



The African Horse Sickness Trust

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AHS TRUST OUTBREAK REPORT

During the last month, 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.

Apart from the early outbreak in Newcastle in which 12 horses were reported to have died, KZN cases seem to have been isolated. In the corresponding period for 2008, 45 new suspected cases had already been reported.

Gauteng and the Eastern Cape have so far been very quiet with only isolated suspected cases being received.

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. Therefore, it would be reasonable to expect an increase in suspected cases from this point onwards.

This year the percentage of deaths reported appears higher than in previous years with many reports of acute deaths within hours of showing symptoms. Mortality rates:

2007 – 52%
2008 - 58%
2009 to date – 64%

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).

Douglas Welsh (Chairman)
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Statistics of suspected cases reported to the AHS Trust for 2008/2009 Outbreak*

Overall Outbreak Statistics	
Outbreak duration (months):	6
Total suspected cases received:	72
Number of horses reported to have died:	47
Suspected cases reported by PROVINCE	
Gauteng:	2
Mpumalanga:	13
North-West Province	1
Free State:	1
Limpopo:	29
KwaZulu Natal:	25
Northern Cape:	0
Eastern Cape:	1
Western Cape:	0
Namibia:	0
Lesotho:	0
Other countries:	0
Suspected cases reported by MONTH	
October 2008:	1
November 2008:	0
December 2008:	11
January 2009:	18
February 2009:	25
March 2009:	17

* Note all suspected cases reported to the AHS Trust are submitted to the local State Veterinary Office and are only ever regarded as "unofficial". However, the AHS Trust aims to provide an early warning system to assist the equine industry in protecting their horses. Equally, this assists in controlling movement into South Africa's export zone in the AHS Controlled Area in the Western Cape.