GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

Moving livestock in Zimbabwe

The seven Directorate of Veterinary Services steps for goats, sheep, cattle and pigs, with contacts, fees and a checklist



Boer goats. Photograph: Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery.

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WHATSAPP	+263 77 196 7856 | Office +263 77 412 2660

> *Transcribed from the DVS livestock movement poster and checked against official pages and press reports on 18 November 2026. Where this guide differs from the instruction of the Veterinary Office on the day, the Veterinary Office applies.*

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Goats: yes. The poster lists goats and sheep with cattle and pigs; the branding check applies to cattle, goats are identified by ear tag or tattoo.

SECTION 1

Before you start

The seven-step DVS procedure for moving goats, sheep, cattle or pigs: declare your intent at the nearest Veterinary Office or Animal Health Management Centre, inspection, provincial authorisation where needed, ZRP ownership clearance, the movement permit, then move on the approved route under the permit conditions.

Why the controls exist
Inspection before a move catches foot-and-mouth, anthrax and tick-borne disease before they travel; the permit, police clearance and stock card tie each animal to its owner and origin; and working movement controls keep export markets open for everyone's goats.

Do not move without a valid permit. Non-compliance leads to fines, seizure and prosecution; in October 2022 the Veterinary Department destroyed 81 goats moved on a police clearance alone. Report any sick animals or suspicious movement to the nearest Veterinary Office.

SECTION 2

The seven steps

1. **Show intent to move**
Report to the nearest Veterinary Office or Animal Health Management Centre (AHMC) with your full name and contacts, the type of livestock (goats, sheep, cattle, pigs), place of origin, destination, purpose (breeding, slaughter, feedlot, show, sale) and type of transport. The officer books an inspection.

2. **Officer inspection**
The animals are inspected, identification is checked and the officer looks for signs of pests or disease. Branding is a legal requirement for cattle under SI 35/2003; goats are identified by ear tag or tattoo. Movement is refused if disease is suspected or the area is under a quarantine order.

3. **Authorisation if needed**
If the destination is outside the officer's area, the district office obtains authorisation from the Provincial Veterinary Office. During the August 2025 foot-and-mouth emergency, written clearance from the Provincial Veterinary Director was mandatory for cattle, goats, pigs and sheep entering or leaving affected districts.

4. **Information to client**
Once authorised, the Veterinary Office notifies you that you may proceed to the police.

5 Police clearance

Obtain clearance for ownership and/or transfer from the Zimbabwe Republic Police. DVS and ZRP agreed in 2024 that the veterinary permit should be issued before the police clearance, so that stock is not moved on a police form alone. Charging for cattle clearance has been declared illegal and RDC movement-clearance fees were abolished by SI 41 of 2026; whether goat clearance is free everywhere is unverified.

6 Obtain the movement permit (to be confirmed)

The Veterinary Office issues the movement permit. The poster shows USD 10 / ZAR 200 (unverified). Treasury's 11 September 2025 statement listed livestock movement clearance at US$10 per beast cut to US$5 per herd or cancelled, so the poster figure may be the DVS permit fee as distinct from RDC clearance, or may pre-date the reform. The permit states the route, destination, validity and conditions.

7 Move livestock as prescribed

Travel strictly on the approved route and comply with all permit conditions. Animal health check points operate on routes; carry the original permit, police clearance and stock card. Non-compliance leads to fines, seizure, prosecution and possible destruction of the animals (81 goats were destroyed in October 2022 for lack of a veterinary permit). Report sick animals or suspicious movement to the nearest Veterinary Office.

Who handles each step, what to bring and what happens next

Step	Who handles it	What to bring	What happens next
1. Show intent to move	District Veterinary Office or AHMC (Directorate of Veterinary Services)	ID; Stock card or stock register; Destination address and purpose	The officer books an inspection date, usually at your pens.
2. Officer inspection	Veterinary Officer or Animal Health Inspector	Animals penned for inspection; Legible ear tags (goats) or brands (cattle); Stock card updated	If the animals pass, the office checks whether the destination is inside its own area.
3. Authorisation if needed	Provincial Veterinary Office / Provincial Veterinary Director	Nothing extra	The provincial office tells the district office whether the move may go ahead.
4. Information to client	Veterinary Office	Nothing extra	Go to the police station for ownership clearance.
5. Police clearance	Zimbabwe Republic Police (station anti-stock-theft team)	Stock card or register; ID; Sale agreement or village head's confirmation of ownership; Veterinary authorisation	Take the police clearance back to the Veterinary Office.
6. Obtain the movement permit	Veterinary Office (DVS)	Police clearance; Proof of payment	Check the route, validity dates and conditions on the permit before you load.

Step	Who handles it	What to bring	What happens next
7. Move livestock as prescribed	Farmer or transporter; DVS and ZRP at check points	Original movement permit; Police clearance; Stock card; Driver's ID	At the destination, update the stock card and, for registered animals, notify the Zimbabwe Herd Book of the transfer.

SECTION 3

Who to contact

Verified means the number was read on the body's own page on 18 November 2026; unverified numbers come from press reports or directories. Provincial DVS numbers use legacy area codes.

Office	Role	Phone, email, address	Status
Directorate of Veterinary Services head office	Movement control, permits, disease reporting	+263 242 706603 / +263 242 706604 18 Borrowdale Road (Liberation Legacy Way), Bevan Building, Harare. Monday to Friday 08:00 to 16:45	Verified
Provincial Veterinary Offices	Authorise movement outside the district officer's area	Gweru (054) 222401; Masvingo (039) 262146; Mutare (020) 64576; Gwanda (084) 20549; Bulawayo (09) 68061; Marondera (079) 23088; Bindura (071) 6559; Chinhoyi fax (068) 23558 Numbers as listed on the DVS page use legacy area codes; re-dial with current codes	Verified
Zimbabwe Republic Police National Complaints Desk	Stock clearance queries; report stock theft or suspicious movement	(0242) 703631; WhatsApp 0712 800 197	Unverified
Chief Director of Veterinary Services (Dr Pious Makaya)	National movement controls and emergency orders		Unverified

SECTION 4

Fees and charges

Charges from the DVS 2015 US$ schedule re-issued in November 2020 are historic; confirm current charges with your Veterinary Office. Announced figures are from the Treasury statement of 11 September 2025 and may not yet be gazetted.

Charge	Amount	Basis	Status and source
Movement permit	US$10	per permit	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges

Charge	Amount	Basis	Status and source
Alternative figure: Movement permit (poster figure)	US$10	or ZAR 200	Unverified. DVS livestock movement poster, supplied Nov 2026. Not found on an official page; confirm with DVS and whether it varies by species or province
Alternative figure: Livestock movement clearance (Treasury announcement)	US$5	per herd, from US$10 per beast; listed elsewhere in the same statement as cancelled	Announced. Treasury statement, 11 Sep 2025 (The Herald). Gazetting by the Ministry of Agriculture not confirmed by July 2026
RDC movement clearance fee	US$0	abolished	Announced. Model Fees By-Laws 2026 (SI 41/2026), The Herald 17 Mar 2026. Gazette not read; confirm your RDC applies it
Police stock clearance	US$0	free (cattle); goats unverified	Unverified. ZRP statements reported by Southern Eye
Tagging per animal (excluding the ear tag)	US$2	per animal	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges
Stock card	US$5	each	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges
Quarantine, sheep and goats	US$2	per animal per day, excluding feed, dipping and vaccines	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges
General office consultation	US$1	per visit	Historic schedule. DVS price list, 2015 US$ schedule re-issued Nov 2020; confirm current charges

SECTION 5

Exceptions and things GBAZ is confirming

- Species: Goats: yes. The poster lists goats and sheep with cattle and pigs. The branding check in step 2 applies to cattle (SI 35/2003); goats are identified by ear tag or tattoo.
- To confirm: Legal basis for goat and sheep permits is disputed: HH 42/2007 held that SI 280/1984 covers cattle and pigs only, while the DVS poster and enforcement include goats and sheep. GBAZ is asking the Chief Director to confirm the governing instrument. Do not rely on the judgment; get the permit.
- To confirm: The permit fee (USD 10 / ZAR 200) is from the poster only and conflicts with the September 2025 fee-reform announcement; confirm with DVS.
- Restriction: Movement restrictions change: Buhera and Chikomba quarantine orders (Feb 2024), nationwide FMD controls (Aug 2025), Mangwe SAT 1 outbreak (Jan 2026). Ask the district office on the day.

- Restriction: Auctions, markets and shows in quarantined areas were suspended in 2025; DVS has asked for two weeks' notice for sale-pen movements (unverified).
- Note: Provincial office numbers on the DVS page use legacy area codes; re-dial with the current codes.
- Note: No overloading or overdriving in transit (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act).

Legal references and sources (all accessed 18 November 2026)

- DVS poster: Livestock movement regulations (Directorate of Veterinary Services): GBAZ hub copy
- Animal Health Act [Chapter 19:01] (sections 1 to 5 and index) (Government of Zimbabwe (law.co.zw copy)): https://www.law.co.zw/?p=1987
- HH 42/2007 (movement permits; SI 280/1984 and SI 377/1984) (High Court of Zimbabwe (ZimLII)): https://zimlii.org/akn/zw/judgment/zwhhc/2007/42/eng@2007-06-12/source.pdf
- Farmers must comply with DVS livestock movement rules (The Herald via allAfrica, 28 Feb 2024): https://allafrica.com/stories/202402280448.html
- Zimbabwe imposes nationwide livestock movement ban (Aug 2025) (Bulawayo24): https://bulawayo24.com/news/national/256474
- Foot and mouth outbreak hits Matabeleland South (Jan 2026) (The Herald via allAfrica): https://allafrica.com/stories/202601290360.html
- Cops face arrest for demanding cattle clearance fees (Southern Eye): https://newsday.co.zw/southerneye/amp/local/article/200033397/cops-face-arrest-for-demanding-cattle-clearance
- Government slashes agricultural value-chain fees (Treasury statement, 11 Sep 2025) (The Herald): https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/govt-slashes-agric-value-chain-fees-in-sweeping-regulatory-overhaul/
- Model Fees By-Laws 2026 (SI 41/2026) coverage (The Herald, 17 Mar 2026): https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/livestock-stakeholders-welcome-partial-levy-review/
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act [Chapter 19:09] (ZimLII): https://zimlii.org/akn/zw/act/1960/25/eng@2016-12-31/source

SECTION 6

Checklist: before you move livestock

Tick each item before loading. Goats, sheep, cattle and pigs.

- [ ] No movement restriction or quarantine order applies to the origin or destination district. Ask the district Veterinary Office on the day; restrictions change.
- [ ] Every animal carries a legible ear tag or tattoo and is on the stock card. Branding is the cattle rule; goats are identified by tag or tattoo.
- [ ] Intent to move declared at the Veterinary Office or AHMC. Name, contacts, species and numbers, origin, destination, purpose and transport.
- [ ] Inspection done and, where needed, provincial authorisation obtained
- [ ] Police stock clearance in hand. Stock card, ID, sale agreement or village head's letter, veterinary authorisation.
- [ ] Movement permit collected: route, destination, validity and conditions read. Keep the receipt for any fee paid.
- [ ] Originals in the vehicle: permit, police clearance, stock card, driver's ID
- [ ] Transport loaded without overcrowding; water and rest planned for long routes. Overloading is an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
- [ ] Sale agreement or Zimbabwe Herd Book certificates packed for registered animals
- [ ] Destination pen ready: 30-day quarantine away from the home flock

Keep this page in the vehicle or the application folder
Confirm the position with the authority named on the day. Figures marked unverified or announced come from posters, press reports or the September 2025 Treasury statement.