

19TH JANUARY 2008

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 24

URGENT FOR ALL VETERINARIANS

There is some misinformation circulating regarding vaccination, and recovered horses. In order to clear this up please read through the following:

1. Clients who have had EI confirmed on their property will be sent paperwork after a period of time informing them that their property is now "Resolved". This DOES NOT provide proof of immunity. Individual horses need a "Certificate of Immunity", available from

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horse/influenza/information/vets>

2. Recovered horses DO NOT require vaccination, and will not be approved for vaccination. DPI has several reports of horse owners with recovered horses being contacted by their vet and told they should have their horses vaccinated in order to give it a 'booster'. This information is incorrect. A recovered horse has a greater natural immunity than a fully vaccinated horse.
3. A PCR test will not prove immunity. All that is required is the ELISA blood test.
4. Micro-chipping is not provided "Free of charge by the NSW DPI" for owners needing vaccination and/or Declaration of Health and/or Certificate of Immunity to comply with movement requirements or to compete at an event. This is on a user pays basis. Microchips are only provided to horses that are vaccinated as part of the EI eradication program, ie in vaccination buffer zones and for naive horses vaccinated in the purple zone.
5. The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) has issued **Application and Approval for Equine Influenza Vaccination Outside Buffers or Purple Zone** forms (available on the website at the address above) and put a line through and wrote NA over the "Veterinary Practitioner Making Application" section. We need this information and forms that come back without this information will not be approved.
6. There are updated "Certificate of Immunity" and "Declaration of Health" certificates available on the web (again, at the address given above) which replace the old "Horse Health Certificate Part 1 & 2". If a client comes to you with one of the old Horse Health Certificates, information from these can be transcribed onto the new forms.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (19/01/2008). 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.