

13 DECEMBER 2007

## EQUINE INFLUENZA

### CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 16

## URGENT FOR ALL VETERINARIANS

### Vaccinating horses for the purposes of movement

New equine influenza (EI) movement requirements for horses have just been agreed nationally and are being implemented in NSW. The movements are subject to various conditions to minimise the risk of spread of the disease. Some movements are contingent on the horse being an approved vaccinee<sup>1</sup> as well as meeting other movement requirements.

A very limited amount of vaccine is available. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will consider applications for vaccination from horse owners who:

- can demonstrate a particular need to move their horses, e.g. for welfare reasons, or in some circumstances to attend sales or competitions (nomination already accepted), for breeding purposes or for relocation (in the case of property sales, change of jobs, purchase of horse etc), and,
- are in a position to meet all other movement requirements such as pre and post movement quarantines, testing etc.

The application may only be submitted by an authorised veterinary practitioner on behalf of the horse owner or industry group, using the form entitled '[Application for equine influenza vaccination outside buffers or purple zone](#)'. The completed, signed form must be faxed to SDCHQ Industry Liaison - on 6391 4706, accompanied by any relevant supporting information, e.g. bill of sale, event nomination acceptance.

All applications will require the approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). Vaccination and all associated costs will be at the owners' expense.

The application will be considered and following approval or rejection by the CVO it will be faxed back to the veterinary practitioner.

Vaccine for movement purposes is being supplied to industry through Provet veterinary distributors. If an application is approved, a vaccine order may then be faxed to Provet on 02 4955 4555. The order must be accompanied by a copy of the CVO approved application. Provet will dispatch the vaccine accompanied by blank vaccination certificates printed in triplicate.

All horses must be microchipped at the time of initial vaccination unless the horse is already microchipped, or is a thoroughbred foal that has not received its stud book microchip (such foals must be identified by description).

In red and amber zones vaccinators and vaccination teams must implement biosecurity measures when entering and leaving each property, in accordance with legislative requirements and the protocols in the 'Equine Influenza Training Manual for Vaccinators'. In green zone biosecurity precautions are recommended.

The vaccination certificate must be fully and legible completed and signed, and the white copy given to horse owner. The veterinary practitioner will retain the other two copies.

Practitioners are also responsible for:

- signing and returning to Provet a copy of the consignment note that accompanies the vaccine,
- storing, handling and using the vaccine according to permission requirements (as per 'Equine Influenza Training Manual for Vaccinators'),
- maintaining spreadsheet records of all vial management and horse vaccinations,
- forwarding copies of the spreadsheet to VMOC and Provet on a weekly basis or as vaccination is completed,
- disposing of all used and damaged vials as hazardous waste,
- keeping records of the disposal (as hazardous waste) of all used and damaged vials.

Horses vaccinated with ProteqFlu and ProteqFlu TE may experience a range of adverse reactions, including occasional hypersensitivity reactions. Reports of significant or severe adverse reactions are to be faxed to the State Disease Control Headquarters (SDCHQ) on 02 6361 9976.

For further information, please phone Industry Liaison on 6391 3176 or 6391 3739.

#### **PRACTITIONERS PLEASE NOTE:**

**ProteqFlu vaccine can only be administered by persons who have been authorised by the CVO.**

**Veterinary practitioners who wish to apply for authorisation must:**

- **complete the form 'Application and authority for a registered veterinary practitioner to administer Proteqflu or Proteqflu TE in NSW', and**
  - **be registered as a veterinary practitioner in NSW, and**
  - **attend a CVO approved training course,**
- before being eligible for authorisation.**

<sup>1</sup> An approved vaccinate is a horse that:

- is permanently identified with a microchip or unique identifying brand, and
- has been vaccinated twice with ProteqFlu at a 2-6 week interval, and more than 7 days and no more than 4 months have elapsed since the second dose, or
- has been vaccinated twice with ProteqFlu at a 2-6 week interval and vaccinated a third time 4-6 months after the first vaccination, and it is no more than 12 months since the third vaccination, or
- has been vaccinated two or more times with ProteqFlu within intervals and time periods that have been approved in writing on a case-by-case basis by the CVO.

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