



The African Horse Sickness Trust

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****IMPORTANT PRESS RELEASE****

TO: **SANEF - for circulation to all Provinces**

RE: **African Horse Sickness - Potential risk – Movement control**

Due to suspected AHS outbreaks reported to date, specific areas have now been closed down for horse movement directly into the AHS Controlled Area of the Western Cape (see page 2 & 3 for full report from the AHS Trust).

It is only a matter of time before a general ban on movements into the AHS Controlled Area is imposed by the South African Veterinary Services. All horse owners considering movements into the Western Cape need to first check with their local State Veterinarian to gain official approval.

Areas currently closed for movement to the AHS Controlled Area:

Johannesburg North – including Kyalami

Lanseria

Pretoria North

Babsfontein

Specific areas in KZN

Movements from the above areas will be subject to a quarantine period of up to 21 days in Beaufort West.

Notes:

1. See attached PDF describing requirements for movements into the AHS Controlled Area
2. Any owners not adhering to these veterinary regulations can be prosecuted with severe quarantine status placed on their properties and surrounding areas.

For the benefit of South African equestrian sport, we wish to protect the resident population of horses in the Western Cape as well as South Africa's export status. An outbreak of AHS in the AHS Controlled Area will jeopardize international participation by South African horses.

With regard to the suspected cases of West Nile Virus, official reports are awaited.

Yours Faithfully
Douglas Welsh
CEO
AHS Trust

AHS TRUST OUTBREAK REPORT

During the last 2 months, most suspected cases reported to the AHS Trust have been received from this season's current hot spots namely Nelspruit in Mphumulanga, Thabazimbi and the Waterberg areas in the Limpopo Province. This corresponds to the outbreak pattern from the last 2 years. So far 17 confirmed cases have been reported 4 of which have been from the Onderstepoort area which were the season's first reported cases last November.

In the corresponding period for 2008, 45 suspected cases had already been reported and in 2009 only 12 cases.

Gauteng has reported their first cases this week from Muldersdrift (4) and additional 5 unconfirmed cases from Johannesburg North. The Eastern Cape has so far been very quiet and we anticipate that to continue due to the extremely dry conditions prevailing in that part of the country.

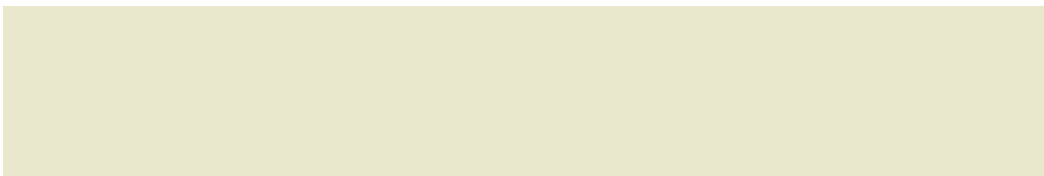
KZN has had 1 confirmed case north of Pietermaritzburg, 1 in Vryheid and 2 unconfirmed cases near the Karkloof.

In general terms far fewer suspected cases were reported during February than anticipated. Typically suspected cases reported in March account for about 60% of the total received in the season. Considering the five-year weather cycle of above average rainfall falling in the central parts of South Africa, it suggests a higher than average number of cases expected based on the history of AHS reporting.

Higher vaccination coverage in the rural areas of KZN and the Eastern Cape hopefully will reduce in impacts significantly in these areas. The AHS Trust inoculated 2500 horses in the blanket vaccination campaign of 2009 a 40% increase on 2008.

This year, samples collected via the AHS Trust reporting system have been couriered to Equine Research Centre (ERC) which then splits them and delivers to the State laboratory, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI).

Monday, 01 March 2010



Statistics of All Suspected Cases Reported for 2009/2010 Outbreak*

Statistics

Overall Outbreak Statistics	
Outbreak duration (months):	4
Total approved cases:	17
Number of horses that died:	4
Number of horses that survived:	13
Suspected Cases Reported by Province	
Cases in Gauteng:	9
Cases in Mpumalanga:	3
Cases in North-West Province:	1
Cases in Free State:	0
Cases in Limpopo:	1
Cases in KwaZulu Natal:	2
Cases in Northern Cape:	0
Cases in Eastern Cape:	0
Cases in Western Cape:	0
Cases in Namibia:	0
Cases in Lesotho:	0
Cases in other countries:	1
Suspected Cases Reported by Month	
December 2009:	3
January 2010:	7
February 2010:	3
March 2010:	4
Information Last Updated on 02/03/2010	