

28 SEPTEMBER 2007

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION #7

Strategic vaccination of horses against equine influenza is commencing using two different vaccines. Live canary pox recombinant equine influenza vaccine is being used in strategically identified areas to contain the spread of the virus and in some racing horses. Approval has been also been given for the vaccination of breeding stallions with the killed equine influenza vaccine under the protocol outlined below.

Guidelines for veterinarians vaccinating breeding stallions with killed EI vaccine

Equine Influenza (EI) Vaccine (killed) is imported into Australia by Fort Dodge Australia and distributed by Provet.

The use of all EI vaccines is controlled by an Order issued [under section 22 of *The Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991*](#). Under this Order the purchase, prescription and use of the vaccine by any person in NSW, including any veterinary practitioner, is prohibited unless:

- The person is a veterinary practitioner authorised by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service to use the vaccine in horses for export, or
- The person is authorised in writing by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) or his deputy.

EI causes high fever and illness that may reduce both fertility and libido in breeding stallions. Vaccination against EI reduces the risk of horses being infected and where infection does occur, helps to minimise the duration and severity of clinical signs. There are limited stocks of killed vaccine available in Australia. Targeted vaccination of breeding stallions with killed vaccine has the potential to reduce the impact of EI on the horse industry.

Veterinary practitioners registered in NSW may apply to be authorised to purchase and use the killed EI vaccine in breeding stallions by completing the form entitled: 'Application and authority for a veterinary practitioner to purchase and use killed equine influenza vaccine in NSW'.

The form must be fully completed and then faxed to the NSW SDCHQ registry on (02) 6361 9976, marked urgent attention CVO.

The authorising officer will consider the application on the basis of the following criteria:

- All horses to be vaccinated must be located in the restricted area,
- All horses to be vaccinated must be permanently identified with an identifier that is unique to the horse, e.g. freeze brand, microchip, before the application is lodged for consideration,
- the applicant is a veterinary practitioner registered in NSW,

- the applicant has completed and submitted the form entitled 'Application and authority for a veterinary practitioner to purchase and use killed equine influenza vaccine in NSW',
- the form identifies the animals to be vaccinated as breeding stallions,
- the form includes the individual identification of each stallion.

If the CVO is satisfied with the application:

- the authorisation will be signed,
- the authorised form will be assigned a unique identifying number (authority number)
- registry will fax the authorised and numbered form to:
 - o the applicant,
 - o the vaccine supplier – Fort Dodge fax:1800 252 976,
 - o the distributor – PROVET fax: 4955 3082,
 - o VMOC.

Fort Dodge will check the form, and if satisfied will promptly dispatch the vaccine and a copy of the permit controlling vaccine use issued by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority, to the nominated account holder (usually veterinary practice).

Veterinarians who wish to be authorised to purchase and supply vaccine must agree to:

- **use the Equine Influenza vaccine supplied to them only on the horses listed in the application,**
- **use the above vaccine in accordance with the permit issued by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority,**
- **use the above vaccine in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations,**
- **complete the '*Vaccination Certificate killed equine influenza vaccine*' (including the authority number and all batch details), for each stallion vaccinated**
- **within 24 hours of vaccination, fax the completed vaccination certificate to the NSW SDCHQ on 6361 9976**
- **return any unused vaccine to the supplier.**

Subsequent authority for vaccine purchase and use is dependent on compliance with the above conditions.

Note. Vaccine purchase and use is subject to audit by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and practitioners should be aware that they must be able to account for all vials of vaccine issued to them.

Veterinarians visiting horses should follow biosecurity recommendations in the [**Guidelines for vets – making property visits to horses**](#)



**APPLICATION AND AUTHORITY FOR A REGISTERED VETERINARY
PRACTITIONER TO PURCHASE AND USE KILLED EQUINE INFLUENZA
VACCINE ON BREEDING STALLIONS IN NSW**

Persons who purchase or use the Equine influenza Vaccine on horses not destined for export, must first be authorised in writing by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in accordance with a Control Order under section 22 of the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991*.

Killed equine influenza vaccine may only be used on breeding stallions that have first been permanently identified.

APPLICATION

A. Declaration by a veterinarian (please print legibly)

I,, a veterinarian registered in New South Wales, hereby apply for authorisation to purchase and use killed equine influenza vaccine, and I undertake to:

- administer the vaccine only to the permanently identified breeding stallion/s listed below,
- use the vaccine in accordance with the permit issued by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA),
- use the vaccine in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations,
- complete a 'Vaccination Certificate – killed equine influenza vaccine' (including the authority number and all batch details), for each stallion that I have vaccinated,
- within 24 hours of vaccination, fax the completed vaccination certificate/s to the NSW SDCHQ on 6361 9976,
- return any unused vaccine to the supplier.

I understand that failure to comply with any of the above undertakings renders this authorisation invalid.

My contact details are:

Address.....

.....

phone: mobile:..... fax:

B. Nominated Vaccine Supplier

Company:Fax No:

C. Details of owner/s of horses

Name and address:.....

.....

phone: mobile:..... fax:

D. Details of person in charge of property where the horse/s are located *(if different to B)*

Name and address:.....

.....

phone: mobile:..... fax:

E. Address of horse location *(provide all possible details):*

.....

Postcode.....PIC..... LGA:

RLPB:..... Lot/Plan:..... Lat./long.....(dec. degrees)

F. Descriptions of Horse(s) to be vaccinated

Name of Horse	Reason for vaccination	Breed	Age	Colour/Markings	Identification of horse eg Microchip no. or brand details

Signature:**Registration No.**.....**Date:**.....

AUTHORITY

I,.....

Chief Veterinary Officer, authorise

to purchase doses of killed equine influenza vaccine for use on the animals and property described above.

Signature:.....Date:.....

Authority Number

Distribution: Applicant, VMOC, CVO

This document is valid for three months from date of authorisation

Notes

1. This authority can be revoked at any time by the CVO
2. This authority only relates to the purchase and use of killed equine influenza vaccine on breeding stallions that have first been permanently identified
3. CVO means the Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW, or a Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW