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WAS

“EQUINE INFLUENZA”

Could it be

“ERADICATED INFECTION”

Presentation by: John F Coughlan - 16 December 2008

Q. WHAT DO:

- ❖ **Captain Cook's departure with Endeavour**
- ❖ **Matthew Webb becoming first person to swim English Channel**
- ❖ **First night of bombing of Germany**
- ❖ **Ben Hogan winning PGA Championship**
- ❖ **Arthur Ashe becoming first black to win US Singles Championship**
- ❖ **Carl Lewis running 100 metres in 9.86 seconds**

HAVE IN COMMON WITH EQUINE INFLUENZA?

A. All occurred for 1st time on 25 August (in different years)



**25 August 2007 was a monumental day in
Australian Racing**

- ❖ No Thoroughbred Meeting**
- ❖ No Harness Meeting**
- ❖ Greyhound Meetings Proceeded**
- ❖ Tabcorp Turnover 88% below Budget for day**

NSW HARNESS INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

ACTIONS

- ❖ Followed Austvet Plan**
- ❖ Liaised with DPI**
- ❖ Notified Participants by Telephone**
- ❖ Notified Media Through Radio, Television**
- ❖ Regularly attended DPI Meetings and issued Press Releases to assist Participants**
- ❖ Vaccinated almost 4,000 Harness Horses twice in NSW - each with a Microchip because of use of Live Vaccine - Canary Pox**

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT

- ❖ A need for a specific Emergency Response Plan using Technology to notify each Club/Licensed Participant utilising our Licencing System.
- ❖ To be better consulted. Initially the Authority was not advised of Industry Meetings - we found out circuitously. Government Departments could have full time employee to handle Customer Relations in crisis.
- ❖ As far as humanly possible have "single voice" coming from DPI Veterinarians.
- ❖ Be cognisant of advice provided by external Veterinarians
- ❖ The importance of having In House/Employed Veterinarian
- ❖ Flow of information to Harness Participants. Because of size/importance, Thoroughbred Industry dominated. All other Equine Sports were "second fiddle". Need strategy for future to overcome this to ensure our message is delivered.

- ❖ **To establish and implement more stringent Penalties for Participants who break Regulations to obtain better compliance**

- ❖ **The number of horses we did not know existed – particularly when CHAPS payments commenced.**

- ❖ **More effective use of HaRVEY System to ensure all records are updated - Provides**
 - **Greater knowledge of horse locations**
 - **More effective vaccination**

- ❖ **Updated list of Trainers with horses in work/started last 18 months. Easier preparation for vaccinations**

- ❖ **The need to vaccinate as an Eradication Measure on a more timely basis, given results achieved.**

- ❖ **The importance of using a Live Vaccine to prevent spread.**

- ❖ **EI Prevention Free Zones work**

MATTERS TO CONTEMPLATE

- ❖ **The necessity to have National involvement and consensus in decision making process if the issue relates to only a few States**
- ❖ **The need to ensure future Policy Decisions are not made during the crisis.**
- ❖ **The need to resolve Microchip issue**
- ❖ **If Thoroughbreds had AI, strong possibility there would be no EI**

