



Outbreak events: April & May

Rabies was confirmed by laboratory testing in six **Cape fur seals** showing suspicious clinical signs, five of which were from **Cape Town**. The sixth was found at **Tergniet** beach between Kleinbrak River and Grootbrak River. No human or animal contacts were reported.

In mid-April a diver was attacked and bitten several times by a seal in Britannia Bay. About a month later, in mid-May, another diver was attacked by a seal in St Helena Bay, less than 10km away. Neither seal could be found or sampled after the attacks, so rabies could not be confirmed.

Bovine **brucellosis** was detected in a **cattle** herd in the **Tulbagh** area. Three cows tested positive after routine testing before sale. No clinical signs had been observed and the origin of the infection is unknown. The farm was placed under quarantine and the positive cattle isolated.

A three-month-old **pony** foal in the **Nelspoort** area died suddenly two weeks after her mother had died in the veld. During a necropsy, mild supraorbital oedema, subcutaneous oedema, and haemorrhaging in the endocardium, stomach and colon was seen. The foal tested positive for **African horse sickness virus**. The foal and mother were both unvaccinated. There was warm weather and a lot of midge activity in the area at the time. Cases of bluetongue had recently been seen in sheep on the farm.

A **sheep** in **Matjiesfontein** showed clinical signs of **bluetongue**: swelling of the head, anorexia, inflammation of the coronary band and mouth. Bite marks from midges were seen on the ears.

In January, a farm near **Graafwater** bought in sheep from two neighbouring farms. At the start of May, the farm manager noticed a few sheep scratching and itching. The owner treated the sheep with ivermectin and diazinon in May, but when the problem persisted, contacted their private veterinarian who, together with the local animal health technician, identified **sheep scab** mites. The farm was placed under quarantine pending two treatments under official supervision.

Salmonella gallinarum was detected on a layer **chicken** farm near **Tesselaarsdal** after an increase in mortality rate. The bacterium was cultured from a liver sample taken during a necropsy. The farm was placed under quarantine and the poultry were vaccinated and treated with antibiotics.

Salmonella Enteritidis was cultured from routine environmental samples taken from four broiler **chicken** farms in the **Worcester** state vet area.

Lesions characteristic of **swine erysipelas** were seen on a small number of pig carcasses after slaughter, originating from the **Boland**, **Worcester** and **Malmesbury** state vet areas.

A small-scale farmer in **Riviersonderend** reported dermatophytosis (**ringworm**) in his **calves** (Fig. 1). The local AHT provided him with information about prevention and treatment of ringworm, as well as how to improve calf nutrition.



Figure 1: Hairless lesions likely caused by dermatophytosis (Photo: W. Gouws)

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