

## **African Horse Sickness outbreak in Thailand**

The World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) was [notified](#) on 27 March by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), the veterinary authority of Thailand, of an outbreak of African Horse Sickness (AHS) in the Pak Chong district, Nakorn in the north-east of the country. In the initial notification, 341 horses were reported susceptible, of which 62 were confirmed infected. Out of these 62 horses, 42 are reported to have died.

A further two outbreaks were [reported](#) to the OIE on 3 April. One outbreak occurred in Hua Hin district, in the Prachuap Khiri Khan province where 10 horses out of a group of 15 susceptible horses have died. In the Ko Chan district of the Chon Buri province, there were 33 susceptible horses of which 6 were infectious. Five out of the 6 horses died.

As a result of the outbreak, the OIE has suspended the AHS-free status of Thailand.

AHS is spread by insect vectors such as midges and some types of mosquitos and ticks. All species of equidae can be infected by the disease. Horses and mules often die from the infection, while donkeys are much less susceptible and zebras rarely show clinical signs. The disease can be caused by any of nine serotypes of the virus. The serotype in this outbreak has not yet been communicated by DLD.

Please visit the [OIE website](#) for more information on AHS.

Having been briefed by DLD, the Thailand Equestrian Federation immediately took measures, restricting movement of horses by their members. The Federation is also in close contact with the FEI Veterinary Department and Jack Huang, FEI Vice President and Chair of FEI Regional Group VIII.

DLD has reported that the following measures have been taken:

- Movement control inside the country
- Surveillance outside containment and/or protection zone
- Surveillance within containment and/or protection zone
- Quarantine
- Zoning
- Disinfection
- Control of vectors
- Vector surveillance
- Vaccination permitted (if a vaccine exists)
- No treatment of affected animals

The FEI is working closely with its partners – the OIE and the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (IFHA) under the umbrella body, the International Horse Sport Confederation (IHSC) – to support the Thai authorities and sport horse industry to stop this outbreak.