

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

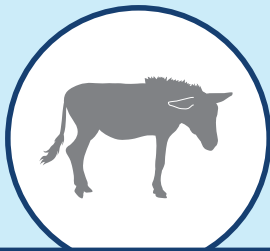
SIGNS TO WATCH FOR IN YOUR DONKEY

IT IS EASY TO MISS SIGNS OF INFECTION IN A DONKEY

African Horse Sickness (AHS) may only cause very mild signs if your donkey or mule is infected. Signs vary depending on the form of the disease and a mixture of signs may be seen.

If you see any of these signs, house your donkey immediately. Make sure insects cannot bite it and spread infection further.

MOST COMMON SIGNS ARE:

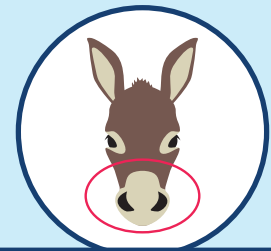


**DONKEYS AND MULES
MAY JUST LOOK DULL**



**SWOLLEN EYELIDS AND
AREA AROUND THE EYE**

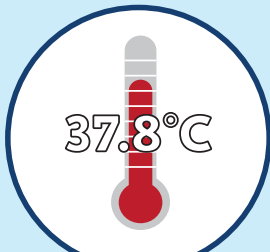
May cause a swollen head
and reddened eyes



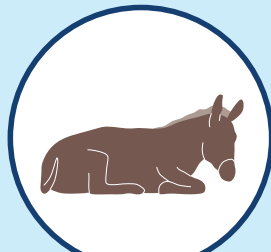
DIFFICULTY BREATHING

Widely open nostrils show
effort to breathe

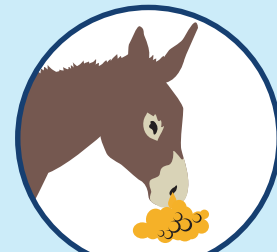
MAY ALSO SEE:



**TEMPERATURE HIGHER
THAN 37.8°C OR 100.4 °F**



WEAKNESS



**FROTHY DISCHARGE
FROM NOSE**

May be seen just before death

WATCH FOR EARLY SIGNS OF ILL HEALTH:



**Eating or
drinking less**



**Change in
behaviour**



**Reluctance
to move**



**Lying down
or rolling**

Contact your vet or animal health worker if your donkey looks sick; they can take a sample and test for this disease.

There is no treatment, but donkeys may get better with good care.

Provide rest, food and shelter.

ICWE

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR WORKING EQUIDS



WorldHorseWelfare

GUIDANCE NOTES

We cannot be certain how European and Asian donkeys will respond to African Horse Sickness.

They appear to be moderately susceptible and have a population mortality rate of 10%, but the disease is newly introduced into the region, so the outcome could be unpredictable; it might cause high mortality even in donkeys, as they have probably had no exposure to this virus before (a naive population).

Donkeys may have subclinical infection and may not be diagnosed.

In Africa donkeys can often be affected clinically and show typical signs of the pulmonary or mixed forms of the disease with mortalities.

Typical signs include:

- Swelling above the eyes, progressing to the eyelids and head and neck. The head may look swollen
- Reddened eyes
- Difficulty breathing, with widely open nostrils
- Foaming/fluid from nostrils, in the terminal stages of disease

They may have a fever and may show signs of weakness.

Watch for the general signs of ill health in a donkey; these can be very subtle and easily missed.

Sick donkeys should be sampled and tested.

What to do if you suspect that your donkey may be displaying symptoms:

- Contact your local vet or animal health worker as soon as possible
- Rest your donkey
- House your donkey, where possible, in a shelter that is protected from biting insects
- Take other preventative measures to stop biting insects such as using an insect repellent.

Note: a mixture of infection with glanders and strangles can complicate the signs and AHS may be missed. It is important to test and capture the information about disease spread.