

Biosecurity alert

Hendra virus – information for veterinarians

2 July 2011 – evening edition

Beaudesert response

A third property has been quarantined as part of the Beaudesert incident.

This is a precautionary measure after tracing of horses on the infected property at Kerry showed possible contact with a horse at the third property. Samples collected today from the three at-risk horses have been submitted for Hendra virus testing at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL).

The first rounds of test results on the 20 horses at the second Beaudesert property at Biddaddaba have come back negative. This is the first of three rounds of testing required to clear the property.

All horses on the three quarantined properties in the Beaudesert area are being monitored and remain clinically well.

Boonah response

On Friday 1 July 2011, samples from a horse were tested and found to be positive for Hendra virus by PCR testing of blood and nasal swabs.

Clinical signs of the horse that tested positive for Hendra virus include:

- Lateral recumbency
- Respiratory rate 25-30
- Muscle fasciculation
- Tetanic spasms of hind limbs
- Temp 38.0°C

The horse deteriorated during the day and was euthanased by the private veterinarian and buried on the property.

There are eight horses remaining on the property. All have been assessed by Biosecurity Queensland as being clinically well and samples have been collected for Hendra virus testing at AAHL.

On 20 June 2011 another horse on the same property showed similar but more severe clinical signs. The horse was euthanased and also buried on the property. Samples collected by a private veterinarian at the time have been submitted and will be tested for Hendra virus

Initial tracing indicates no horse movements on or off this property for over a month.

Guidelines for Veterinarians handling potential Hendra virus infection in horses (Version 4.1) and the Hendra virus Veterinary Practice Pack are available at the website www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

New South Wales response

Hendra virus has been confirmed in a horse at Wollongbar. The New South Wales [media release](#) provides more information.

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

Contact your GP, local Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection. General enquiries about Hendra virus infection in humans may be directed to the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au if you need information about managing Hendra virus risks at workplaces.

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