



# The African Horse Sickness Trust

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## **\*\*IMPORTANT PRESS RELEASE\*\***

### **2 February 2011**

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:

**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.

#### **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.

Yours Faithfully  
Douglas Welsh  
CEO  
AHS Trust

## AHS TRUST OUTBREAK REPORT – 1 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 have made conditions favourable for the rapid increase in vector populations and correspondingly we have had a surge in AHS cases reported especially from KZN. So far 30 confirmed cases have been reported 12 of which have been from the Onderstepoort area which were the season's first reported cases last November.

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

KZN has reported their first cases this last week from Ashburton (2) and additional 6 cases from the Midlands and Northern Natal. 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.

In general more cases have been reported for this time of year. 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 2010

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 Reported Cases for 2010/2011 Outbreak\*

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

Overall Outbreak Statistics	
Outbreak duration (months):	<b>4</b>
Total approved cases:	<b>29</b>
Number of horses that died:	<b>17</b>
Number of horses that survived:	<b>12</b>
Reported Cases by Province	
Cases in Gauteng:	<b>11</b>
Cases in Mpumalanga:	<b>3</b>
Cases in North-West Province:	<b>0</b>
Cases in Free State:	<b>0</b>
Cases in Limpopo:	<b>0</b>
Cases in KwaZulu Natal:	<b>8</b>
Cases in Northern Cape:	<b>0</b>
Cases in Eastern Cape:	<b>7</b>
Cases in Western Cape:	<b>0</b>

Cases in Namibia:	<b>0</b>
Cases in Lesotho:	<b>0</b>
Cases in other countries:	<b>0</b>
<b>Reported Cases by Month</b>	
November 2010:	<b>14</b>
December 2010:	<b>3</b>
January 2011:	<b>11</b>
February 2011:	<b>1</b>