

# Review of: "Enhancing Veterinary Services for Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe: A Comprehensive Literature Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare. No competing interests

Enhancing Veterinary Services for Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe: A Comprehensive Literature Review

## Comments

1. Title: Suggested title is "Enhancing Veterinary Services for Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe: A Systematic Review.
2. The authors should describe a methodology that was used in the systematic review. What time frame was covered, how were the articles included in the review selected.
3. It seems there are three distinct periods that affected the structure and delivery of veterinary services to smallholders in Zimbabwe, namely:
  - a. Colonial
  - b. Post-colonial which can be divided into pre and post jambanja.

In these time periods the structure of veterinary services delivery to smallholders and the significant influencing factors should be reviewed paying specific attention to whether the services improved or declined from one period to the other.

1. The authors should show the importance of livestock e.g., show what proportion of GDP is from agriculture and what fraction of that proportion is from livestock then split that by commercial and smallholder. These statistics are readily available
2. On page 5 the authors mention the decentralization of vet services after independence but do not mention how effective this decentralization has been as perceived from the literature.
3. On page 6 the authors mention that "The provision of veterinary services in the smallholder sector in Zimbabwe involves multiple actors" but then only mention two actors! The same on page 7. Who are the multiple actors?
4. On page 6. Is there evidence that the aggregate demand for private veterinary services is often lower than is required for profitable operations. If so, provide the evidence in the review.
5. The role of ethnoveterinarians should be better reviewed in terms of their impact on veterinary services delivery and the gap they fill.
6. Page 7: Why is the sale of substandard drugs not penalized in Zimbabwe?
7. On page 8 zoonotic diseases are mentioned. Of importance is to review what is the prevalence of these diseases in the areas where uninspected meat is consumed. Consumption of uninspected meat is the norm in rural areas of Zimbabwe. I am sure when the authors go to their rural areas, they consume uninspected meat. This indicates the

level of this risk as low or very low to be of significance unless the authors can demonstrate otherwise.

8. On page 9 a reduction in resource allocation is mentioned, but which resources were reduced and to what extent were they reduced for whom and when is not mentioned?

Some comments are in the text. These should also be addressed.

**Recommendation: Major revisions to be done by authors before article is published. The review is topical and therefore worth publishing.**