

27 SEPTEMBER 2007

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION #6

Using imported live vaccine for EI disease control

Approval to import stocks of live canary pox recombinant equine influenza vaccine has been received and vaccination of horses in strategically identified areas will commence in the next few days. Because the vaccine is a genetically modified organism (GMO) there are very strict controls on its distribution, handling and use. The vaccine is intended for use to assist in containment of equine influenza. To this end, use of vaccine will be restricted to targeted populations of horses only.

Vaccination Strategies

In NSW, horses will be vaccinated in strategically identified areas to contain the spread of equine influenza within the currently affected region. Vaccination in the selected areas and around outlying restricted areas will be performed by registered, authorised veterinarians ONLY, under the direction of the NSW DPI. Veterinarians are being recruited for this task right now.

Before authorised veterinarians can administer the vaccine they MUST have completed CVO approved training on the use of the vaccine, identification and traceability of vaccinated horses, disposal of consumables and other legal and policy requirements.

In addition to vaccination in the selected areas, vaccination of some racing horses will be performed by registered, authorised veterinarians under the supervision of Racing NSW and Harness Racing NSW.

WARNING

It is an offence for any person to administer the Canarypox vaccine unless they have been authorised by the CVO and are appropriately trained.

Any administration of vaccine outside of the authorisation of the CVO under the emergency animal disease response may result in prosecution under the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991* (State Legislation) and the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (Commonwealth Legislation).

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (27 September 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.