

14 DECEMBER 2007

## EQUINE INFLUENZA

### CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 17

#### Horse Health Certificates

Owners/agents who wish to move horses may be required to obtain a Horse Health Certificate. These certificates can only be completed by a registered veterinary practitioner.

Each horse requires an individual certificate. The certificate may be downloaded from the NSW Department of Primary Industries external web site at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horse/influenza/information/vets> (under Forms and templates).

The main purpose of the certificate is to provide evidence of the horse's immunity to equine influenza (EI). Horses that are approved vaccinates or have been infected and have recovered are considered to have some resistance to infection. This resistance is taken into account if there is a proposal to move the horse, especially from a higher risk area or zone.

The certificate also provides for a veterinary declaration about the health of the horse with regard to EI. This health declaration is only valid for 14 days.

Certificates can only be issued where the horse is uniquely identified by a microchip or a legible brand. The certifying veterinary practitioner is responsible for confirming the identity of horse by verifying the microchip number or unique identifying brand before making any entries on the certificate.

#### Definitions used in the Horse Health Certificate

A **recovered horse** is a horse that:

- is permanently identified with a microchip or unique identifying brand, and
- has a history indicating that it has been infected with EI more than 30 days and no more than 9 months ago, and
- has tested positive by an ELISA test for antibodies to EI within the last 9 months.

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 it is more than 7 days and no more than 4 months 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.

A **susceptible horse** is any horse that is not certified as a recovered horse or an approved vaccinate.

**Clinical signs of EI** may include coughing, nasal discharge, depression, inappetance and/or a fever of more than 38.5°C.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (14 December 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.