

Biosecurity for Equine Events

Yours Mine and Ours.

Janet Hull

District Inspector

Animal Biosecurity & Welfare



What is Biosecurity at Equine Events?

- Management and hygiene practices that restrict the movement of pests and diseases
- Everyone has a responsibility to ensure good biosecurity – before, during and after an event
- For Individuals – knowing who, where and what is on your property, grounds, venue is the start of managing your Biosecurity concerns.

Know your RISK.

What is a Biosecurity Plan?

- A plan that outlines the precautions taken to **minimise** the risk of pests and diseases
- A biosecurity plan should be developed to suit your **event** and your **venue**
- Individuals should consider how you conduct your business eg - going to clients properties
 - Clients coming to your property
 - Running workshops/clinics at 3rd party venue sites
 - Risks may vary depending on what service you are offering and where you conduct your business.

Principles of a biosecurity plan

- **Prevention** of the introduction of disease **onto** the event grounds, training facility or private property
- **Prevention** of the spread of disease **within** the event grounds or paddocks of an individuals or 3rd parties property.
- **Minimising** the effect and spread of a **disease incident**



1. Prevention of the introduction of disease onto the grounds

*THINK: What is your biosecurity risks and how they can enter your grounds...
What is the outcome of that risk, should it be apparent?
What can you do to minimise or eliminate that risk?*

What's the biggest risk ?

- Horse to horse contact

Other risks to consider

- **Fomites** – Tack, Feed/water containers, vehicles, floats, bedding
- **Other Animals** – Domestic animals, Bats, Birds, Rodents
- **People** – Competitors, event staff, spectators, farriers
- **Vectors** – Mosquitoes, Flies, Ticks etc.
- **Air** - eg. EI moved on the wind
- **Feed and Water supplies.**

1. Prevention of the introduction of disease **onto** the grounds continued....

Once you have identified your risks, what action can you take to minimise or eliminate that risk?

ESTABLISH YOUR RULES - What are your rules ?

- Don't allow sick horses on to your grounds.
- Sick horses will be vet checked, isolated and potentially removed from the grounds.
- Any suspicion of illness of any horse **MUST** be reported to organisers or officials.
- Participants must obey direction of the nominated person in charge
- All parties must be aware of, and understand and agree to comply with event rules prior to entry to the grounds.
- All participants must understand that if there is a horse disease incident, they may be subject to movement restrictions.

1. Prevention of the introduction of disease **onto** the grounds continued...

Person in Charge



Establish a PERSON in CHARGE.

- This person is in charge of the event for the day.
- They make the decisions according to your rules.
- They will adhere to agreed plan.
- They are have the skills to deal with stressful situations.

Depending on your club/organisation rules, make sure this person is aware of what disciplinary powers they can enact should an individual not comply with event organisers requests or follow event rules.

1. Prevention of the introduction of disease onto the grounds continued...

Record Keeping

Event organisers should have some sort of record keeping system in place. In the event of a biosecurity Incident, YOU WILL BE ASKED for ALL competitors that were there on the day.

You must be able to produce this as soon as possible.

How you record this information is up to you.

What information should be kept?

- **Competitor information** – Name, Address, PIC number, Phone Number
- **Horse Information** – Name, Identification if any, Microchip Number, Brands?
- **Name & Address & Phone number of owner if not the Competitor**
- **Other information** – transport company's etc

1. *Prevention of the introduction of disease **onto** the grounds continued....*

Horse Health Declarations (HHD)

Why use a HHD?

- Provides accurate details.
- Participants sign prior to leaving home – helps prompt owners to make sure they have met all conditions.
- Certify the horses entering the grounds are healthy and have been for the three days proceeding entering the grounds.
- Consideration should be given to compulsory documentation – no declaration, no entry.
- HHDs should be sent through PRIOR to the event.

Easy to hand to Biosecurity when we ask who has been on the grounds in a specific time frame.

1. Prevention of the introduction of disease **onto** the grounds continued...

Legal Documentation

Event organisers should be aware of the legal requirements competitors must comply with when moving horses from interstate and from different cattle tick zones.

When crossing cattle tick zones, actions may be required.

- Permit issued for 5 days – conditions apply
- Competitor may have done a CHOTS course depending on where they originate from (competitors in the Free traveling to the tick infected area)
- Certificate of inspection and treatment

Other requirements may include.....

- Waybills
- Travel Permits
- Interstate movements may require health certificates
- Fodder declarations – NSW & Fire ant requirements

Legal Documentation continued.....

Property Identification Code (PIC)

It is a legal requirement that **ALL** properties in Queensland with one or more horses are to be registered with Biosecurity Queensland and obtain a PIC.

Fines can be imposed for not having a PIC (up to \$4000)

- If you agist someone's horse, you as the owner must obtain a PIC and the horse owner must be registered with us as a client role on that PIC.
- If you have a training facility – you must be registered.
- If you stable a horse overnight at your property but it is not the ‘normal’ place of residence for the horse – both properties must be registered. Sometimes additional land parcels if within a certain distance can be added to your PIC .

- Horse owners are responsible to ensuring the property where their horse is kept is registered with this department.
- Be aware, some councils have guidelines on minimum size of land where horses can be kept.

2. Prevention of the spread of disease within the grounds

THINK: How can disease spread within the grounds?

Horses, Tack, Vehicle and people within the grounds are the major components of principle 2. How can you reduce the spread in context to these things?

People

- Minimise contact between people and horses – limit access to stable, float areas.
- Display appropriate and prominent signage on biosecurity throughout the venue.
- Stewards, officials and judges need to practice good hygiene between handling horses.
- All service providers (eg. farriers, veterinarians) should be limited and understand their biosecurity obligations and take all measure to minimise the risk of transfer of disease.
- All dogs on site should be kept on lead at all times or not be allowed at all.

2. Prevention of the spread of disease **within** the grounds continued...

HORSES

- Ensure all participants bring own horse feed and water containers
- Don't provide communal water troughs
- Ensure all parties obey directions of officials at the event
- Don not encourage track or equipment to be used between horses unless it has been cleaned between horses.
- Control horse movements on the grounds – limited entry and exit points into and out of competition areas and in and out of grounds.

Nominate areas for unloading, parking, yards and exercise arenas.

Nominate an area for emergencies – I.e. cordon off an area that suits your purpose for a quarantine area BEFORE the event and have this area taped and signed NO ENTRY.



2. Prevention of the Spread of disease **within** the grounds continued.....

SITE

- All event organisers should have a Venue Map.
- Map should include
 - Isolation areas
 - Exit and Entry Points
 - Water points and wash down facilities
 - Permanent structures – buildings, toilets, yards, roads and gates
 - Competition and warm up areas – other event areas lane ways, judges tents, etc.
 - Nominated manure collection sites

Public announcement should be made through the event regarding access to hand washing and basic biosecurity rules enforced by the club.

3. Minimising the effect and spread of a disease incident within the grounds.

*It's happened, you have a sick horse on the grounds. How do you minimise the spread and effect of this disease amongst other horses on the grounds?
Now your plan comes into play.....ARE YOU READY?*

Event Veterinarian

Not every event has a veterinarian on the grounds – this is costly and not always warranted. However you should talk to your local vet (chosen by the committee for the event) and let them know the event is on and that there is a possibility they may be called.

- Liaise with this person prior to the event
- Include them in your plan.
- What will you do if they are not available?
- What measures will you take if a sick horse is presented on your event day?
- What are your rules regarding sick horses?
- **Stick to your plan.**

3. Minimising the effect and spread of a disease incident **within** the grounds continued.....

Isolation Area

An isolation area or quarantine area needs to be established prior to your event.

- A minimum area of 20 metres distance between the isolation area and other horses is ideal.
- Depending on your grounds set up, this should be an area close to entry and exit to the grounds .
- Area should have access to lights, running water and heavy machinery access if needed.
- When determining the consider protection from weather, easy access for staff, vets and other contractors or persons that may need to access the horse.

This area should be fenced off and signed for NO ENTRY prior to the event day.

Please note – a smaller area may be required to be used with in this area.

A buffer of at least 5 metres should be used between internal area where the isolated animal is and external fencing of the area.

3. Minimising the effect and spread of a disease incident **within** the grounds continued.....

Emergency Contact List

An emergency contact list for all events should be made available for all officials, volunteers and event organisers.

This should be displayed in a central area used by officials for the day.

Emergency contact lists

Organization	Phone Number	Mobile Number	Comments
Emergency Disease Watch Hotline	1800 675 888		
Biosecurity Queensland	13 25 23		
Person in charge			
Second in Charge			
Event Veterinarian			
Local Veterinarian 1			
Local Veterinarian 2			
Body disposal company			
Local police			
Venue owner/Manager			
Neighbours with horses			

Equipment to have on hand

- Adequate hand sanitiser (antiseptic gel, wipes or soap)
 - Personal protective equipment (gloves, overalls, boots, P2 respirator, safety glasses). Ensure staff/volunteers are trained in the use of PPE
 - Decontamination equipment (buckets, spray bottles, scrubbing brush, foot bath – kitty litter tray works well, disinfectant)
 - Paper hand towels
 - Heavy duty garbage bags
 - Biohazard waste bags
 - Large tarpaulin
 - Hazard tape
 - Star pickets or panel fencing
 - Rolls of hessian
 - Microchip scanner
 - Public address system
 - Human first aid kit
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- Other considerations regarding the Vaccination status of Horses should be considered.
 - In relation to a Hendra outbreak and subsequent quarantine, low risk horses will be the first to move off the quarantined area.

*3.Minimising the effect and spread of a disease incident **within** the grounds continued.....*

Contingency plan

In the even of a disease incident being declared, a standstill or quarantine zone may be imposed.

In this case all participants will remain at the venue until cleared to leave by Biosecurity Queensland or Event Organisers.

Planning for this worst case scenario should occur.

Thorough biosecurity planning and implementation will greatly assist the ease of operation in the event of a quarantine.

*An example of this in the back of your work book
Please make yourself familiar with this matrix.*