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November 2011

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## African Horse Sickness

**EARLY WARNING - 26 cases already reported in November!**

Please note that there has been an outbreak of African Horse Sickness in Lanseria, Gauteng and certain movement restrictions have been put into place.

There has also been a viral outbreak near Windhoek and a suspected case at Walvis Bay.

According to the latest available update by the African Horse Sickness Trust, no less than 26 cases have already been reported in November 2011. (see [www.africanhorsesickness.co.za](http://www.africanhorsesickness.co.za))

Please be very vigilant and take all the precautions you can as we are approaching the high risk time of year!



## New Equus Stockists

### Kwazulu Natal

The HayBarn  
D128, Lions River, 3640  
Contact:  
0332344876  
0728089361  
0846683737

Email: [thehaybarn@iuncapped.co.za](mailto:thehaybarn@iuncapped.co.za)

### Potchefstroom

InnesFree Feeds  
Dewald Van Breda  
082 5511 625  
Fax: 018 290 9495  
Email: [dvbreda@iafrica.com](mailto:dvbreda@iafrica.com)  
Modderdam Road,  
plot no 83, Vyfhoek

## Testimonial from Caryn Pappalardo

"I run a small stud as well as highly competitive horses – mainly show jumping.

I use various products within the Equus range and the back up service from the Equus staff is really professional.

Thank you for a wonderful feed that is truly value for money!"



Tracey Cockbain on Armageddon at the 2011 SA Derby

**Congratulations to Caryn Pappalardo's Armageddon and Tracey Cockbain on winning the 1.3m Victor Ludorum at the 2011 SA Derby**

# Top Tips for Traveling

- **Horses should travel in good health**
- **Do not withhold food and water for more than 3 hours at a time – reduced feed intake for more than 3 hours could be detrimental to health and increase the risk of colic.**
- **Travel with access to the best available forage to maintain gut function**
- **Hard feed should be fed no less than 1 hour before travelling**
- **Introduce electrolytes a few days before travelling – the body can't store them but at least you can start with a full tank, and it will get your horse used to the taste of them.**
- **Using a feed featuring a live yeast culture can be very beneficial in aiding digestion.**

Transporting horses, whether on a journey that lasts for an hour or a couple of days, is considered “stressful” for the horse. Horses’ responses to travel vary greatly – some handle the experience well and seem to suffer no ill effects, whilst others find it extremely stressful which can result in a negative impact on health and/or performance. The stress associated with transporting horses comes from changes to their environment, feeding, exercise and sleep patterns. In addition, there are also the effects of noise, vibration and vehicle movements, confinement, reduced water and feed intake, and anxiety.

Appropriate management of horses before, during and after transportation will help to reduce the risk of stress problems. It goes without saying that horses should be in good health before travelling, particularly if they are going to work at the other end of the trip. Horses with mild illness before they travel are much more likely to develop health problems.

## Effects of travel on the digestive system

Transporting horses often means a prolonged period of time in a confined space with reduced feed and water intake and an altered feeding pattern, all of which can cause a reduction in gastrointestinal motility. Weight loss can also occur during travel, particularly on long journeys.

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*Continued on pg. 3*

## Free Consultation Service!

For an absolutely free consultation with no further obligation contact our professional consultants to schedule a visit to your yard. The visit will include individual assessments of condition and first hand advice and discussion on issues relating to digestive health and general management and will be followed up with individual diet recommendations.

**Hannah – 073 423 5491,**  
**Helen – 083 998 6824,**  
[info.equus@driehoek.co.za](mailto:info.equus@driehoek.co.za)

*Also available on request to interested groups we offer power point presentations on topics related to digestive health, colic, gastric ulcers etc all tailored to suit the group's request.*



### Top Tips for Traveling...continued from pg. 2

It is important that horses eat during long journeys as reduced feed and water intake for 3 or more hours can be detrimental – long periods without fibre can increase the risk of colic and gastric ulcers. To maintain gut function horses should have access to good quality forage. However, it is important that the travelling environment does not become contaminated with dust and particles from forage as this can increase the risk of respiratory problems. Hay should be as dust free as possible and not allowed to dry out. If good quality, highly palatable hay is not available then soaking of hay should be considered as well as the use of a hay-replacer such as **Equus Nice 'n Easy**. If a change of forage is going to be necessary whilst the horse is travelling or away it should ideally be introduced gradually in the weeks leading up to the journey or event.

For prolonged journeys that are 12 hours or more it is advisable to reduce the amount of grain and hard feed in the diet immediately before and during the travel whilst maintaining access to forage. Reducing the hard feed could, however, pose the risk of potential weight loss and therefore, when traveling long distances, **Equus Race 'n Replace** could be considered as an energy top up in small quantities during short breaks on the journey. **Race 'n Replace** contains cooked starches, is safe to use, and adapting horses to approximately 500 grams to 1 kg per day prior to the journey will assist in safely adding energy as well as a live yeast culture. **Race 'n Replace** is recommended here as an energy top up over the normal hard feed whilst traveling, but as far as possible normal quantities of hard feed should be given once out of the horsebox to prevent any possible weight loss – preferably 2 hours prior to the onset of travel in the morning and once the horse has settled after travel in the evening.

Stress can increase the rate of passage of food through the digestive system which can disrupt the natural population of bacteria in the gut which are essential for efficient digestion. Using a feed that contains a live yeast culture (**Equus Cool 'n Perform/Race 'n Replace**) helps top up the resident population of friendly bacteria and maintain a healthy gut.

Water should be offered at least every 3 to 4 hours during prolonged road or air travel. Sweating greatly increases a horse's need for water. A stressed horse that sweats profusely and refuses to take water during travel has a greater risk of colic and horses eating dry forage will need additional water. Some horses won't drink water they are not used to, so it may be necessary to travel with a supply of water from home. This isn't always possible due to the large quantities required and so an alternative approach is to accustom the horse to a flavouring in the water at home and then continue to use it whilst away to mask the change of water.

Electrolyte supplements can also be used to replace salts lost through sweat. As the body doesn't really store electrolytes they can be used the day before, during travel and after the journey to replace what is lost. Ideally electrolytes should be given in water but if this puts the horse off drinking they can be added to feed, although the feed should be wet to aid the absorption of the electrolytes.

Appropriate management of horses before, during and after travel regardless of the length of the journey, will greatly help to reduce the risk of stress related problems and horses will arrive in better condition if their nutrient needs are met during the journey.

### Feeding Horses Before Travel

By [Dr. Clarissa Brown-Douglas](#) · September 7, 2011

*A little pre-planning can help your travelling horse to remain healthy and well-fed*

Amid all the packing and preparation to go on a trip with your horse, don't forget one important thing: feeding your horse properly. Poor preparation for feeding before travel can lead to poor performance on arrival, dehydration, stress, poor appetite, colic, ill health, and possibly gastric ulcers. The most important points for horse owners to focus on are forage intake, hydration, electrolytes, maintenance of a healthy gastrointestinal tract, and avoiding changes in feed, both during travel and at the event. Hydration is a major concern when preparing horses for travel. Increasing the animal's forage intake several days before the journey will help to ensure the animal remains hydrated, as fibre acts as a reservoir, storing water and electrolytes in the hindgut. For every kilogram (2.2 pounds) of forage eaten, a horse will drink approximately 4 litres (1.05 gallons) of water. Forage also helps the gastrointestinal tract to maintain normal digestive function.

A little pre-planning can help your travelling horse to remain healthy and well-fed.

Travel can be stressful, causing appetite loss in some horses. Consider adding a B vitamin supplement to the horse's diet before travel to help boost appetite. An antioxidant will also help support immunity, and electrolytes will help improve hydration status.

Finally, plan for your horse's nutrition throughout the duration of your trip. Pack the right amount of feed and supplements (measuring the necessary number of meals into individual bags can be helpful). If you can't take the horse's usual feed with you (for example, for international travel), be sure to call ahead to find out what type of feed will be available at your destination and gradually transition your horse to that, or similar, feed over several weeks prior to departure.

## Testimonial from Heritage Equestrian Centre Wendy Gidlow - [www.heritageequestrian.co.za](http://www.heritageequestrian.co.za)

"Since changing to Equus about a year ago, we have found that not only do we save on our monthly feed bills but also that we have happy, healthy horses and ponies that are fit and able to perform at their best. The biggest change has really been in their attitudes; all our horses are calm and relaxed without losing their individual "sparks".

The service we have experienced has been second to none and Equus has always been on hand to evaluate, review and guide us through all aspects of feeding a large yard. A big thank you to Equus"

