Biosecurity at equine events

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What is biosecurity?

Assessing b account details

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- “A set of preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction and transmission of infectious diseases and pests in crops and livestock.”

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity can encompass a range of activities:

- allow only healthy animals
- promote good hygiene (animal, stable, human)
- vaccinate/test for certain diseases
- restrict commingling
- isolate sick animals.

Biosecurity planning is
like an insurance policy.

SECURE YOUR EVENT =
SECURE YOUR FUTURE

Aim of biosecurity

- The aim of biosecurity measures are to:
  - prevent the introduction of disease and pests
  - prevent the spread of disease and pests
  - minimise the effect and spread of disease and pests.

- Implementation of a biosecurity plan will:
  - minimse or prevent the introduction of disease and pests
  - minimise or prevent the spread of disease and pests
  - minimise the effect of disease and pests

Why is biosecurity important for you?

- Anyone running an event involving animals has an obligation to protect the health of those animals and competitors/exhibitors at the event where possible.

Everyone has biosecurity obligations

- Competitors/exhibitors and spectators also have obligations.
- Everyone is responsible for their actions.

Questions

Biosecurity risks

- Events pose unique risks for disease & pest introduction and spread:
  - horses from different properties
  - stress for horses (travelling, unfamiliar environment, competition)
  - stabling in close proximity
  - human interaction
- Those creating the risk need to mitigate the risks wherever possible

Risk creator => Risk mitigation

Biosecurity risks contin…..

- Event biosecurity planning can mitigate risks by:
  - Identification of the hazards (e.g. disease agents)
  - Assessment of biosecurity risks
  - Risk mitigation identification and documentation

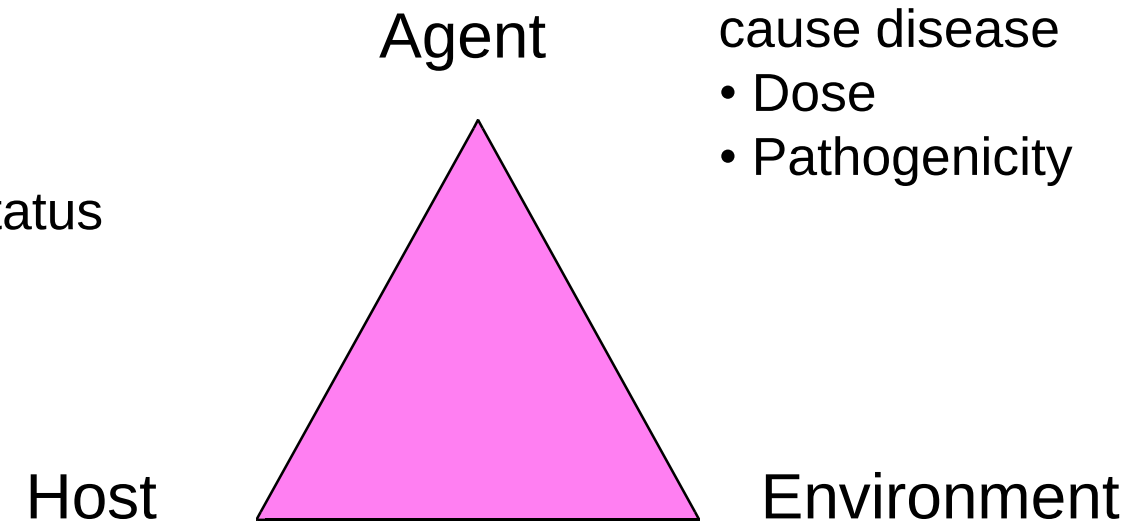
Risk = likelihood X consequences

- Biosecurity measures should be:
  - Practical
  - Effective
  - Cost effective
  - Capability & capacity
  - Sustainable

Infectious disease model

Agent
- Virus, bacteria, parasite
- Presence alone does not cause disease
- Dose
- Pathogenicity

Host
- Age
- Immune status
- Hygiene
- Exposure



Environment
- Climate
- Vectors (e.g. insects)
- Crowding
- Hygiene

Disease transmission

- Greatest risk is direct horse-to-horse contact
- Body fluids, excretions
- Fomites (tack, feed/water containers, vehicles, floats, bedding)
- Other animals (dogs, bats, rodents, birds)
- People
- Vectors (mosquitoes, flies, ticks)
- Air
- Feed & water (mould, mycotoxins, aflatoxins, nitrate/nitrite)

Notifiable diseases

Be aware of **notifiable diseases.** If you suspect a notifiable disease you have a legal obligation to contact:

- a veterinarian
- DAFF **13 25 23**
- Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline
  1800 675 888 (24 hour)

Includes exotic disease that need to be eradicated if detected plus diseases present in Queensland which are of veterinary or public health significance.

Notifiable diseases contin…

It may be a notifiable disease if there is:

- a lot of dead animals
- rapid spread of disease
- unusual nervous signs
- profuse bloody diarrhoea
- respiratory disease or persistent coughing
- deep smelly fly struck wounds
- any link to another country

Questions

Biosecurity planning

- Plans need to be venue specific and can vary with:
  - site design (have a venue map)
  - management
  - climate
  - event type.

Biosecurity planning contin…

Biosecurity plans need to:

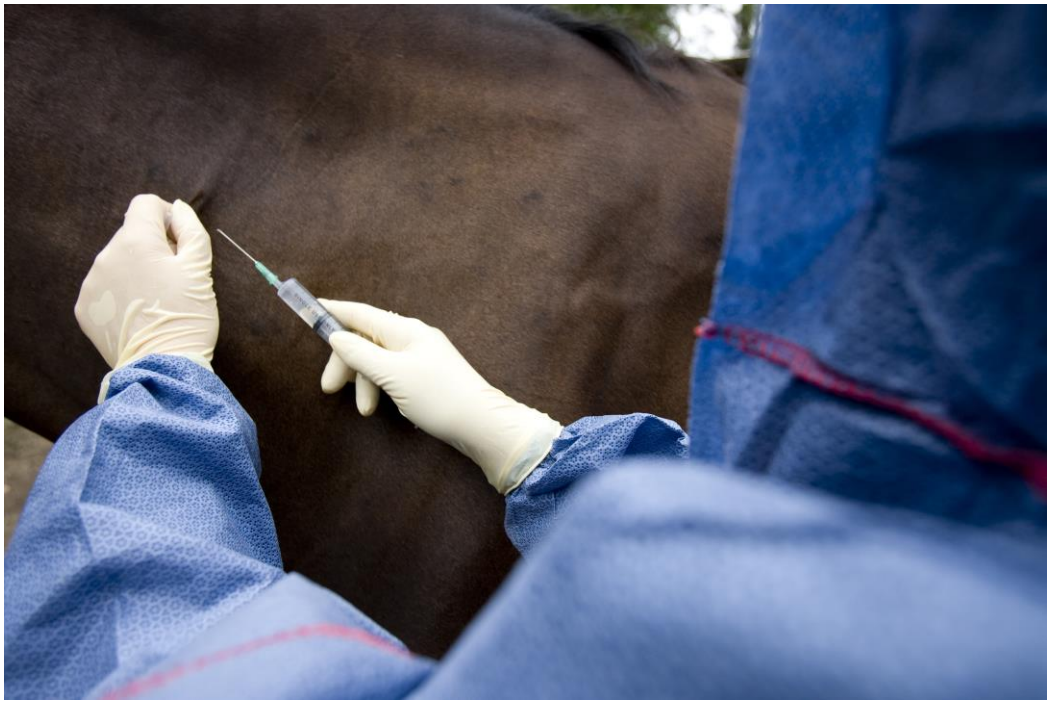
- identify potential biosecurity risks
- assist the prevention of disease/pest introduction
- encourage document management practices
- allow for traceability should an incident arise.

Biosecurity plans should include information such as:

- biosecurity rules
- identify a person in charge for biosecurity
- promote good biosecurity (signs, hand hygiene)
- ensure a vet is on grounds or on call

What can we do to reduce the risk from:

- Horses
- Fomites (tack, containers, vehicles, floats, bedding)
- Other animals
- People
- Vectors
- Air
- Feed and water



Put in place:

- Event/venue rules
- Person in charge
- Record keeping
- Legal documentation
- Signage
- Hand hygiene
- PPE

Questions

Contingency planning

- Even with the best biosecurity planning things can go wrong => have a contingency plan
- Complete elimination of all disease risk at an equine event is impossible
- Know what to do if a emergency disease incident occurs

Contingency plan contin…

- Ensure there is one person in charge
- Isolate the suspect horse (from humans and other animal
- Contact your nominated veterinarian and follow their advice
- Consolidate event records should they be required.

Suspect Hendra virus case at an event

- Implement your contingency plan
- Biosecurity Queensland becomes involved in Hendra virus incidents once there is laboratory confirmation.
- Biosecurity Queensland is also available for advice on animal biosecurity and welfare.

Confirmed Hendra virus infection

Once Hendra virus infection is confirmed, Biosecurity Queensland will:

- Quarantine event grounds
- Expect event organisers can provide names and contact details of people with horses on grounds for the previous 10-16 days
- Undertake tracing to identify where the horse may have become infected and other animals that may have been exposed
- Conduct exposure assessments of all susceptible animals (horses, dogs, cats) on the grounds.

Exposure assessments

From the exposure assessments animals will be categorised as:

1. Low interest animals
2. Suspect response animals
3. Close contact animals.

1. Low interest animals

- Assessed as no/negligible likelihood of animal being exposed to Hendra virus from the infected horse or it's environment
- Able to leave quarantined grounds under permit from Biosecurity Inspector
- On going health monitoring by horse owner/ manager– notify if status changes
- National agreement has determined horses with current Hendra virus vaccination status to be assigned a low interest animal status

2. Suspect response animals

- A susceptible animal showing any sign of illness consistent with current knowledge of Hendra virus
- Animals to be isolated (from humans and other animals)
- Samples to be collected for Hendra virus testing asap
- Applies to animals at the event site and animals that may have moved from the event site.

3. Close contact animals

- Assessed as likely or known to have been in close contact with a potential source of Hendra virus from an infected animal

- Close contact horses are managed **differently** depending on whether they are vaccinated or not (risk assessment based).

Hendra virus vaccinated close contact horses

- National agreement has determined horses with current Hendra virus vaccination status to be assigned a low interest animal status

- In general, vaccinated horses will not require government regulated management such as health monitoring, laboratory testing or movement restrictions

- Able to leave quarantined grounds/properties under permit from Biosecurity Inspector.

Unvaccinated close contact horses

- Management of these horses as per Biosecurity Queensland Management of Hendra virus policy
- Typically quarantined for three rounds of testing (0, 12, 20 days).

Take home messages

- Develop, implement and communicate the plan
- The plan is more likely to be successful if measures are:
  - practical
  - cost effective
  - sustainable
- Biosecurity plans are not just for Hendra virus
- Measures put in place can guard against various diseases and pests.
- Review your plans regularly

Questions