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Impact on international movement of competition horses – Recommendations from the Horse Industry

Impact of AHS outbreaks on OIE official status and on international
movement of competition horses

Impacts

Until restored AHS-free status:

- Thailand will have to rely on horses stationed in AHS-free countries for participation in international events
- No international championships, games, qualifiers or finals will be allocated to Thailand
- Impact on AHS-status of neighbouring countries? Long term effects on development of the horse sports in the region
- Impact on horse export from South Africa??

Recommendations – outbreak preparedness and management

- Ensure traceability of ALL equidae
 - ID (microchip + diagram)
 - Establishments / holdings
 - Movements of epidemiological importance
- } Registered in a database
- List of regional laboratories with accredited method for AHS analysis
 - Organise national/regional rapid response teams for sampling etc.
 - Prepare **communication plan** to ensure fast, correct communication and reports in relevant languages to stakeholders within the country, to NVAs in the neighbouring countries, OIE etc.

Recommendations – outbreak preparedness and management

- Develop a structured Horse Industry Outbreak Management Support team (HIOMS)
- OIE to continue inviting the regional Horse Industry to OIEs educational workshops on AHS and extend scenario exercises to include HIOMS
- Horse Industry organised workshops for national and regional private stakeholders (in cooperation with NVAs)

Recommendations – minimizing risks

- Ideally a global stop for trade with wild animals from infected areas
- Import and export of animals, regardless of wild or domesticated, should strictly be administrated by ONE national authority, ie. the National Veterinary Authority that is member of the OIE
- Vaccine banks established and maintained (inactivated DIVA vaccine when available)

Recommendations – AHS status

- Handbook/manual to guide the application for AHS-free status
- Transparency - share information > Opportunity to improve protocols, legislation etc.
Benchmark: Iberian outbreak in the 1980s
- Active surveillance (neighbouring countries)

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Thank you for your attention!



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