

Biosecurity alert

Hendra virus – information for industry

6 July 2011

Current Situation

Hendra virus at Park Ridge

Test results received last night from a horse at Park Ridge in Logan City confirmed that the animal died of Hendra virus on Monday 4 July 2011.

There was only one horse on the Park Ridge property. This property has been quarantined.

Biosecurity Queensland has quarantined three other properties located at Park Ridge and is working with affected horse and property owners in conjunction with other government agencies.

Community engagement teams from Biosecurity Queensland and Queensland Health are in the area providing information to residents about Hendra virus.

Beaudesert and Mt Alford properties

Three properties in the Beaudesert area and one property at Mt Alford remain under quarantine.

All horses on these properties are being monitored on a daily basis. There are two more rounds of testing for Hendra virus to be conducted before quarantine can be lifted.

Movement of horses

Hendra virus is not highly infectious and consequently, the horse industry is not subject to movement restrictions for Hendra virus - except for the properties under quarantine.

Although these cases are all located in the south east region, horse owners should be vigilant across the state for signs consistent with Hendra virus.

It is imperative horse owners practice good biosecurity and should not travel, work on, or take unwell horses to other properties or equestrian events.

Best practice – reducing the risk on your horse property

There are a number of measures horse owners can take to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected with Hendra virus.

Trees that are attractive to flying foxes should be identified to assist management of horses on a property.

Horse feed and water containers should be removed from under trees. If possible, place feed and water containers under a shelter.

Horses should be removed from paddocks where flowering/fruited trees have resulted in a temporary surge in flying fox numbers. Horses should be returned after the trees have stopped flowering/fruited.

If it is not possible to remove horses from paddocks, try to temporarily remove your horses during times of peak flying fox activity (usually at dusk and during the night).

Fencing off access to trees that are identified as attractive to flying foxes could also be considered.

Ensure that sick horses are isolated from other horses, people and animals until you have obtained a veterinarian's opinion.

More information

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). More information is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

For human related enquiries, contact the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

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