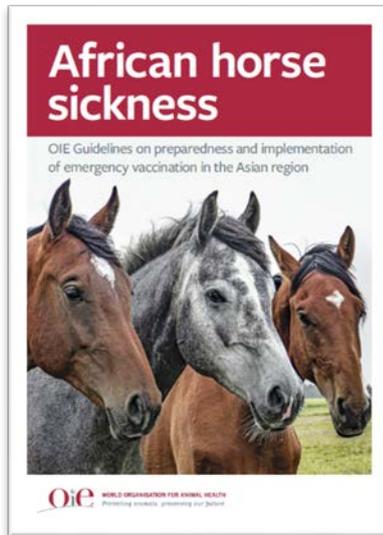


The OIE releases new guidelines on African horse sickness



The OIE has just released *African Horse Sickness: OIE Guidelines on Preparedness and Implementation of Emergency Vaccination in the Asian Region*. If your country is at risk of AHS, if you work on equine health programmes, if you want to increase your preparedness, these guidelines are an essential tool.

A critically needed document

Following the introduction of AHS into Thailand early in 2020, the preparedness and implementation of emergency vaccination has been challenging. The specific characteristics of both the disease and the commercially available vaccine were not well known in the region. Guidance on how to conduct emergency vaccination was critically needed to facilitate/support national Veterinary Services' timely

decision-making and to control and prevent further spread of this exotic disease, which kills up to 95% of infected horses.

Scientifically based

To guarantee the scientific robustness of these *Guidelines* a dedicated expert group was involved throughout their development. Those experts also ensured the compliance of the *Guidelines* with other OIE standards and recommendations. The OIE acknowledges with sincere thanks their support.

Very practical and user friendly

These *Guidelines* provide key practical information to support countries in planning and implementing an emergency vaccination strategy against AHS. They are short and easy-to-read, with practical examples and guidance. They can be consulted online or in print.

For greatest impact, the *Guidelines* should be consulted in 'peace time', before the introduction of AHS into a country (when there is an increased risk of AHS entry or when equine disease contingency planning is being developed). However, they remain fully relevant after the introduction of AHS, once emergency response is activated and vaccination is being considered.

Read it here: https://rr-asia.oie.int/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ahs_guidelines_online.pdf

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