

04 APRIL 2008

## EQUINE INFLUENZA

### CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 28

# URGENT MESSAGE

## Use of ProteqFlu vaccine

Would all staff and veterinarians please note that **vaccinations with ProteqFlu vaccine are only permitted to complete vaccination courses, i.e. V3 and occasionally V2 vaccinations.**

**Any horse that has not previously received ProteqFlu vaccine is not permitted to be vaccinated.**

We must comply with the nationally agreed policy issued by both the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases and the National Management Group.

The agreed policy is that for continuation of the legal permissions for emergency use of the vaccine, "horse owners may access vaccine to complete the administration of precautionary vaccination courses at their own expense until 30 June 2008".

**Any use of ProteqFlu vaccine outside this nationally agreed policy may jeopardise the vaccine permissions.**

Negotiations are currently underway to recall vaccine supplies. Please remember that ProteqFlu vaccine is a genetically modified organism and is subject to strict Commonwealth controls. This means that **every vial will have to be accounted for.**

All veterinarians wishing to use ProteqFlu must first be authorised by me. This is a condition of the emergency use permit that allows ProteqFlu to be supplied and used in Australia. The authorisations have been for periods of 3 months and most are now expiring.

Any veterinarian who wishes to be re-authorised will have to re-apply, and needs to be aware that any new authorisations will be revoked on 30 June 2008.

A new condition of authorisation will be that ProteqFlu can only be given to horses to complete vaccination courses – as detailed above.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (04 April 2008). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.