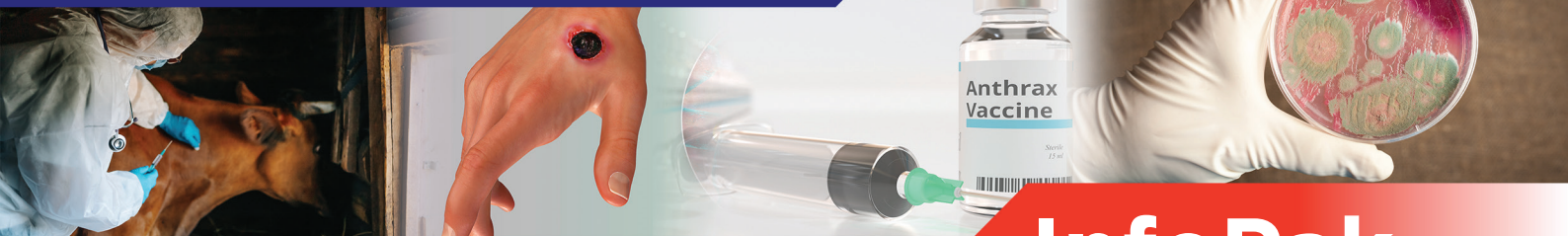


Abattoirs: ANTHRAX



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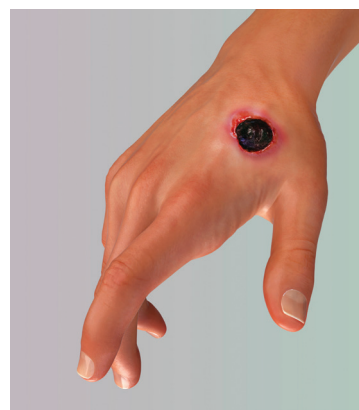


WHAT IS ANTHRAX

- A bacteria that produces spores that can live in the environment for many years and spread the disease
 - It can affect all mammals including humans with differing levels of severity
 - It causes severe disease in cattle, sheep and goats
 - The bacteria is ZONOTIC meaning humans can become infected after being exposed to infected animals
- Our livestock mostly get Anthrax through eating soil that is contaminated with Anthrax spores – remember it can live in the environment for a long time
 - The most common sign of Anthrax in livestock is sudden death
 - Before death, some animals may show fever, shaking and difficulty breathing
 - After death carcasses may bleed from the mouth, nose and anus

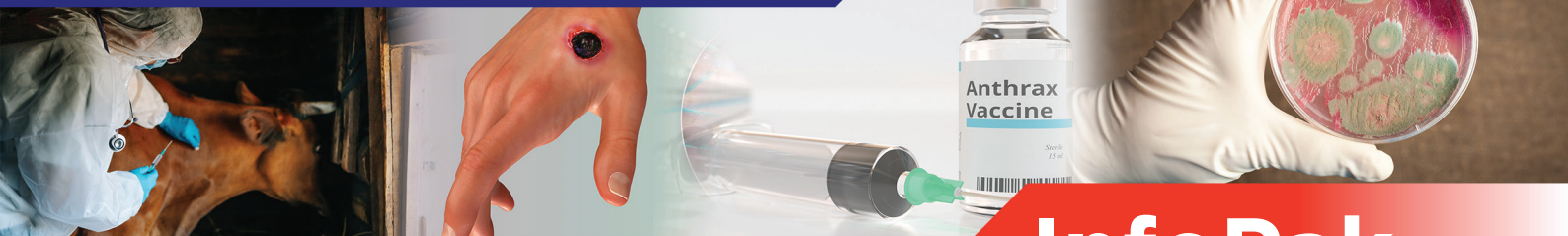
Anthrax in humans

- There are a number of ways that people can get Anthrax:
 - Direct contact with infected animals or their products (blood, wool, hides) when you have a break in your skin
 - From biting flies that have fed on infected animals or their products
 - Through inhalation – breathing in contaminated dust
 - Through eating infected undercooked meat
- There are different forms of this disease in people:
 - Cutaneous (skin) form – most common one typically from biting flies or direct contact. Swelling and redness occur followed by a black scab at the site of infection
 - Gastrointestinal form (from eating infected meat) – typically causes nausea, stomach pain and severe, bloody diarrhoea
 - Inhalation (from breathing in contaminated dust) – most severe form and often results in death. Typically causes fever, severe chest pain, coughing and difficulty breathing. Early treatment is vital for this form as it is difficult to treat once it progresses
- Treatment:
 - Anthrax is treatable with antibiotics but it is vital to go to your doctor as soon as possible if you are concerned as the earlier treatment is received, the better the chances of survival



Anthrax is a controlled disease under the Animal Diseases Act (Act No. 35 of 1984)

Abattoirs: ANTHRAX



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- Prevention – as our animals are often a source of infection, we should prevent our animals contracting Anthrax if possible as well as taking necessary precautions to protect ourselves
 - Prevention in animals – vaccinate livestock yearly and if death from suspected Anthrax occurs, you must NOT open the carcass
- Carcass must be buried at least 2m deep under quicklime
- Your nearest state veterinarian must also be notified
 - Prevention in people – avoid contact with suspected animals
- Wear protective clothing if working with animals especially masks if lots of dust is generated
- Do not slaughter and consume animals that may have died from Anthrax
- Never open a carcass of animal, rather notify your state veterinarian

Reference: Spickler, Anna Rovid. Anthrax. December 2017.
<https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/anthrax.pdf>

Contacts:

TITLE	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
State Veterinarian: George	044-803-3771/0	SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za	4 Varing Avenue, George
State Veterinarian: Boland	021-808-5028/ 5253	SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za	Western Cape Department of Agriculture building, Muldersvlei road, Elsenburg
State Veterinarian: Swellendam	021-808-5059/ 028-425-4850	DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za	67 Voortrekker St, Swellendam
State Veterinarian: Beaufort West	023-414-9220/1	DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za	Blyth St, Beaufort West
State Veterinarian: Vredendal	027-201-3514/-0	DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Matzikama and Noord St. Vredendal
State Veterinarian: Malmesbury	022-433-8915/0	DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Spoorweg and Munisipale St, Malmesbury
State Veterinarian: Oudtshoorn	044-203-9443/5	DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za	43 Van Der Riet St, Oudtshoorn
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