Biosecurity Queensland alert
Hendra virus – information for industry
31 June 2012

Hendra virus case in Cairns

Biosecurity Queensland is managing a Hendra virus incident at an equestrian centre near Cairns after a positive test result was received on 27 July 2012.

The property manager contacted a private veterinarian after discovering a horse was sick on Wednesday 25 July 2012. The horse died on 27 July 2012 and was reported as showing a range of clinical signs including:

- inappetent
- tremors
- neurological signs - worse on handling
- slight nasal discharge
- elevated heart and respiratory rate
- fever
- grinding teeth
- blood from nose at death.

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

Rockhampton case

Two horses were euthanased last week on a quarantined property near Rockhampton where a foal died of Hendra virus infection on 15 July 2012.

The horses became acutely ill and were reported to be showing the following clinical signs:

Horse 1: off-food; reluctant to move; extended neck; muscle fasciculation; and increased respiratory effort.

Horse 2: off-food; dull demeanour; reluctant to move; hanging head; drooping bottom lip; ataxia; mild increase in respiratory effort; pawing ground.

Mackay case

Biosecurity Queensland continues to manage a property near Mackay, quarantined after a positive test result for Hendra virus was received from a horse on 27 June 2012.

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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