

19 NOVEMBER 2007

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 14/2

URGENT FOR ALL VETERINARIANS

Suspect Equine Influenza Cases in the Purple Zone

The Equine Influenza (EI) control program has reached a stage where it is once again vital to use laboratory testing to confirm suspect cases of EI in the Purple Zone. Horse owners in the purple zone who suspect a horse has EI are once more being directed to ring the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. The Hotline operator will transfer the call to a veterinarian at the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC), Menangle.

The LDCC veterinarian will assess the case and if appropriate, task a veterinary practitioner to investigate it, and give the practitioner a Task Request Number. Practitioners who are asked directly by their clients to examine a horse that might have EI should first phone the Hotline to get a Task Request Number. NSW DPI will not pay for investigations that it has not tasked.

Investigation by practitioners involves clinical examination, sample collection, and completion of Anemis 1 and Anemis 2/3 forms, and a Specimen Advice form. The Anemis forms are at the NSW DPI website: go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ and follow the links to Equine Influenza, Information for Veterinarians. The Specimen Advice form is at www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/6531. The forms and the samples must be despatched as soon as possible (but without risking delay in transit) to the Regional Veterinary Laboratory at Menangle.

It is essential that a full history is recorded. Particular attention should be paid to:

- Has any person who lives on the property, works on the property or visited the property had contact with other horses e.g. a racetrack, stables, riding school etc?
- Have any horse transport vehicles, or feed supply vehicles visited, or been moved onto the property?
- Has any equipment been in contact with horses at another property?
- Have any horses on the property been previously tested?

Further information about sample collection and property visits may be obtained on the DPI external web site.

NSW DPI will pay practitioners \$160.00 plus GST per hour to do this work, on receipt of an invoice that cites the Task Request Number. The invoice may be faxed to the LDCC at (02) 4640 6542.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (19 November 2007). 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.