

Intervet Newsletter



ANTHRAX - not just a disease of kudu and the Kruger Park

Dear Colleague,

The recent anthrax outbreak in the Southern Cape indicates that this disease is a very real threat to domestic livestock. As an Intervet client we are sending you this newsletter containing information on and some advice regarding anthrax.



Anthrax information

Anthrax is caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. This bacteria is able to survive as spores in the soil for many years.

Anthrax in ruminants is characterized by massive septicaemia, a bleeding tendency and generalised oedema or swelling and sudden death.

Ruminants are most susceptible to infection, but most species including humans can be affected.

What can be done about anthrax?

The key to anthrax prevention is yearly vaccination of cattle.

Treating Anthrax cases is often unsuccessful as the bacteria grow and reproduce very quickly. By law infected animals should be isolated and destroyed under the supervision of or by an officer or authorised person. Animals that came into contact with confirmed anthrax animals must be immunised with an efficient vaccine.

It is very important in suspected anthrax cases or any "sudden death" case that **the carcass is NOT opened until it has been confirmed that it is NOT anthrax**.

Legal aspects

Anthrax is a controlled disease which means that farmers are legally obliged to annually vaccinate all cattle older than 3-6 months against anthrax. Also, anthrax cases and anthrax deaths are not financially compensated for. Farmers will be held legally responsible and financially liable for all costs incurred during the anthrax out-break in their area if it cannot be proven that animals have been vaccinated.

Anthrax vaccines

Anthrax vaccines available from Intervet:

[Anthravax](#)
[Blanthrax](#)
[Supavax](#)

Newsletter

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For more details on anthrax prevention and vaccines available from Intervet, please follow the links in the right hand column of this mail to the relevant pages on our website.

We hope that this information has been useful and informative, we are planning to send you similar emails occasionally in the future.

Kind regards,

Intervet Sales and Marketing Teams

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