and animal products for import and export**
2. **Meat inspection at various slaughter houses**
3. **Vaccination of pets against zoonotic diseases e.g Rabies and the likes**
4. **Prescription and right use of antibiotics in animals to prevent antimicrobial resistance in humans.**

All Veterinary Surgeons and Para-Professionals while ensuring the delivery of essential veterinary services for the good of our country, Ghana, are entreated to observe all protocols put in place by the Public Health Authorities, and the restriction of movement of persons in the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions announced by H.E The President of the Republic of Ghana, and ensure safety of themselves, their families and clients, and curb further spread of COVID -19 in Ghana.

All Veterinary Surgeons and Para-Professionals are also entreated to carry their Professional Identifications (ID) Cards on them at all times for ease of identification.

Thank you

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