



The African Horse Sickness Trust

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****IMPORTANT PRESS RELEASE****

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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 believed to be closed for movement to the AHS Controlled Area:

North Gauteng (Lanseria)
Pretoria North
Most of KZN

Movements from the above areas will be subject to a quarantine period of up to 21 days in Beaufort West. For further information, contact the local State Veterinary Officer, Dr J Pienaar: jacop@elsenburg.com or Dr G Burhmann, Chief State Veterinary Officer, Western Cape: garyb@elsenburg.com or tel: 021 808 5026

Notes:

1. See attached PDF describing requirements for movements into the AHS Controlled Area
2. Any owners not adhering to these veterinary regulations are at risk of being prosecuted.

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.

Yours Faithfully

Douglas Welsh
CEO
AHS Trust

AHS TRUST OUTBREAK REPORT – January/February 2011

During the last 3 months, most suspected cases reported to the AHS Trust have been received from historically impacted areas like Pretoria North and Limpopo Province. We also have an outbreak in the Eastern Cape near Grahamstown during December.

The recent wet conditions and now warm weather are favourable for the rapid increase in vector populations and correspondingly there has been a surge in AHS cases reported especially in KZN. So far 29 confirmed cases have been reported.

In the corresponding period for 2009, 12 suspected cases had been reported

KZN reported their first cases from Ashburton (2) and more recently additional 6 cases from the Midlands and Northern Natal. The Eastern Cape has reported 7 cases between Grahamstown and East London.

In general more cases have been reported for this time of year than in past years. Typically suspected cases reported in March account for about 60% of the total received in a 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 2010

Horse owners are encouraged to report all suspected cases to your local State Veterinary Office and the AHS Trust website: www.africanhorsesickness.co.za.

Samples taken from affected horses are essential to support research initiatives and owners are reminded that the AHS Trust provides some financial assistance in this regard. Speak to your private veterinarian for more information.

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).

02 February 2011

Statistics of All Reported Suspected Cases for 2010/2011 Outbreak*

[Early Warning Map](#) | **Statistics**

Overall Outbreak Statistics	
Outbreak duration (months):	4
Total approved cases:	29
Number of horses that died:	17
Number of horses that survived:	12
Reported Suspected Cases by Province	
Cases in Gauteng:	11
Cases in Mpumalanga:	3
Cases in North-West Province:	0
Cases in Free State:	0
Cases in Limpopo:	0
Cases in KwaZulu Natal:	8
Cases in Northern Cape:	0
Cases in Eastern Cape:	7
Cases in Western Cape:	0
Cases in Namibia:	0
Cases in Lesotho:	0
Cases in other countries:	0
Reported Suspected Cases by Month	
November 2010:	14
December 2010:	3
January 2011:	11
February 2011:	1