Hendra virus update no. 8 - 6 July 2011

Hendra virus at Park Ridge

Hendra virus results received last night from a horse at Park Ridge in Logan City have confirmed that the animal died of Hendra virus.

On 4 July 2011, a private veterinarian examined the aged horse, which had been reported as depressed by the owners. The only significant finding on clinical examination was a rectal temperature of 40.0°C. The horse died overnight and was buried on the property.

Biosecurity Queensland collected samples from the dead horse and the following PCR results were reported:
- blood positive
- nasal and oral swabs negative
- rectal and urethral swabs positive.

There are no remaining horses left on the property, which has been quarantined.

Biosecurity Queensland has quarantined three other properties 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 giving residents information 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 daily. Two more rounds of testing for Hendra virus must be conducted before the quarantine can be lifted.

Reducing the risk of Hendra virus
Veterinarians should develop, train in and implement infection control procedures to manage the risks associated with working with sick horses.
Infection control procedures are the primary defence against horses in the pre-clinical phase where horses may excrete Hendra virus but still appear clinically normal.
Where Hendra virus is a differential diagnosis, veterinarians should give horse owners sound advice to reduce their potential exposure until a negative test result is returned.
Download a fact sheet for horse owners awaiting Hendra virus test results.

More information
Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline) to report suspected Hendra virus cases.
Call the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) if you have general enquiries about Hendra virus infection in humans.

See the links below for more information about Hendra virus or follow Biosecurity Queensland on Facebook and Twitter.

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