	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE: ANIMAL HEALTH
	AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS CONTROL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: REGISTRATION OF PROPERTIES FOR THE KEEPING OF ZEBRA
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the procedure and requirements for the registration of land for the keeping of zebra in the African horse sickness (AHS) controlled area.
- 1.2. Registration of land on which zebra are kept is required in terms of Regulation 20 B of the Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986 to monitor the density and geographical distribution of zebra in the AHS controlled area. This information may be used to update the existing AHS risk model for zebra in the AHS controlled area as may be required. The current risk model has been published as "*Porphyre T, Grewar JD (2019) Assessing the potential of plains zebra to maintain African horse sickness in the Western Cape Province, South Africa. PLoS ONE 14(10): e0222366. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0222366>*"
- 1.3. The information generated through the registration of land for the keeping of zebra in the AHS controlled area may be used in any risk assessment in the AHS controlled area.
- 1.4. The registration to keep zebra in the AHS controlled area is called a "Zebra Keeping Registration" or "ZKR" and is issued by the National Director: Animal Health of the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural development (DALRRD).

2. Legislation

- 2.1. The Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 1984):
 - a) AHS is a controlled animal disease as defined in section 1 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act no. 35 of 1984). Control measures have been prescribed in terms of Section 9 of the Act (Animal Diseases Regulations, No. R. 2026 of 26 September 1986, Table 2, as amended). Therefore, all statutory requirements applicable to controlled animal diseases are applicable to AHS.
 - b) According to Section 31 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984), sections of the Western Cape Province have been prescribed as the AHS controlled area and South Africa is divided into four zones for the purpose of AHS control. These are published in Table 1 of the Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986 as amended. Maps of the AHS controlled area are included in the SOP associated with the Veterinary Procedural Notice for

African Horse Sickness Control: *AHS Control SOP: Maps of the African horse sickness Control Zones*. Where a holding is not contained within one zone, it assumes the status of the zone of lowest AHS control.

- c) Regulation 20B (2) Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986 which states that no person shall keep zebra on any land in the African horse sickness free zone and the African horse sickness surveillance zone and the African horse sickness protection zone as described in Table 1, unless such zebra and land are registered with the director for this purpose.
- d) Regulation 20 (1) (a) (vii) of the Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986, states that no person shall, except under the authority of a permit issued by the responsible state veterinarian and otherwise than in accordance with the conditions specified in such permit move or remove any controlled animal or thing to, across or from land in a controlled area.
- e) Regulation 17 (1) of the Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986 states that *“Each responsible person in a controlled area shall enter on a regular basis in a register kept by him for this purpose full particulars of-*

(1)(a) the kinds of animals on his land and the number of each such kind....”

- 2.2. The Veterinary Procedural Notice for African Horse Sickness Control and associated AHS Control Standard Operating Protocols.
- 2.3. This document does not supersede any other relevant legislation.

3. Definitions and abbreviations

- 3.1. **“AHS Movement Permit”** is an official documented permission, including all associated and/or stipulated conditions, issued by the responsible state veterinarian, required for an equid to move to a zone of higher AHS control, or within a zone in the AHS controlled area where relevant, or out of an AHS outbreak area where relevant. The delegated responsible state veterinarian for issuing the movement permit for AHS movement control is the State Veterinarian: Boland. (SV: Boland).

An AHS Movement Permit is not a translocation permit (see below);

- 3.2. **“Chief Surveyor General”** means the directorate responsible for cadastral surveying and land information services in the Republic in terms of the Land Survey Act No. 8 of 1997;
- 3.3. **“National Director: Animal Health (DAH)”** means the Director: of Animal Health of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in terms of Section 1 and Section 2 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84);
- 3.4. **“Nature Conservation Authority”** means the public institution with the statutory responsibility for biodiversity conservation in the relevant area. This is the authority that will assess whether the habitat and fencing of a tract of land/holding is suitable for the keeping of zebra. In the Western Cape Province, this authority is Cape Nature Conservation;
- 3.5. **“Officer or designated official”** means a person officially appointed to perform a task or duty by the National Director: Animal Health under Section 3 “Authorized Persons” of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations;
- 3.6. **“Responsible person”** means a manager or owner of land or an owner of animals;
- 3.7. **“Zebra Keeping Registration (ZKR)”** means the registration of a property with the National Director: Animal Health for the keeping of zebra in the AHS controlled area. A ZKR certificate will be issued. A hard copy or an electronic ZKR certificate is acceptable provided it is issued by the National Director: Animal Health and is available in a legible format;
- 3.8. **“Zebra”** means and includes all members, subspecies, and hybrids of the species *Equus quagga* (Burchell’s or Plains zebra) and *Equus zebra* (Cape Mountain zebra and Hartmann’s zebra);
- 3.9. **“the Act”**, unless specified otherwise means the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 84) and includes the Animal Diseases Regulations, R2026 of 26 September 1986, as amended from time to time;
- 3.10. **“Translocation permit:** is a permit issued by the nature conservation authority in terms of the relevant nature conservation legislation for the movement of zebra. A translocation permit is not the same as an AHS movement permit.

4. Application

- 4.1. This SOP is applicable to:
 - a) All persons or entities or other role-players involved in the keeping of zebra on land in the AHS controlled area;
 - b) All state veterinary and nature conservation officials involved in the registration of land for the keeping of zebra;
 - c) All owners, veterinarians and transporters who are involved in the capture and transport of zebra into, within or out of the AHS controlled area.

5. Exemptions

- 5.1. Deviation or exemption from Regulation 20B shall only be permitted with written approval from the DAH;
- 5.2. SV: Boland will advise the responsible person to apply directly to the DAH in writing. The application submitted to the DAH must contain at least the following:
 - a) The details and reason for the request for exemption;
 - b) Details of the responsible person and land that the request pertains to;
 - c) Number and species of zebra the request pertains to.
- 5.3. Upon receiving a written request for exemption, the DAH will evaluate the exemption request with the input of SV: Boland and other officials or experts as deemed necessary. A written response will be forwarded to the responsible person and SV: Boland.

6. General

- 6.1. No animal species is known to be a carrier of AHS. Zebra may be a possible reservoir species for AHS only if the zebra population is large, dense and contiguous. The populations of zebra in the AHS controlled area are too small, too sparse and too disconnected to act as potential reservoirs of AHS;
- 6.2. Zebra and their hybrids may not be moved to, across or from land in the AHS controlled area without an AHS Movement Permit issued by SV: Boland.
 - a) An AHS movement permit will not be issued for movement of zebra unless the land in the AHS controlled area is registered to keep zebra or exempted

from registration in terms of Regulation 20 B of the Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986;

- b) It is the responsibility of the owner or manager at origin and destination as well as other role-players such as transporters to ensure that an AHS Movement Permit has been issued and the permit is valid before zebra are moved.
- 6.3. The nature conservation authority and veterinary services will coordinate their processes regarding registration of properties and the issuing of movement permits. The nature conservation authority will not issue translocation permits unless an AHS movement permit has also been issued for the zebra. Veterinary services will not issue a ZKR without valid written confirmation that the nature conservation authority has inspected the holding/land and found the holding/land is suitable for the keeping of zebra;
- 6.4. The responsible person should keep a record of the approximate number and species of zebra on the holding/land as well as all movements of zebra off or to the property;
- 6.5. It is recommended that reminders are sent to all registered properties when their re-registration is due.

7. Application to register a holding/land for the keeping of zebra

- 7.1. The owner or manager of the holding/land must apply in writing to SV: Boland at zebra@myhorse.org.za for the registration of the holding/land for the keeping of zebra using the latest version of the "*Application for the Registration of Holdings for the Keeping of Zebra in the AHS Controlled Area*", that is available on www.myhorse.org.za or from DALRRD. An example of this application form is attached as Annexure A;
- 7.2. The documents listed below must be attached to the "*Application for the Registration of Holdings for the Keeping of Zebra in the AHS Controlled Area*";
- a) A map clearly showing the boundaries and portions of the holding/land to be registered,
 - b) The title deed showing the ownership of the holding/land to be registered. In some instances, conservancy agreements or similar documentation may be

accepted provided these clearly demonstrate the ownership of the holding/land to be registered;

c) Confirmation from the nature conservation authority that they have inspected the holding/land and found that it is fenced appropriately and is suitable for the keeping of zebra. Any of the following documents that are valid at the time of ZKR application are an acceptable form of confirmation:

- i. A signed letter from the nature conservation authority stating that they have inspected the land and it is appropriately fenced and suitable for the keeping of zebra; or
- ii. A "Captivity Permit": issued by the nature conservation authority for the keeping of zebra; or
- iii. A Certificate of Adequate Enclosure (COAE) that lists zebra issued by the nature conservation authority; or
- iv. A previously issued translocation permit that lists zebra, issued by the nature conservation authority.

7.3. SV: Boland will confirm the holding/land to be registered is within the AHS controlled area. If the holding/land is not in the AHS controlled area, the responsible person will be informed in writing that registration in terms of Regulation 20B of the Animal Disease Regulations R2026 of 1986 is not required. If the holding/land to be registered is within the AHS controlled area; SV: Boland will:

- a) Liaise with the local state veterinarian to confirm there is no reason the holding/land should not be registered for the keeping of zebra;
- b) Ensure all applicable documentation as described above is attached to the application form.

7.4. If SV: Boland is satisfied that the documentation is compliant SV: Boland will pre-register the number of zebra and holding/land on the *myHorse* AHS control system (administered by SV: Boland) and generate a map clearly showing the zebra associated boundaries, AHS control zone, property number, ownership/responsible person details and species and number of associated zebra for the land to be registered.

7.5. After pre-registration, SV: Boland will submit the signed "*Application for the Registration of Holdings for the Keeping of Zebra in the AHS Controlled Area*"

with all supporting documents as described above and the *myHorse* preregistration map to the DAH.

- 7.6. The DAH will assess whether the required compliant documentation has been received. If not, the DAH will liaise further with SV Boland. Once all required complaint documentation has been received, the DAH will:
 - a) Ensure that the holdings/portions of land to be registered as listed in the application form are listed in the title deed or ownership document and all the submitted documents are valid;
 - b) Confirm that the holding/portions of land listed on the “Application for the Registration of Holdings for the Keeping of Zebra in the AHS Controlled Area” correspond with the holding/portions of land for which the nature conservation authority has provided confirmation of appropriate fencing and suitability for keeping zebra, and with the *myHorse* pre-registration map;
 - c) The DAH must also confirm that these correspond with the portions and location of the land as described by the Chief Surveyor-General. The DAH will draw up a corresponding map using the Chief Surveyor General GIS System to be filed as part of the application.
- 7.7. The DAH will then issue a registration certificate for the holding/portions of land. This certificate must contain the following:
 - a) the name of the responsible person;
 - b) the name of the holding to be registered;
 - c) the holding/portions of land to be registered according to the Chief Surveyor General;
 - d) the ZKR and property number from the *myHorse* AHS control system;
 - e) the signature of DAH or the DALRRD official authorized in terms of Section 3 of the Act to process and register land on behalf of the DAH;
 - f) the departmental stamp.
- 7.8. The registration certificate will be sent to SV: Boland at zebra@myhorse.org.za for distribution to the responsible person.
- 7.9. DALRRD will keep a register of all ZKR certificates with the corresponding applications and all relevant communication. SV: Boland will keep a register of all ZKR registered properties.

8. Applications for renewal and/amendments to the registration

- 8.1. The owner or manager of the holding/land must apply in writing to SV: Boland at zebra@myhorse.org.za for the renewal of the ZKR or amendment of the ZKR using the latest version of the “*Application for the Registration of Holdings for the Keeping of Zebra in the AHS Controlled Area*” (see Annexure A) available on www.myhorse.org.za or from DALRRD. The “*Application for the Registration of Holdings for the Keeping of Zebra in the AHS Controlled Area*” must be completed according to the guidelines on the form.
- 8.2. The renewal and/or amendment will be assessed by SV: Boland in collaboration with the local state veterinarian as required. If SV: Boland is satisfied that the renewal and/or amendment will not increase the risk to the AHS controlled area, SV: Boland will support and forward the application and all accompanying documentation to the DAH.
- 8.3. The DAH will evaluate and process the application as described in Section 7 above:
 - a) For a renewal of registration, a new ZKR certificate with the same ZKR number will be issued by the DAH in line with the requirements listed above;
 - b) For most amendments, it is likely that a new ZKR certificate will have to be issued in line with the requirements listed above. When a new ZKR is issued, the old ZKR must be cancelled.


9. Cancellations and Expirations

- 9.1. Unless otherwise specified, ZKR certificates are valid for a period of three years provided they are not cancelled;
- 9.2. ZKR certificates that are no longer valid for reasons other than expiration must be cancelled;
- 9.3. Any issued ZKR may be cancelled if there is a change in the risk profile or for any other reasons the local state veterinarian or SV: Boland or the DAH may determine;
- 9.4. Notification of a cancelled ZKR certificate must be sent to SV: Boland, the local state veterinarian and the responsible person at DALRRD. Clear reference must be made to the date of issue of the cancelled certificate as well as the date of

cancellation of the certificate. A suitable time period for the removal of the zebra from the land must be given, if required;

- 9.5. A ZKR application will be cancelled if more than three months has elapsed without follow up communication from the applicant.

This is the end of the AHS control SOP: Registration of Properties for the keeping of zebra.

Signature	
Name	Dr Mpho Maja
Designation	Director: Animal Health
Date	2022 -02- 15