



SOUTH AFRICAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

NPO:071-702 VAT: 4700262068

Postal Address: P.O. Box 30617, Kyalami, 1684, South Africa

Physical Address: No 1 Dahlia Road, Kyalami, Johannesburg.

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AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINATIONS

There appears to be much confusion about the rules pertaining to African Horse Sickness Vaccination for competition Horses.

For all horses wishing to participate in any SAEF discipline show the following vaccinations are compulsory. As per the SAEF Veterinary Regulations - **ALL VACCINATIONS MUST BE ADMINISTERED BY A REGISTERED VETERINARIAN, ENTERED INTO THE PASSPORT, SIGNED AND STAMPED BY THE VETERINARIAN ADMINISTERING THE VACCINATION.**

1. AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINATION (AHS)

Horses for competition purposes must be vaccinated annually against AHS, with both AHS 1 and AHS 2, with an effective remedy registered in section 1, of Act 101 of 1965. The vaccination must be given a minimum of 21 days apart. The interval between vaccines may be longer than 21 days, but horses vaccinated with the 2nd vaccine in less than 21 days will make both vaccinations invalid.

This means that a horse requires AHS 1 and AHS 2 every year. For example, a horse may receive the first vaccine in June 2018 and the 2nd in August 2018. This horse has until the end of 2019 to complete both AHS 1 and AHS 2. i.e. AHS 1 and AHS 2 must be administered at least once in each calendar year.

It has become common practice to administer AHS 2 before AHS 1, especially in naive animals (imported horse, foals and horses receiving vaccination for the first time). This practice is NOT illegal and it is perfectly acceptable to administer them in this order.

Scientific research has also shown that the ideal time between vaccinations is 4 – 6 weeks and not 21 days. Owners should be encouraged to vaccinate with longer intervals between AHS 1 and 2, which will also allow owners to vaccinate horses at times convenient to their show schedules.

Please note, that for those competitors residing in the Western Cape Free and Surveillance Zones, permission has to be requested in writing on the required form to move@myhorse.org.za. In the Western Cape Free, Surveillance and Protection Zones, permission for vaccinations will only be allowed between 1st June and 31st October each year. Whilst it is not a requirement that horses in the AHS Infected Zone be vaccinated between 1st June and 31st October it has been strongly recommended.

EXECUTIVE:

Acting President: Johann Koorts
Acting Treasurer: Jan Joubert
Secretary General: Wessel Strauss

CONSTITUENT MEMBERS:

Gauteng Equestrian Federation (GEF)
Western Cape Equestrian Federation (WCEF)
Free State Equestrian Federation (FSEF)
North West Equestrian Federation (NWEF)
Eastern Cape Equestrian Federation (ECEF)
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DISPENSATION FOR AHS VACCINATION

The SAEF has approved a dispensation for competition horses residing in the Free and Surveillance Zones of the Western Cape in that they are not required to have annual AHS vaccination for competition purposes. However, should they wish to leave the Free or Surveillance Zone to travel to the Infected or Protection Zones, they will be required to comply with AHS vaccination.

2. EQUINE INFLUENZA VACCINE

An initial Primary Course of two vaccinations must be given; the second vaccination must be administered within 21-92 days of the first vaccination. It is important that the primary course should consist of the same propriety vaccine.

The first booster must be administered within 7 calendar months following the date of administration of the second vaccination of the Primary Course.

Booster vaccinations must be administered at a maximum of 12 month intervals however Horses competing in Events must have received a booster within 6 months +21 days (and not within 7 days) before arrival at the Event.

Horses may compete 7 days after receiving the second vaccination of the primary course.

Horses that have received the Primary Course prior to 1 January 2005 are not required to fulfil the requirement for the first booster, providing there has not been an interval of more than 12 months between each of their subsequent annual booster vaccinations.

Horses whose vaccinations have exceeded a 12 month interval must receive the Primary Course of vaccinations.

3. VACCINATION AND COMPETITION

There still seems to be a great deal of confusion about vaccination before competition.

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PLEASE NOTE:

No vaccination, AHS, Equine Influenza, Rabies, EHV or any other vaccination may be given within 7 days of Competition. The start of competition is 1 (one) hour before the Horse Inspection (Trot up) or the first class.

EQUINE INFLUENZA 6 MONTHLY VACCINATION

The most frequently asked question has been 'why do we have to vaccinate every 6 months for competition purposes'. In fact provided the primary course of 3 vaccinations have been given, the manufacturers indicate that annual vaccination is sufficient. I insert a response written by Professor Alan Guthrie to this very question, and believe that I could not have explained it better myself.

The difference in times relates to the duration of immunity providing "protection against infection" versus "protection from clinical signs". All the vaccine manufacturers provide data in their package inserts which states that the vaccine will protect infected horses "from clinical signs" for a period of 1 year. This is good for their marketing but is potentially disastrous for responsible equine sporting bodies as horses towards the end of this period can be infected with EI but show no clinical signs (i.e. are Trojan Horses that can unwittingly be shedding virus at events). Therefore, responsible equestrian sporting bodies require that horses are vaccinated within a period not exceeding 6 months and thereby ensure that the vast majority of their horses are "protected from infection" and thereby reduce the chances of subclinical EI being transmitted at their events due to protection from clinical signs. It is a fact of life that a large proportion of horses that do not compete in events but remain at home are not vaccinated. Therefore, if there was sub-clinical infection of horses protected from clinical signs at shows and this was then taken "home" it has the potential to result in explosive outbreaks which would be blamed on the sporting body that organized the event.

Such an outbreak would result in huge economic loss and the cancellation of all events. It is a known fact that recent outbreaks of Equine Influenza, have resulted in very little disruption to Equestrian Events. This can be directly attributable to a WELL vaccinated Equine population. Therefore we urge you the competitors to act responsibly and comply with the SAEF/FEI vaccinations regulations.

SAEF Veterinary Committee

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