

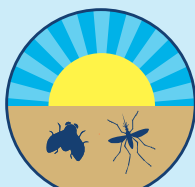
PROTECT YOUR EQUIDS FROM AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

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.

GUIDANCE NOTES

African Horse Sickness is a deadly disease that originates in Africa and can spread to other countries. It can infect all equids.

This disease is not contagious, and does not spread by close contact between equids. It is caused by a virus that is carried over large distances by biting insects. **Infected insects land on horses, donkeys and mules and infect them when they bite.**

Insects can then fly for many miles and land and feed on many other equids, therefore spreading this disease over long distances.

The main biting insect that carries African Horse Sickness Virus is the Culicoides midge, but other biting insects can also spread disease.



Prevention of disease spread should mainly be around protection against biting insects.

1. To reduce contact with biting midges infected with African horse sickness virus, house equids at night from 2-4 hours before sunset to 2-4 hours after sunrise.
2. Provide additional protection to housing to reduce midges entering by using mesh (80% shade cloth) to cover all openings (e.g. door and window openings) at night. The cloth may be impregnated with an insecticide (a pyrethroid).
3. Spray housing walls and protective mesh with an insecticide (a pyrethroid) effective against biting midges.
4. Apply insecticides to the animal that are registered for use on equids in the late afternoon and early morning, focussing on preferred midge biting sites such as the head, neck, back and belly, e.g. fly sprays containing cypermethrin or permethrin. But note that the insect will have bitten the equid before being killed.
5. Apply insect repellent to equids in the late afternoon and early morning, focussing on preferred midge biting sites such as the head, neck, back and belly. (use DEET or natural products such as Neem Oil and Eucalyptus Oil) Monitor for adverse skin reactions.

TIPS: Take care to monitor the skin of the animal for damage or irritation caused by insect repellents.

6. Where possible, move equids away from midge breeding sites, such as marshes, paddy fields and muddy areas.
7. Avoid having stagnant water, repair leaking water pipes and troughs to reduce midge breeding sites.

Keep informed and stay up to date with the latest information from your government.

Other biting insects can also spread this disease.

Don't feed infected meat to animals. AHS can kill dogs.

Blood can carry the virus. Do not reuse needles and keep midges away from blood spills.

METHODS THAT DO NOT PREVENT AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

- Smoking drums around stables. This has no effect on midge activity and will harm the health of people and animals.
- Insect repellents used on their own. Covering or housing equids during high risks periods is needed as well.
- Garlic.
- Citronella oil - this may even attract midges.
- Moving equids to higher altitude. Midges can tolerate altitude, providing other environmental conditions are adequate.