

APPENDIX 1 - DISEASE SCHEDULES

Disease Response Schedules

Explanatory Notes:

For ease of understanding, the various diseases, their treatment and the policy for control/eradication can be classified into five broad categories.

Schedule A	Low Risk High Contagion Viral Diseases
Schedule B	Serious Risk Low Contagion Viral Diseases
Schedule C	Low Risk Bacterial, Fungal or Protozoan Diseases
Schedule D	Serious Risk Bacterial, Fungal or Potozoan Diseases
Schedule E	Vector Borne Diseases

Some diseases could be dealt with using different categories, depending on the spread and the area already infected at the time of identification, and the availability of effective vaccines. Which schedule will be used will be determined by the ERT.

Some of the EADs have an AUSVET plan in place, some have a Response Policy Brief, which is a simpler, less detailed guideline than an AUSVET plan. With changes in treatments, the diseases themselves, and the efficiency of vaccines, these plans could change, and QHC response will change accordingly.

If a disease affects more than the equine species additional restrictions will be placed on the QHC response. Consultation with the relevant authorities of those species will be established at the time of outbreak.

Fact Sheets for individual diseases are in place on the portal and updated regularly so if an outbreak occurs information is available for the horse owning public to view and understand. This will also help in the identification of strange illnesses.

A generic application for vaccination form that can be modified easily to fit the circumstances is in place, so that there is no delay for those diseases that are to be treated or controlled by vaccination.



Schedule A Low Risk Highly Contagion Viral Diseases

Diseases that are low mortality/high cost production eg. EI.

Lobby for immediate “Ring Vaccination” around affected areas, to establish buffer zones.

Biosecurity and means of transfer must be drummed into the horse owning public and the general public has to be made aware that they too could be responsible for transfer.

A minimum weekly review will be undertaken on the spread of the disease. At 3 to 4 weeks if the disease is still spreading, serious consideration needs to be given to implementing plans to get Industry moving. This response plan is using the system implemented during 2007 EI crisis as a template – white, green, amber, red and purple zones – white being the zone with no infection to purple being the highest risk and incidence of infection.

Qld is fortunate to have a “Competition Season” and a “Breeding Season”. There is some overlap of a couple of months on each end, but 2 policies could be made – one aimed mainly at the breeding season and one at competition season, to be implemented after that 3-4 week period.

BREEDING SEASON

Red Zone – lobby for voluntary vaccination of horses at the owners expense. There is less horse movement required in breeding situation – horses allowed to move under permit short distances to breeding or collection centres.

The conditions for these permits would be:

- The property from which the horse is travelling is not less than 5km from the nearest known Infected Property (IP).
- Distances would be no more than 20km for a return permit to be issued.
- The destination must be no less than 5km from the nearest known IP.
- The destination is closer than 5km from known IP, horses could be transported there but not return.
- Suitable agistment or accommodation was located at that destination or within a 1km radius, for the long term care of the horse.

Purple Zone – lobby for a Purple Zone within the Red Zone, where free movement can occur within that Purple Zone only, either with permit or

waybill. Vaccination should be on a voluntary basis and at the owner's expense.

Horses from other Zones would be allowed in, but not out until one or all of the following conditions have been met –

- Horses have been fully vaccinated or recovery established and immunity to the disease has been proven.
- Quarantine centres are established and the horses have been cleared.
- The disease has been controlled/eradicated and conditions established to allow horses to leave.

COMPETITION SEASON

Red Zone – lobby for vaccination of horses at owners expense. To get vaccinations completed and immunity established will take 6 to 8 weeks. Competitions would be held by permit, and permits issued only under the following conditions:

- Entries must be received and the list of horses competing is received by the QPIF no less than 14 days before the competition.
- All horses competing would require permits from the QPIF and this would have to be approved before entering the competition.
- All horses competing would require to be vaccinated (with appropriate certification) or recovered and immune (with appropriate certification)
- No horses allowed other than those entered and competing.
- All records to kept for the length of time required by the QPIF-6/12mths
- Movement under Permit should allow horses to come from a lower risk zone to a higher risk zone eg. Amber to Red, but not the reverse eg. Red to Amber.

Movement out of a Red Zones will not be allowed until one or all of the following conditions have been met.

- Quarantine centres are established and the horses have been cleared.
- The disease has been controlled/eradicated and conditions established to allow horses to leave.



Schedule B Serious Risk Low Contagion Viral Diseases

Eg. Hendra Virus, Rabies (low risk of spread with correct bio-security). Destruction of infected animals may be required. Often can be transmitted to humans and is fatal. Usually these are high mortality/high impact but in much smaller areas. They have a devastating affect on infected properties, but low impact on overall horse industry.

After the initial shutdown and identification of Infected Properties(IP) and Dangerous Contact Properties(DCP) the rest of industry outside those regions could return to normal.

The QHC role is to:-

- Accurately inform the horse owning public
- If required seek financial, emotional and health support for the affected owners and/or businesses

In certain circumstances where there are “high care” properties (breeding properties, agistment or stabled horses of large numbers) or carers or staff may themselves be affected or under quarantine, Quarantine Grooms may be seconded to avoid an animal welfare issue and to support property owners. QG’s would only be used where biosecurity training and measures were in place to the satisfaction of QPIF, WH&S, and the QHC.

Schedule C Low Risk Bacterial, Fungal or Protozoan Diseases

Eg. CEM Quick Identification and good Bio-Security should be able to control the diseases to isolated properties. Quarantine of IPs more likely than regions

QHC role will be to assist the QPIF in tracking horses or biological material that could be carrying or be capable of transmitting the disease.

Encourage strict testing for relevant disease and quick reporting to authorities. Alert the horse owning public about the symptoms and the importance of biosecurity.

These diseases can be transmitted by close horse to horse contact, or mechanically in biological products or on equipment. Strict testing of biological products needed as well eg. fresh or frozen semen.

Once identified, horse competitions could continue as normal. If not wide spread, breeding could continue with strict testing in place.



Schedule D Serious Risk Bacterial, Fungal or Protozoan Diseases

Eg. Glanders. Destruction of infected animals may be required. These diseases often can be transmitted to humans and fatal. Quite often no treatment for infected animals is possible, the very few horses that recover may have a recurrence of the disease or are carriers. These types of bacteria have a long life outside host and can be transferred by gear, brushes, humans and possibly flies.

These diseases often have long incubation periods in the horse. In many cases all horses confirmed must be destroyed and all dangerous contact horses and properties could have up to 6 months quarantine.

The QHC role is to:-

- Accurately inform the horse owning public
- If required seek support for the affected owners and/or businesses

In certain circumstances where there are “high care” properties (breeding properties, agistment or stabled horses of large numbers) or carers or staff may themselves be affected or under quarantine, Quarantine Grooms may be seconded to avoid an animal welfare issue and to support property owners. QG’s would only be used where biosecurity training and measures were in place to the satisfaction of QPIF, WH&S, and the QHC.

Schedule E Vector Borne Diseases

Eg. African Horse Sickness, Japanese Encephalitis. Destruction would occur only on humanitarian grounds – mortality rate for AHS is 90%. These diseases could occur anywhere that has biting insects or another biting host that the disease finds acceptable. Some can be transmitted to humans.

Depending on the spread of the disease, vaccination, stabling, rugging, removing potential insect breeding grounds and spraying to kill insect populations will be the most effective in preventing the spread of the disease. Long term zone changes and restrictions would be expected.

There would be no exit or entry from Zones without vaccination. The only possibility of transfer by mechanical means would be bad practices like reusing needles – they are transmitted by blood products. Quarantine of biological products would have to be strict.



Qld Horse Council Inc.

The QHC's major role would be to assist in the tracking of all horses and implementing the vaccination programme, and a widespread education programme. Generic application for vaccination forms are in place ready to modify for each individual disease. The education programme will include information about eliminating areas where insects can breed, spraying potential areas where hosts congregate and rugging and stabling horses for their protection.

Once a vaccination programme is completed movement could take place with strict controls eg proof of vaccination. Long term zones, permit and tracking systems would be required.