

31 JANUARY 2008

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 26

URGENT FOR ALL VETERINARIANS

Laboratory submissions

The virology lab at Menangle is currently handling an unprecedented number of equine influenza (EI) serology and PCR submissions.

Most EI testing is being undertaken as part of the surveillance program or to facilitate horse movements. In both cases there are tight time schedules which put enormous pressure on laboratory staff and resources.

Laboratory turn-around time is being significantly affected by poorly presented submissions – often accompanied by inaccurate key lists and illegible specimen advice sheets.

Therefore I am requesting that all submitters review the way in which they are submitting their samples.

SPECIMEN ADVICE

1. WRITE LEGIBLY – where possible print in black or blue pen
2. INCLUDE YOUR PRACTICE NAME ON THE SPECIMEN ADVICE
3. INCLUDE THE ANEMIS NUMBER IF YOU KNOW IT
4. INCLUDE YOUR TASK REQUEST NUMBER IF YOU KNOW IT
5. INCLUDE THE REASON FOR TESTING AND ANY RELEVANT TIME CONSTRAINTS
6. IF A PRE-PRINTED SPECIMEN ADVICE IS PROVIDED, PLEASE USE IT

KEY LIST

1. USE THE KEY LIST
2. NUMBER EACH SAMPLE CLEARLY THEN WRITE THE CORRESPONDING OWNER AND HORSE DETAILS* ON THE KEY LIST
3. CHECK THAT THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED MATCHES THE NUMBER RECORDED ON THE KEY LIST

If each submitter puts a little time into attending to these details, we'll be able to continue providing industry and the profession with a laboratory service that is equal to the massive demands of the EI control and eradication program.

* Whenever you are recording horse details for lab submissions or elsewhere, please use the horse's registered name, not its pet or stable name.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (31 January 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.