



29 April 2016

**TO: ALL SUPERMARKETS SELLING VETERINARY PRODUCTS**

**CIRCULAR 3 OF 2016**

**PROHIBITION OF SALE OF VETERINARY MEDICINES (DIP CHEMICALS) USED TO CONTROL TICKS, FLEAS AND MITES ON PETS (DOGS AND CATS) BY SUPERMARKETS THAT DO NOT HOLD VMGD PERMITS**

The Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe is a statutory body established by the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act [15:03] to register all human and veterinary medicines, to license all persons and premises that deal in medicines and to control clinical trials that involve the use of medicines in humans and animals. The Authority assesses safety, quality and efficacy of medicines before products are registered and authorised to be put on the market. In addition, the Authority controls the distribution channels of medicines depending on the: risk of toxicity or misuse, the need for sound medical or veterinary advice, the need for supervised use to determine effectiveness for treating a condition, need for safe storage, maintenance of records, among others.

Veterinary medicines fall into three (3) categories for distribution as indicated by their registration details on the labels:

**Veterinary Prescription Preparations (PP (Vet)):** these are medicines that require a prescription from a veterinary surgeon and can only be dispensed or sold from a pharmacy or a licensed dispensing veterinary surgery.

**Veterinary Medicines (General) Dealer (VMGD):** these are medicines that can only be sold from approved VMGD outlets, pharmacies or dispensing veterinary surgeon.

**Household Remedies (HR (Vet)):** these are medicines that can be sold from any shop with a valid trading licence, including supermarkets.

It has come to the attention of the Authority that some supermarkets in Harare, which do not hold Veterinary Medicines General Dealer's (VMGD) permit issued by the Authority, are selling veterinary medicines such as dip chemicals and shampoos used to control ticks, fleas and mites on dogs and cats. In most instances the products are imported into, and are not registered in, the country.

The Authority advises that any supermarket which does *not hold a valid VMGD permit* issued by the Authority violates the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act [15:03] when it stocks and sells dips and shampoos for control of ticks, fleas and mites on dogs and cats. The sale of *unregistered dips and shampoos* for control of ticks, fleas and mites on dogs and cats

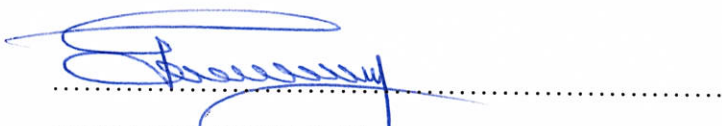
is an offence regardless of whether the supermarket or shop holds a VMGD permit from the Authority.

All supermarkets that do not hold a valid VMGD permit, and are stocking and selling dips and shampoos for cats and dogs should cease trading in such products. They should contact the Authority and get advice on how to acquire VMGD permits should they wish to be authorised to trade in dips and shampoos for cats and dogs. Supermarkets that might have acquired stock of unregistered dips and shampoos for cats and dogs should also contact the Authority and get guidance on how to register such products.

Any supermarkets found trading in registered, or unregistered, dips and shampoos for cats and dogs, without an MCAZ VMGD permit will risk: seizure of the products, prosecution and a ban in trading veterinary medicines for a period of 3 years. The affected supermarkets can contact the Authority for guidance on how to regularise and comply, using the contact details below:

**Physical address:** MCAZ 106 Baines Avenue, P O Box 10559, Harare, **Email:** [mcaz@mcaz.co.zw](mailto:mcaz@mcaz.co.zw); **Telephone:** 0772 145 191/2/3.

## **MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE**



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G N MAHLANGU (MS)  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**