

PRESS RELEASE

AFRICAN HORSESICKNESS (AHS) VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 2007 – Eastern Cape

The AHS Trust, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Equine Research Centre, is pleased to announce the 2007 AHS Vaccination Campaign.

AHS is a non-contagious virus that is endemic to southern Africa and can kill susceptible horses. The disease is spread from horse to horse by the bite of an infected midge called *Culicoides*. The high risk time of the year is from December until May after which time the cold winter months suppresses the breeding cycle of the midge.

However, horses can be protected from the disease in a number of ways, but the most effective method is by annual vaccination which helps raise the level of immunity against the virus. By South African law, it is a requirement of horse owners to vaccinate their animals on an annual basis.

The AHS Trust and Department of Agriculture, however, recognize that not all horse owners have the means to vaccinate their horses. Therefore, as part of its community service programme, the AHS Trust has agreed to assist in the administration of vaccines to needy horse owners in areas deemed to be vulnerable to the disease.

This year, the areas to be covered are the following:

The first vaccination will take place on November 15 to 19th

To register your horse for vaccination please contact Jenny Fisher on 042 2311 115

To find out more about AHS or the vaccination campaign, please contact your local State Veterinarian or Douglas Welsh of the AHS Trust in the following manner:

Cell: 082 965 4082

Email: dougw@tiscali.co.za

Web: www.africanhorsesickness.co.za

The 2007 AHS vaccination campaign was kindly sponsored by:

- Horseracing South Africa (Pty) Ltd
- The Western Cape Thoroughbred Breeders Club
- Onderstepoort Biological Products