



**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERINARY SERVICES**



***Dipping kills ticks and
controls tick-borne
diseases like Theileriosis***

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**BLITZ TICK GREASE
SPOT APPLICATION**

BLITZ TICK GREASE APPLICATION

Why do we dip our cattle?

Ticks spread many diseases to livestock. These tick-related diseases cause 75% of cattle deaths in Zimbabwe every year. Ticks are controlled through various dipping methods such as:

- ◆ Plunge dip,
- ◆ Spray dip and
- ◆ Pour-on dip

In the first two methods the animals are completely submerged in the plunge or wet thoroughly using a spraying appliance containing an effective tick-destroying agent at the concentration specified in the manufacturer's instructions. Pour-on is a concentrated oil based dip chemical containing a spreading agent which when applied topically allows the dip to spread over the skin of the animal.

What then is tick grease?

It is a tick-destroying agent used as a supplementary spot application tick control method applied by hand dressing to an animal.

When does one use tick-grease?

In cases of evidence of inadequate tick-control in some or all animals subjected to any of the three methods of dipping, tick grease hand-dressing is used to supplement in the following scenarios:

- ◆ ticks in the hidden areas remain alive after dipping because the water did not reach the hidden areas
 - ◆ there is a certain tick species which could not be killed through the main dipping method
 - ◆ The animal could not be found on the dipping day so has ticks on it.
 - ◆ The animal is sick so remained in the kraal on a dipping day
 - ◆ The animal is in poor condition in drought time so cannot swim across the dip tank
 - ◆ Temporary shortage of the main dip chemical
 - ◆ Clustering of ticks in hairless areas causing skin damage and annoyance
- Brown ear ticks which transmit the deadly January disease also known as Theileriosis usually clusters in the ears of cattle. Applying tick grease will kill ticks and reduce cattle deaths from this disease.

How is tick-grease correctly applied?

The owner of the cattle may apply it to certain or all animals as necessary. It can be applied between dipping sessions.

Tick grease sticks better to hairless skin and generally has a fairly long residual period.

Please note: It should not be used as the only method of tick control.

Before application:

Restrain the animal, then clip or shave the following areas:

- ◆ tail brushes,
- ◆ polls and
- ◆ ears.

Then:

Apply thinly (or according to the manufacturer's instructions) and evenly by means of a brush or gloved hand to tick feeding sites such as:

- ◆ the inside surface of the ears,
- ◆ tail root/under the tail-head,
- ◆ udder and
- ◆ between and behind the hooves where ticks tend to cluster or to such other areas of the body where there are visible ticks.