

Just to clarify much confusion with regard to the African Horse Sickness vaccination. A recommendation was issued by the Department of Agriculture in SA that we vaccinate all horses between 1 May and 31 Oct each year. This is not by law but only a recommendation. We know that there is a risk involved in spreading the disease when vaccinating horses in months when the vector ("muggie") is active and therefore it would be sensible to avoid vaccinating horses between November and April.

As a result of the above, we will see more and more events being reluctant to accept horses as entries that have been vaccinated out of the recommended dates. This is the prerogative of the OC's and although the registration of the vaccine states "vaccinate in early summer", it is the responsibility of the OC at any event to uphold the biosecurity with measures in place that, to the best of everyone's knowledge, best protect the health of the entries.

I have heard that SAIC next year will request that horses must be vaccinated between May and October, so anyone considering taking horses to this event must act fast and get them vaccinated now. There is just enough time now to give the two vaccines 3 weeks apart and be done before 31 October.

Kind regards, Ian

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