

AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF WORKERS IN TWO COMMUNITY
ABATTOIRS (LONGDENVILLE AND CHAGUANAS) IN THEIR INTERACTION WITH
BRUCELLOSIS POSITIVE CATTLE AND WATER BUFFALO

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Background: Brucellosis in cattle is mainly caused by *Brucella abortus*, and less commonly by *Brucella melitensis* (Verger, 1985; Jimenez de Bagues *et al.*, 1991). Brucellosis in domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) is generally caused by infection with *Brucella abortus* (Godfroid, 2002). In humans, mistreatments and underreporting are common as it is often mistaken for conditions such as malaria and typhoid fever. Symptoms of brucellosis include general “flu-like” symptoms; Sweating; Chills; Tiredness; Weight loss; Headache; Body aches; Joint pain (Bax, Van Veelen & Gyssen 2007).

Objective: To assess: **(1)** awareness, knowledge and practices of workers in two community abattoirs and interaction with brucellosis positive cattle and water buffalo **(2)** to evaluate the environmental conditions of the abattoirs, the protocols/ practices of the workers during the slaughter process and the knowledge and awareness were evaluated during the project.

Design: A questionnaire and survey sheet was drafted to obtain the requisite information needed.

Results: The results revealed a high percentage (>50%) of the respondents (n=20) lacked the awareness, knowledge and handling protocols with respect to processing brucellosis positive animals. Pearson correlation results (.409) matching the level of education and the awareness of what of what is known about brucellosis further suggest the knowledge and awareness deficiency shown by the abattoir workers.

Conclusion: The environmental conditions of the Longdenville abattoir were in a greater satisfactory condition than the Chaguanas abattoir and their observance to protocols by the workers more routine albeit not knowledge based. Based on the finding it can be concluded there exist a positive relationship and link that needs to be further studied and developed in other community abattoirs to get a greater broader picture with respect to worker awareness, knowledge and practices and brucellosis positive animals.