

Equine pyrexia Summer 2021/22- Regional report Mpumalanga

Data collection (Private vets Mpumalanga) for SAEVA

Compiled by Dr Daniela Späth

Case number	Case details (patient name, owner surname, physical address/GPS co-ordinate)	Diagnosis on suspicion/clinical signs	Diagnostic confirmation (as per PCR results from ERC or otherwise)	Date of first treatment
1	Archie, Veldtman, Amacasa stables, rest	Biliary fever	Blood smear, no PCR	10/08/2021
2	Loki, Courtney Austin, Whiteriver	Biliary fever	Bloodsmear, no PCR	24/08/21
3	Arnel kami, Venter, Katoen	Billiary fever	Bloodsmear, no PCR	2/10/21
4	Wild horse, kaapsehoop	bronchopneumonia	Culture- staph aureus	21/12/2021
5	Charis, GJ swart, best of the Rest	Billiary fever	Bloodsmear, no PCR	12/01/2021
6	Red (Espoir rouge), Luyt, Mataffin	Billiary fever	Bloodsmear, no PCR	1/02/2021
7	Fly by Night, Duvenhage, mataffin	Biliary fever	Blood smear, no PCR	3/02/2021
8	Henk, Kaapsehoop trails	Theileiria equi	PCR	
9	Henry, Kaapsehoop trails	Theileiria equi	PCR	
10	Anonymous, Sabie	suspected piroplasmosis	PCR Theileria positive	09/09/2021
11	Anonymous, Nelspruit	Biliary fever	Blood smear positive	
12	Anonymous, Nelspruit	Biliary fever	PCR babesia positive	
13	Anonymous Malelane	Suspect piroplasmosis	No tests requested	
14	Braveheart, Canny, Andante farm, WR	Suspected piroplasmosis	All PCR tested (AHS, EEV, theileria/babesia) negative	12/10/2021
15	Donne, CN 25, White River	Suspected piroplasmosis	No test requested	16/11/2021
16	Frankie, Bruce Knight, Uplands, WR	Suspect piroplasmosis	All PCR tested (AHS, EEV, theileria/babesia) negative	02/02/2021
17	'Lulu du Belle', Erwee, Coolmore Est, WR	Suspected piroplasmosis	Theileriosis positive on PCR	14/11/2021
18	'Savannah', Parsons, Uplands	COPD, complications		31/12/21
19	Anonymous case, Lydenburg (Sterkspruit)	Suspect piroplasmosis	Theileriosis, confirmed by PCR	
20	Anonymous case, Lydenburg (Sterkspruit)	Suspect piroplasmosis	Theileriosis, confirmed by PCR	
21	Anonymous case, Lydenburg (Sterkspruit)	Suspect piroplasmosis	Theileriosis, confirmed by PCR	

22	Anonymous case, Lydenburg (Sterkspruit)	Suspect piroplasmosis	Theileriosis, confirmed by PCR	
23	Anonymous case, 60 km radius of Lydenburg (Sterkspruit Vet)	Likely viral pyrexia, 'dikkop' signs, supraorbital fossa swelling etc., sublingual petechiation, swollen neck, suspect AHS	Blood test declined by owner	Awaiting confirmation of date and other details
24	Anonymous case, 60 km radius of Lydenburg (Sterkspruit Vet)	Likely viral pyrexia, 'dikkop' signs, supraorbital fossa swelling etc., sublingual petechiation, swollen neck, suspect AHS	Blood test declined by owner	Awaiting confirmation of date and other details
25	Anonymous case, 60 km radius of Lydenburg (Sterkspruit Vet)	Likely viral pyrexia, 'dikkop' signs, supraorbital fossa swelling etc., sublingual petechiation, swollen neck, suspect AHS	Blood test declined by owner	Awaiting confirmation of date and other details
26	Anonymous case, 60 km radius of Lydenburg (Sterkspruit Vet)	Pyrexia of unknown origin	Blood test declined by owner	
27	Anonymous, Ermelo	Viral pyrexia	PCR Confirmed EEV	
28	Anonymous, Ermelo	Suspect piroplasmosis	Treat on suspicion, no tests requested	
29	Anonymous, Ermelo	Suspect piroplasmosis	Treat on suspicion, no tests requested	
30	Anonymous, Ermelo		Treat on suspicion, no tests requested	
31	One case was posted on social media rider's group, owner posted, Plaston road, White River, near Bosch Ceramic Studio.	Horse passed away, social media states 'likely DIKKOP'	NO private veterinarian was called in to confirm this case, apparently "state vet was informed"	08/02/2022

Summary and Conclusion:

The above data was collected from all known private veterinarians treating Equines in the Lowveld and one entry was extrapolated from a social media post (rider's group around White River, Mpumalanga), which was not confirmed by any private veterinarians in the area. Overall 'about*' 31 cases of Equine pyrexia have been treated by private veterinarians in the period September 2021 until mid-February 2022 in Mpumalanga.

There have been at least 22 cases treated on suspicion of piroplasmosis and many of these (11) have been confirmed as Babesiosis (*B. caballi*)/Theileriosis (*T. equi*) by PCR testing or by positive blood smear. Most piroplasmosis cases seen north of White River seem to be Theileria cases, we hardly ever see Babesia Caballi. It seems in Nelspruit however Babesia is often confirmed. The main reason for not confirming cases of suspected piroplasmosis by PCR remains the cost of the test.

Three cases of Pyrexia of 'unknown origin' have been reported, extended periods of pyrexia (over 3 days) with routine

Overall, there seems to be no documented cases of confirmed AHS to date, however, there have been 3 cases documented in Lydenburg, by Sterkspruit vets, which have been "highly suspicious of AHS". In all those cases owners declined the PCR tests for cost reasons. Only one confirmed case of EEV has been noted from private veterinarians so far this summer, however peak season for all the Culicoid borne viral outbreaks in Mpumalanga only usually starts end of February and usually end towards the end of May or until the first cold fronts move in.

There is concern of potential outbreaks due to late vaccinations and quite a few horses have been moving between the Lowveld and JHB in the late vaccination time (December/January 2022).

'about*' refers to some feedback from veterinarians which has approximated numbers, in some places more detailed research will be necessary