

OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS IN PAARL - UPDATE

(This is a short extract summarised from the final outbreak situation report issued by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture on the 13 June 2016)

“Movement restrictions as a result of the Paarl AHS cases have been lifted as of 13 June 2016 after a period of 40 days had elapsed since the last detected case in May 2016. Including the initial case, 21 horses on eight properties within the established containment zone tested positive for infection with AHS virus. Six of these horses experienced clinical signs of illness, resulting in a total of four deaths.

Written requests for AHS vaccination in the AHS surveillance zone will once again be considered by the Boland State Veterinary office.”

The focus of the EHF fund team will now be on publishing a report on the outbreak which details the surveillance, movement control and epidemiology of the event in order to better understand events of this nature and help in future prevention and control thereof.

Gloria Kilian posted a message on Facebook at the start of the outbreak : “I would like to publicly say a huge big thank you to Camilla Weyer, Danielle Pienaar, Philippa Burger and John Grewar from the Equine Research Team. When I was notified yesterday of the AHS case very close to my yard these four people worked tirelessly all afternoon to take blood samples from each and every horse in my yard and add them all to their database to monitor over the next few weeks. Many people in the horse community are so quick to get angry when a situation like this arises. I listened to Camilla and Danielle endlessly and repeatedly answering hundreds of calls all afternoon until late evening from concerned horse owners and show holding bodies. I have to give the highest praise to them for their patience and dedication that they give to our entire equestrian community and to our sport. Thank you - thank you - thank you!!!!”