

RMP – Event Organiser

RISK MITIGATION PLAN

There is a level of responsibility expected of Horse Event Organisers by the competitors and public alike. The basis requirements should include:

- Veterinarian to be on call during event
- Provide method of making emergency phone calls or alternate communication
- Limit public access to stable areas
- Provide separate vehicle parking for competitors from spectator parking
- Create single entry and exit to grounds for Horses and Horse Vehicles
- Provide designated isolation area (or Stable) for sick horse
- Officials/stewards (including gear check) practice good hygiene between horses

LIVESTOCK ACT – HORSE ORGANISATIONS

Under the *Livestock Act*, all horse event organisers are required to report a suspect emergency disease Outbreak to their local veterinarian, or by contacting the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline, ph 1800 675 888.

In a perfect world health checks would be carried out on all horses as they arrived at an event. The reality at most equestrian events in Australia is that only at elite events are health checks undertaken, and even then the horses have usually already been in residence at the facility for some time.

Event Organisers should develop a

CONTINGENCY PLAN

should a stock standstill (Lockdown) be declared.

The basics of this plan should contain the following items and intentions for the successful containment of a potential disease outbreak. Until proven otherwise, the organisers and volunteers should respond based on 'worst case' scenario.

1. ESTABLISH A BIOSECURITY PERIMETER

The primary biosecurity perimeter is centered on the location of the contagious disease case(s) and exposed animals. It is extended until a barrier to further spread of infection is identified. The primary perimeter may encompass the entire equine facility (stud, showground or racetrack), or if site design permits, the perimeter may only contain part of the equine facility (stable/paddock). The perimeter should be clearly defined by a physical barrier, even if that barrier is only a warning tape. Signs should be used to identify the perimeter and control access. The primary perimeter contains all suspected infected animals and animals in immediate contact with them.

Animals are prohibited from exiting the primary perimeter, and biosecurity measures are implemented to prevent infectious agents leaving the area. If the equine facility has an appropriately designed and managed isolation facility then the primary perimeter will be around this facility. If the affected horse was moved to an isolation facility, a primary biosecurity perimeter should remain around the area from which the affected horse originated.

2. STOP HORSE MOVEMENT.

Affected horses should be moved to a separate isolation facility or confined to their stalls. Clinically unaffected horses are confined within the primary perimeter and health managed to minimize spread of infectious agent.

3. DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

- Monitor horses
- Record rectal temperatures twice daily

Note: It is preferable not share thermometers among horses; each horse should have its own thermometer. Alternatively, thermometers should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (w/ isopropyl alcohol) between uses.

4. IMPLEMENT PRIMARY PERIMETER - LIMIT HUMAN MOVEMENT

Access is limited to essential personnel only - veterinarians, technicians, grooms, caretakers. All personnel follow biosecurity protocols.

5. ESTABLISH SECONDARY PERIMETER

If the primary perimeter does not encompass the entire facility, it is appropriate to establish a secondary perimeter which does. All animals within the secondary perimeter are considered free of infection, but are at increased risk of exposure, making enhanced disease surveillance and contagion control measures necessary. Animals should travel into and out of the secondary perimeter only under the regulation of the veterinarian in charge.

6. REGULATE HORSE MOVEMENT

Record arrival/departure information including:

- Date
- Origination/Destination
- Carrier information

7. ESTABLISH HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR:

- Access to secondary perimeter from outside facilities would require Health certificate with disease specific endorsement
- Exit from secondary perimeter to outside facilities would require Health certificate with disease specific endorsement.
- Who is authorized to issue Health certificates and what specific endorsement/s is/are required.

8. EVENT MANAGEMENT

Do you have plans, materials and functions in place for the establishment of:

- Barriers—designation of isolation facility & establishment of physical perimeter
- Disinfection
- Waste removal
- Vermin and Insect control

9. DISINFECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Clear guidelines are needed

- During outbreak
- Before restocking facility with healthy horses
- Waste removal
- Vermin control-- Maximize insect control when arbovirus infection is suspected or confirmed

10. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Do your workers and volunteers know:

- Their requirements
- Their instructions
- About notification of risk
- About outbreak updates

11. FINALLY.....

**COMMUNICATE
THE PLAN!**



For support and advice on either developing a RMP or during a crisis please contact the **Qld Horse Council – details are below.**