

ICWE

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE FOR WELFARE ISSUES



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**Working equids
and their role in the outbreak**



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future

Working equids

- There are 100 million working equids globally
- In Asia and Oceania there are over 28 million equids

28,565,317: horses(49%), donkeys (46%) and mules (5%)
(FAOSTAT, 2020).

If 85% of all equids are working

The region has over 24 million working equids

Working equids in the region

Where are they?

- Often in remote locations.
- Access and communications may be difficult.
- Owners may not understand the disease and the need for control &/or eradication,
- Communities may have little or no money or resource to protect their animals.

Importance to livelihoods

- Equines are uniquely versatile; with various roles around the world.
- The economic impact may be at an individual or village level; but ultimately there is an effect on national economy.

Agriculture; draught power and food production.

Transport; goods, waste, collection of water and food, pack animals for the national army.

Brick kilns

Tourism, production of milk and meat

Importance of the working equid in an outbreak of AHS

They need to be included in any outbreak control plan:

- Disease/case identification (reservoir/source potential)
- Establishment of protection and surveillance zones
- Equine movement control patterns
- Vector control actions
- Treatment options
- Vaccination (ring/prophylaxis) policies

Recognising signs and diagnosis

Early identification and diagnosis, minimising spread, and protection from insects are vital for control.

For working equids consider:

- Communication of the significant clinical signs, skills to assess
- Different signs in donkeys and mules, viraemic stage is longer in donkeys
- Access of professionals who understand the disease to remote areas
- Ability to take samples and transport to diagnostic lab
- Communication of results to communities with advice

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR IN YOUR HORSE OR PONY

A SERIOUS DISEASE WHICH CAN CAUSE DEATH IN HORSES AND PONIES

African Horse Sickness (AHS) is one of the most deadly in 90% of infected animals.

If you see any of these signs, house your horse or pony and spread infection further.

MOST COMMON SIGNS ARE:



TEMPERATURE HIGHER THAN 39°C OR 102°F
Sweating may be seen

BREATHING AND SPASMS
With widely



REDDENED EYES

DEATH CAN

YOU MAY NEED TO CONSIDER IF AN ANIMAL IS SUFFERING – FOLLOW UP

Contact your vet or animal health worker if your horse or pony looks sick; they can take a sample and test for this disease.



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AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR IN YOUR DONKEY

IT IS EASY TO MISS SIGNS OF INFECTION IN A DONKEY

African Horse Sickness (AHS) may only cause very mild signs if your donkey or mule is infected. Signs vary depending on the form of the disease and a mixture of signs may be seen.

If you see any of these signs, house your donkey immediately. Make sure insects cannot spread infection further.

MOST COMMON SIGNS ARE:



DONKEYS AND MULES MAY JUST LOOK DULL



SWOLLEN EYELIDS AND AREA AROUND THE EYE
May cause a swollen head and reddened eyes



DIFFICULTY BREATHING
Widely open mouth

MAY ALSO SEE:



TEMPERATURE HIGHER THAN 37.8°C OR 100.4°F



WEAKNESS



FROTHY DISCHARGE FROM NOSE
May be sour

WATCH FOR EARLY SIGNS OF ILL HEALTH:



Eating or drinking less



Change in behaviour



Reluctance to move

Contact your vet or animal health worker if your donkey looks sick; they can take a sample and test for this disease.

There is no treatment, but get better with good care. Provide rest, food and shelter.



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AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Signs vary with species as well as with forms of this disease but these images show the most common



Swelling around the eyes will make the head



Reddened eyes



Difficulty breathing and frothy discharge from



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World Horse Welfare

PROTECT YOUR EQUIDS FROM AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

HOW MIDGES SPREAD DISEASE:



If you suspect an equid is infected with African Horse Sickness (AHS) - **HOUSE IT IMMEDIATELY** to prevent midges biting and spreading infection.

ALWAYS:



KEEP MIDGES OUT

Keep equids in stables from dusk until dawn and use cloth mesh to cover doors and windows.



KEEP AWAY FROM MIDGES

Keep equids away from water where there are large numbers of midges.



PROTECT EQUIDS FROM MIDGE BITES

Use covers and sprays to kill midges or to keep them away.



WATCH OUT FOR INFECTED BLOOD SPILLS AND NEEDLES

Do not use needles on more than one equid.



STOP THE MOVEMENT OF EQUIDS

Over long distances.

YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY CARRY OUT VACCINATION

MIDGES:

- Are active at dawn and dusk, this is mostly when they bite.
- Thrive in warm, damp environments
- Travel large distances on the wind
- Breed in damp soil or pasture

YOU MAY NEED TO CONSIDER EUTHANASIA IF YOUR EQUID IS SUFFERING – FOLLOW GOVERNMENT ADVICE.



More posters and resources:

<https://www.icweworkingequids.org/>

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Stabling and insect control

Factors in vector spread prevention:

- Move equids away from wet areas, stable from dusk to dawn
- Use of insect repellents and physical barriers (blankets/nets/shade cloth etc)

For working equids consider:

- How to get the message to remote areas
- Shelter often not available
- Owners can't keep equids away from wet areas
- Owners can't afford shade cloths or nets
- Insect repellents may not be available or affordable

Other methods of spread

Remember virus is carried in blood:

- Potential iatrogenic spread
 - Clean up blood spills
 - Do not re-use needles and equipment that may have blood on it; clean and sterilise
- Virus unlikely to survive on carcasses, but protect from insects immediately after death and
- Carcass disposal and management

For working equids consider:

- Getting messages out to remote areas
- Lack of equipment to allow disposal of needles etc after single use.

Movements and spread

Consider the vector:

- Insects will carry disease several km.
- Movement of live infected animals will spread disease by transmission to a new endemic insect vectors
- The live infected vector can be carried several miles on objects and infect a new population of equids.

For working equids consider:

- Communication of movement control measures
- Movements of goods over large distances and across borders

NGOs: support in the region



NGOs can help with on the ground support, information and through operational partners, who may be trusted at owner level.



Tip for communications

- Knowledge does not always lead to behaviour change
- Communication is a two-way process
 - Listen to their concerns
- Sensitisation is important
 - Someone trusted – e.g. local leaders
 - Before action is taken – e.g. before vaccinations
- When teaching skills, practice is important
- Have printout or posters, graphics
- Social media

Vaccination

Countries with endemic African Horse Sickness use routine vaccination of all equids.

For working equids consider:

- Access to equids in remote areas
- Locating all equids
- Cost to owners
- Iatrogenic spread

Summary

- Important to include working equids into AHS control measures
- Vector control as prevention
- Communication and education
- Consider resources for these communities

Thank you for your attention



International Coalition for Working Equids

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