



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
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To: All Provincial Directors and Dr Beverly Parker of the Wits Health Consortium for distribution to all stakeholders.

NOTICE OF RESTRICTED AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINATION PERIOD AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS CONTROL POLICY

Vaccination of horses against AHS is prescribed in Table 2 of the Regulations of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 84).

Excerpt from Table 2 of the Regulations of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 84) relating to AHS vaccination.

Animal disease	Nature, causal organism and symptoms	Susceptible animals	Controlled veterinary act to be performed in respect of-
1	2	3	Susceptible animals 4
African Horse sickness	Viral disease transmitted by biting insects and characterised by high fever, respiratory distress, subcutaneous oedema and acute death	Equines and Zebra	All equines in the Republic except equines in the African Horse sickness free zone and the African Horse sickness surveillance zone as described in Table 1, shall between the ages of 6 and 12 months, then between the ages of 12 and 18 months and then again once every year thereafter be immunized with an effective remedy by the responsible person; Provided that the director in a particular case may determine that such immunization must be carried out by an officer or veterinarian. Equines in the African Horse sickness free zone and surveillance zone as described in Table 1 shall only be immunized with the written permission of the director.

The Onderstepoort Biological Products' (OBP) AHS vaccine is the only vaccine registered for use in South Africa in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947) and remains the only currently approved AHS vaccine in South Africa. It is a modified live vaccine and the package insert for this vaccine clearly states that vaccination should be performed in the early summer. This is part of a period of generally low midge activity; the entire period of which is thought to stretch from June to October each year.

Midge transmission of vaccine virus may be possible. In order to help prevent such occurrences and enforce compliance with the vaccine package insert, vaccination periods have been restricted as follows:

Table showing vaccination periods


AHS Zone	Adjustment
AHS Free Zone	Permission for vaccination will only be given from 1 June 31 October each year
AHS Surveillance Zone	Permission for vaccination will only be given from 1 June to 31 October each year
AHS Protection zone	All equines in this area must be vaccinated within the period of 1 June to 31 October each year
AHS Infected Zone	Strong recommendation is made to vaccinate during the period from 1 June to 31 October each year

There are two maps attached to this Notice, one showing the AHS Controlled Areas in relation to the entire country and one showing a detailed view of the AHS Controlled Areas. Owners are encouraged to use the maps or contact their local state veterinary office if unsure of their zone. The infected zone comprises all of South Africa outside of the AHS Controlled Areas of the Western Cape Province.

Dispensation for vaccination outside of this time in the AHS Controlled Areas must be sought from the National Director of Animal Health by an application made via the local state veterinarian and Provincial Director. No application that has not been endorsed by the Provincial Director will be considered.

We thank you for your support and consideration in this matter

Kind regards



Dr. M Maja
DIRECTOR, ANIMAL HEALTH

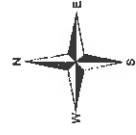
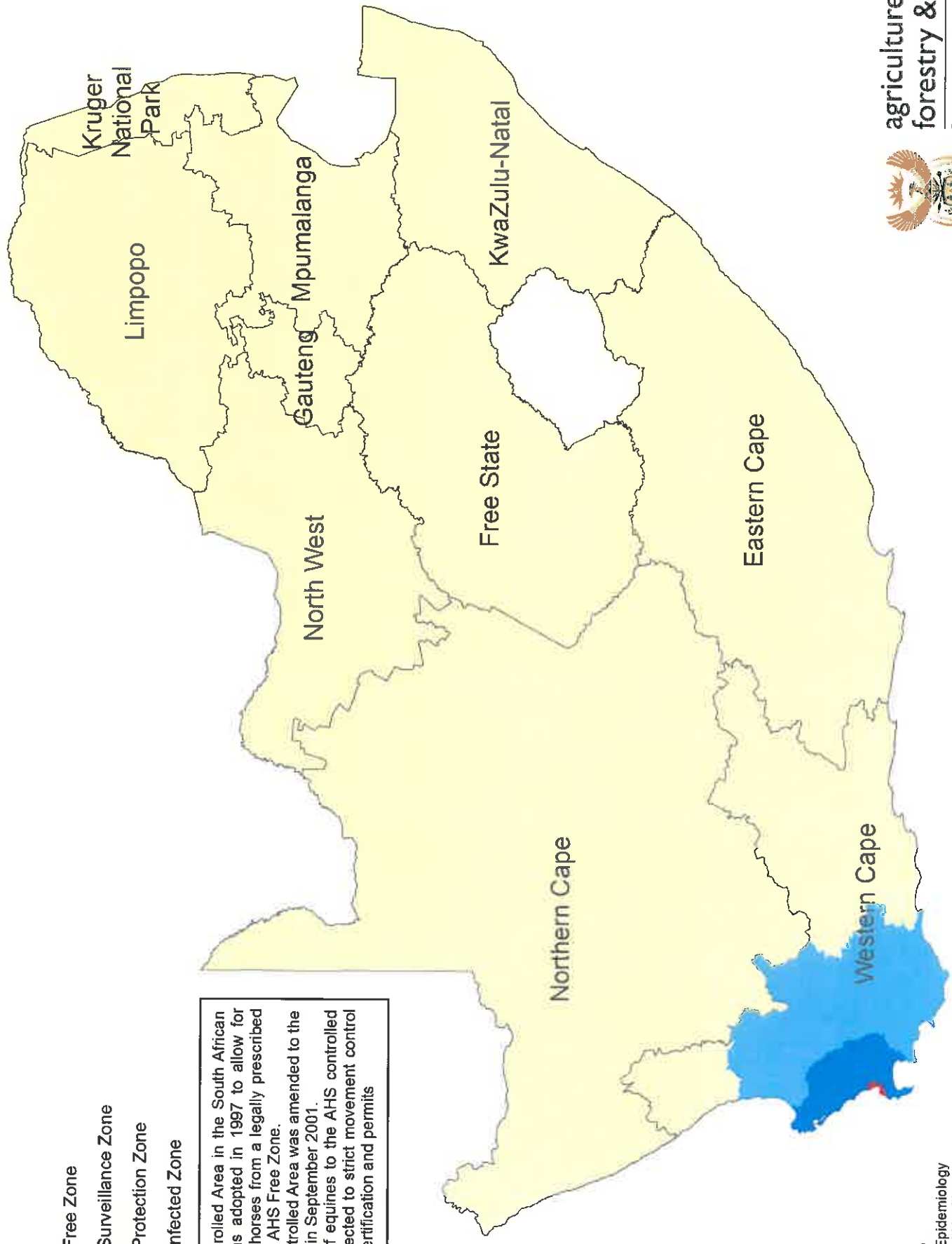
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African Horse Sickness Control Zones

Legend

-  AHS Free Zone
-  AHS Surveillance Zone
-  AHS Protection Zone
-  AHS Infected Zone

An AHS Controlled Area in the South African legislation was adopted in 1997 to allow for the export of horses from a legally prescribed and protected AHS Free Zone. The AHS Controlled Area was amended to the current areas in September 2001. Movements of equines to the AHS controlled area are subjected to strict movement control and require certification and permits



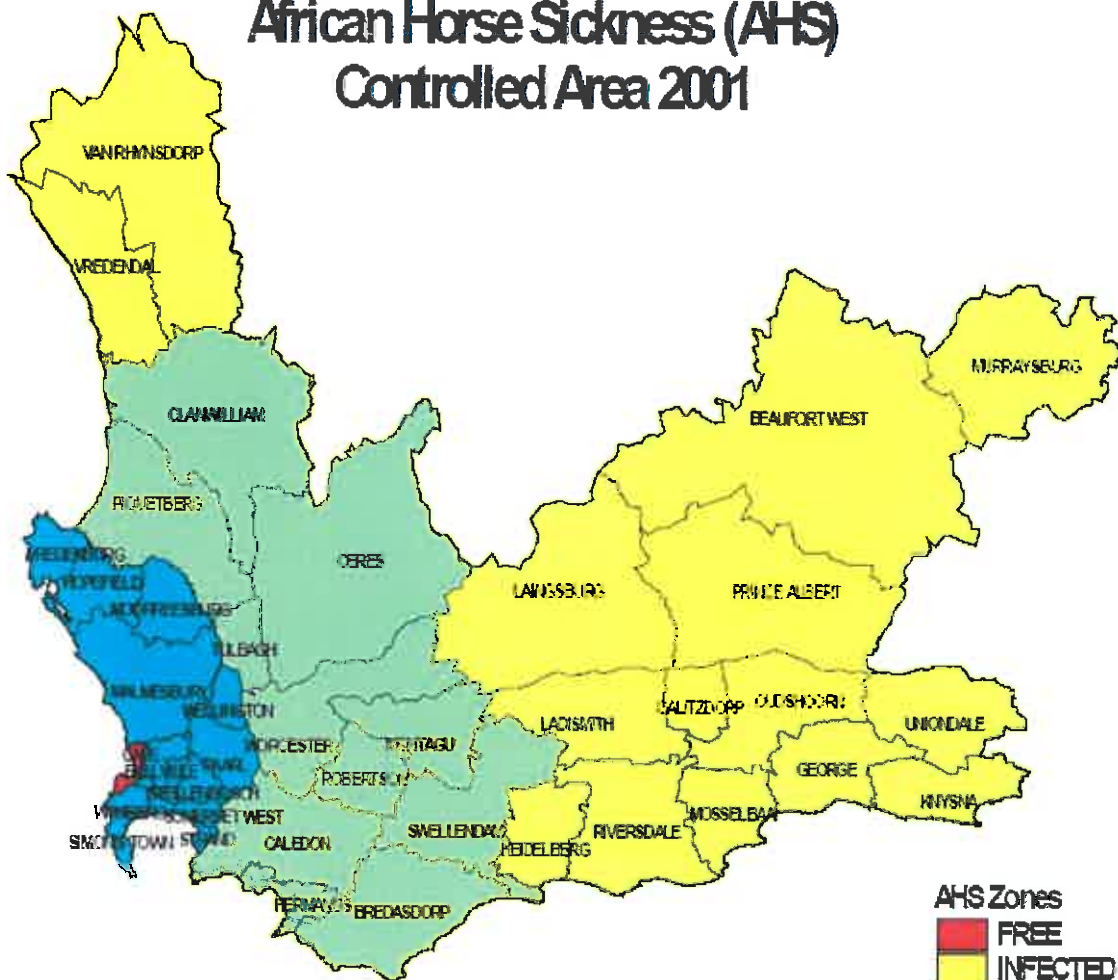
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Map produced by
Sub-Directorate Epidemiology
Directorate Animal Health
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South Africa African Horse Sickness (AHS) Controlled Area 2001



- AHS Zones**
- FREE
 - INFECTED
 - PROTECTION
 - SURVEILLANCE
 - Western Cape Districts
 - Western Cape Border