

Biosecurity Queensland alert

Hendra virus – information for industry

06 September 2012

New Hendra virus incident in Far North Queensland

Biosecurity Queensland is managing a new Hendra virus incident after a positive test result was received late last night, Wednesday 06 September 2012.

The horse was on a property located between Cairns and Port Douglas.

The property owner contacted a private veterinarian on Monday 3 September after an 18 year old thoroughbred gelding became ill.

The horse died before the veterinarian arrived and has since been buried on the property.

Clinical signs reported include:

- wobbly gait
- high stepping on left side

Biosecurity Queensland have quarantined the property and are conducting tracing and risk assessments to determine susceptible animals that may have had exposure to the virus.

Movement restrictions

Restrictions will apply to moving horses and horse materials on and off the infected property, and the property will be quarantined for at least one month. There are no other movement restrictions for the general Queensland horse population.

Horse owners need to remain vigilant in taking steps to reduce the risk of infection as Hendra virus can occur year round but is more common during the cooler months. If a horse becomes sick, owners should contact their veterinarian immediately as happened in this case.

Flying fox survey

Biosecurity Queensland is calling on members of the general public to participate in an online survey about flying foxes.

The survey aims to gain a better understanding of public opinions, attitudes and knowledge of flying foxes and possible flying fox management options.

Find more information about the survey at:
http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/4790_22042.htm

More information

A Hendra virus information pack for horse owners is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline).

Contact your GP, local Queensland Health Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection.

For general enquiries about the infection of Hendra virus in humans, call the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit www.health.qld.gov.au

For information about managing Hendra virus risks at workplaces, contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

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