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Horse Alert WA

Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia

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Horse Alert WA has been developed to help participants in the racing, sporting and recreational sectors of the horse industry in Western Australia to prepare for, recognise and respond effectively to an emergency disease that affects horses, such as the equine influenza outbreak in Australia in 2007. This manual provides biosecurity information to minimise the risks of a horse disease establishing and spreading in Western Australia, and guidance on the actions to take if an emergency disease occurs.

Copies are available from Racing and Wagering WA, Equestrian WA, the WA Horse Council, and the Department of Agriculture and Food or may be downloaded from their websites.
Increasing awareness of emergency horse diseases, their management in Western Australia and practical strategies to minimise the risk of spreading disease.
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Purpose of *Horse Alert WA*
Horse Alert WA has been developed to help participants in the racing, sporting and recreational sectors of the horse industry in Western Australia to prepare for, recognise and respond effectively to an emergency disease that affects horses, such as the equine influenza outbreak in Australia in 2007. This manual provides biosecurity information to minimise the risks of a horse disease establishing and spreading in Western Australia, and guidance on the actions to take if an emergency disease occurs.

Some strategies described will also assist in minimising the spread of common infections, such as strangles and equine herpes virus.

Horse Alert WA consists of four sections:
1. Biosecurity – keeping horses in WA healthy and free of disease
2. Reporting and responding to an unusual disease
3. Government and horse industry emergency disease response agreements
4. Appendices: resources, contacts and other references

1. Biosecurity – keeping horses in WA healthy and free of disease
This section outlines how all horse industry participants, including owners, trainers, riders, service providers such as farriers, veterinarians, chiropractors, and event organisers can minimise the risk of an emergency or any other infectious disease spreading to another property or to other horses at an event.

2. Reporting and responding to an unusual disease
This section describes what horse industry participants should do if they see unusual disease signs in their horses and why.

It outlines how government deals with suspect emergency diseases in the initial response, the role of the veterinarian and what measures can be applied in the early stages of managing the outbreak.

3. Government and horse industry emergency disease response agreements
Emergency horse disease outbreaks require emergency disease planning at both the national and state level. This section describes state and federal government responsibilities in the management of an emergency animal disease and communications between the WA government and each sector of the WA horse industry — equestrian, racing and recreational.

4. Appendices: resources, contacts and other references
The appendices contain: a biosecurity brochure, checklist and guidelines for industry service providers, event organisers and all individuals involved with horses in WA for use when planning biosecurity measures on their property, events, and when visiting horse properties; emergency disease overviews; key contacts within the WA horse industry and government; information on the WA Horse Council Emergency Contact List; and links to other useful websites.
The effects of emergency animal disease outbreaks

An emergency animal disease is a disease that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- It is a known disease that does not occur in Australia (an ‘exotic’ disease) and government has agreed it is in the national interest to be free of the disease (such as equine influenza)
- It is a more serious form of a disease that is already present in Australia but would have a national impact if the new form established in Australia
- It is a serious infectious disease of unknown or uncertain cause (such as Hendra virus when it first occurred)
- It is a known disease already present in Australia occurring with such severity that an emergency response is required (such as anthrax).

Emergency horse diseases have the potential to cause significant disruption to the Western Australian horse industry, not only by their direct effect on horses, but also through social and financial hardship as a result of the disease and, in some circumstances, the procedures put in place to manage the disease.

An emergency animal disease outbreak, even if confined to a region of Australia, can have immediate national effects that may include:

- interstate and national movement restrictions
- export and trade bans
- financial and social consequences as a direct result of the disease or resulting from the management of the disease (such as movement restrictions).

Early detection, rapid diagnosis and effective response to a horse disease emergency will depend on well-developed and communicated emergency response arrangements.

AUSVETPLAN contains nationally agreed response documents that engage industry and government in their development. Industry and government both play a vital role in the ongoing development and communication of these plans to the wider horse industry.

The Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) provides certainty of funding for the Western Australian government and the major livestock industry organisations to respond to an emergency animal disease. The EADRA is a partnership agreement between the Australian Government, state and territory governments and peak livestock industry bodies to ensure signatories can undertake a rapid and efficient response to an emergency animal disease outbreak. The EADRA establishes basic operating principles and defines roles and responsibilities during an outbreak. It includes mechanisms for formal government and industry consultation on resource allocation, funding, training and risk management including improving industry biosecurity arrangements.

Horse Alert WA describes the Western Australian procedures to be followed where a disease emergency is suspected. The biosecurity guidelines in this manual will help industry to minimise the spread of an infectious disease or an emergency disease and thereby reduce its damaging impacts, or even prevent the introduction of a disease. The guidelines assist industry to adopt best practice principles to improve the overall standard of horse health and infection control on individual properties and within stables.

While Horse Alert WA focuses on horse diseases, some emergency diseases may impact on the horse industry even though the disease does not infect horses. A disease such as foot and mouth would affect the horse industry as movement restrictions would be imposed to control an outbreak.
Case history – 2007 equine influenza outbreak in Australia

Costs, disease extent, response
The 2007 equine influenza outbreak provided an unprecedented test of Australia’s emergency animal disease preparedness arrangements. The outbreak was the single largest animal disease emergency in Australia’s history, involving widespread infection within two states, and cooperation between the federal and all state and territory governments.

The federal government acted quickly to contain the disease by immediately imposing a national horse movement standstill following confirmed diagnosis of equine influenza on 25 August 2007, but the highly infectious disease had already spread widely through horse movements and to a lesser extent the movement of contaminated equipment and people.

During the outbreak, more than 10,000 horse properties and 76,000 horses were infected in New South Wales and Queensland.

Government operations to reduce disease spread and to eradicate the infection included movement controls, using tracing and surveillance, identifying suspect ‘in contact’ horses, laboratory testing to identify infected horses and strategic or ‘ring’ vaccination programs in which more than 281,000 horses were vaccinated. A zoning system was developed to allow limited safe movement within and between designated zones. This system allowed some horse activity to recommence while minimising the risk of spreading the virus to uninfected areas. Outside of NSW and Queensland, uninfected states also carried out surveillance as horses had been moved before positive diagnosis of equine influenza in Australia and before the introduction of the stock standstill.

At a glance
2007 equine influenza outbreak

Cause: most likely via entry of infected horse through the Australian quarantine station

Spread: by horse movements and movement of contaminated equipment and people

Number of infections: 10,000 horse properties and 76,000 horses infected

Monetary costs: AUD$363 million ($100 million in direct response costs and $263 million in government assistance to the horse industry)

Eradication and disease control measures:
• national horse movement standstill
• tracing and surveillance
• identifying suspect ‘in contact’ horses
• laboratory testing to identify infected horses
• strategic or ‘ring’ vaccination programs of 281,000 horses
• system to allow limited safe movement within and between designated zones

Effects on horse industry: huge financial losses for the racing industry and emotional stress on horse owners due to movement controls and cancellation of races and other horse events

Potential effects on horse industry: possible cancellation of Victorian racing events, including Melbourne Cup, causing huge financial losses and disruption to racing industry
The cost of managing eradication activities has been estimated at more than AUD$363 million, including about AUD$100 million in direct response costs and more than AUD$263 million in government assistance to the horse industry.

Before August 2007, Australia had remained free from equine influenza thanks to quarantine arrangements requiring horses entering Australia to follow strict protocols.

Despite these protocols, it is thought the disease entered Australia via an infected imported horse in quarantine. Basic biosecurity such as good hygiene practices after handling horses and their gear and isolation of new arrivals or those horses returning from events by individual owners, trainers and managers would have limited or even prevented the spread of the disease.

Australia declared itself free of equine influenza on 30 June 2008.

**Disease costs in other countries**

Equine influenza is common in most countries other than Australia.

In August 2007 the Japan Racing Association (JRA) cancelled several race meetings after equine influenza was detected in racing horses, resulting in significant financial losses.

During a previous outbreak in Japan in 1971, almost 7000 horses were affected, and races were cancelled for nine weeks. After that outbreak, JRA officials decided to routinely vaccinate all thoroughbreds for equine influenza. Vaccination did not prevent the disease from reoccurring in that country in 2007 and there are ongoing industry costs associated with routine vaccination.
Case history – Hendra virus in Australia

At a glance

**Hendra virus in Australia**

**Cause:** The disease is thought to occur in horses when horses ingest material containing secretions from Pteropus spp. fruit bats (flying foxes) carrying the virus; and in humans when exposed to secretions from infected horses. Research into the virus and its prevention is ongoing.


NSW: Murwillumbah 2006

**Number of infected horses:** 44. More than 75% of infected horses died, the remainder were euthanased.

**Number of infected humans:** 7

**Human deaths:** 4

**Seasonal association:** More common in June–August

**Eradication and disease control measures:**
- quarantine of affected properties
- euthanasia of infected horses
- tracing and surveillance of ‘in contact’ horses
- laboratory testing to identify infected horses

**Effects on horse industry:** human deaths; horse deaths; emotional stress on veterinarians and horse owners due to possibility of fatal human infections; movement controls; veterinarians reluctant to practice equine medicine in some locations; loss of income during quarantine period.

### Occurrence and effects

Hendra virus occurs rarely and the disease has not been identified in any country other than Australia. While the virus has only affected horses in Queensland and northern New South Wales, fruit bats (often called flying foxes) in all areas of Australia carry the virus. However, the virus has a 75% fatality rate for horses, and humans infected by infected horses can also die.

The first recognised outbreak of the virus occurred in the Brisbane suburb of Hendra in 1994 and infected 21 horses and two human handlers. A smaller retrospectively identified outbreak in Mackay in 1995 infected two horses and a farmer. More recently, there was an outbreak of Hendra in Redlands and Proserpine veterinary clinics in 2008, on Bowen and Cawarral properties in 2009, and in Tewantin in 2010. Four of the seven people infected have died as a result of the outbreaks — a horse trainer, a farmer and two veterinarians.

Initially named *Equine morbillivirus*, the virus was later reclassified as a new genus within the Paramyxoviridae family and became known as Hendra virus.
Because Hendra virus is so rare, the scientific information available is not complete and how the disease is transmitted from fruit bats to horses, and from horses to humans, is not clear. While Hendra virus is present in fruit bat populations, the risk of horses becoming infected is low, and the few cases of infection in humans have been the result of very close contact with an infected horse, either before death or at necropsy. Body fluids or secretions from an infected animal such as urine, discharges from the eyes or nose and saliva are likely to contain the virus and experimental studies suggest that horses can be infectious before the onset of clinical signs. Horses appear not to spread the virus as a respiratory aerosol, which explains why Hendra is not highly contagious. There is no evidence of human-to-human spread. Horses that survive the disease are euthanased due to the possibility of them being latently infected.

Hendra virus is a notifiable disease in all states. Horse owners and veterinarians should report suspicious disease signs immediately to the Department of Agriculture and Food or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888. Signs that could indicate Hendra virus include a rapid onset of illness, fever and rapid progression to death associated with either respiratory or neurological signs in horses.

**Latest Hendra information**

Biosecurity Queensland has developed factsheets and guidelines on the signs of Hendra virus infection and how to reduce the risk of human infection. They have also developed specific advice for what personal protective equipment to wear if handling a horse with signs of Hendra virus. For more information visit their website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Research on Hendra virus and Nipah virus, a closely related virus, is being carried out at Australian Animal Health Laboratories (AAHL) to determine how viruses such as Hendra maintain themselves in bats and how they spill over into animals or humans. The CSIRO website provides updates on this research progress at www.csiro.au.
Section 1: Biosecurity – keeping horses in WA healthy and free of disease
What does ‘biosecurity’ mean?

Biosecurity is a general term for measures designed to protect our country, state, and individual properties from the entry and spread of unwanted animals, pests, diseases and weeds.

Why is biosecurity so important to the horse industry?

During the 2007/08 outbreak of equine influenza in Australia, many horse owners and service providers experienced firsthand the devastating effect that an emergency disease outbreak can have on the horse industry. Protocols to minimise disease spread included horse movement restrictions and cancellation of both racing and non-racing events. Many people in the horse industry lost their ability to earn an income, and others were unable to move horses for extended periods.

In this instance, disease managed to enter by evading the first biosecurity hurdle — quarantine — then industry and individual biosecurity practices also failed with disease spreading quickly between properties when horses and people moved from stables to events, and then returned with horses that had become infected at the event, and/or with contaminated equipment and gear.

Basic biosecurity practices at the level of each horse property could have prevented equine influenza spreading to the extent that it did. If horse owners had isolated horses returning from events or races from other horses for 7 days, the disease would not have spread to their other horses.

While an exotic emergency animal disease, such as equine influenza, clearly has serious consequences, diseases already present in Australia such as strangles, equine herpes virus or ringworm also have the potential to cause hardship with lost training days and the expense of treatment. Horse owners can avoid spreading these diseases by only taking healthy horses to events and isolating returning horses from other horses on the property.

These and many other simple to implement biosecurity practices can minimise disease entry and spread throughout the WA horse population.

Who is responsible for horse biosecurity in Australia?

There are three levels of horse biosecurity in Australia: government, industry and individual.

Federal and state governments implement horse biosecurity in two main ways:
- by quarantine controls, which protect against the entry of most new diseases
- by quickly activating an effective response to minimise disease spread (and consequential losses to the horse industry and/or danger to human health) when an emergency disease does occur.

However, governments alone cannot protect the health of the horse industry. In order to protect the livelihoods and recreation of their own members, horse industry bodies, associated service providers, and individual horse owners must also take responsibility for implementing effective biosecurity measures.
What everyday practices can spread disease?

Many common practices in the WA horse industry can spread disease. A sample is listed below:

✘ taking two or more racehorses for morning work at the track, but with only one bridle and saddle to use between all of them, and no provision for cleaning of gear between uses on each horse
✘ grooming a horse at an event, then using the same brush to groom another, or using it on someone else’s horse from a different property
✘ taking a horse with a cold or runny nose to an event
✘ using the same needle or syringe to inject different horses
✘ arriving at an event to find old, contaminated stable bedding in your horse’s stall but not removing it before settling your own horse in
✘ transporting a horse from another property, along with your own, and not knowing whether this horse is disease-free, or fit to travel
✘ picking up a horse from another property, or allowing one to be dropped off at your property, without checking on the health of that horse first
✘ not checking if your service provider carries out effective biosecurity practices that will minimise the risk of disease spread.

These and many other common practices all pose a risk to the health of your horse and could allow disease to enter your property.

How can horse industry bodies and service providers protect horse health?

Industry bodies can protect horse health by enforcing effective biosecurity at their events through measures such as entry protocols, horse event participation declarations, and effective quarantining of horses that become sick at events. The industry can also promote biosecurity messages to their members and to service providers.

Service providers are particularly important in keeping WA horses healthy, as their work involves dealing with horses from many different properties. Service providers who maintain effective biosecurity measures lessen the chance of accidentally spreading disease between horses and properties.

How can owners protect their properties from disease entry and spread?

Having effective biosecurity measures in place is the key to avoiding diseases entering or spreading on your property or at an event.

Just as Australia has stringent quarantine requirements for entry of animals into the country, horse owners can apply similar quarantine measures on their own properties. When buying or agisting a new horse, a simple way to ensure that disease is not going to enter your property and spread to other horses is to keep the new arrival isolated for 7 days. During this time, check the horse’s health every day, and ensure it is disease-free before allowing it to mix with other horses on your property. Also isolate horses returning from events for 7 days.

The simplest biosecurity practice that every horse owner or manager can employ is good hygiene. Washing your hands after handling a horse before handling other horses and cleaning equipment and tack between horses prevents disease spreading via your hands and equipment.
On Tuesday morning, 7 November 2004, thoroughbred racehorse trainer Joe King called a veterinarian, Dr Ray Sing, from the Perth Horse Clinic to examine a three-year old thoroughbred gelding, ‘Go Slow’, in his Ascot racing stables, because the horse was coughing and had not eaten the previous evening’s feed. Mr King’s property is 100 metres from the Ascot racecourse, and in the central area around the racecourse, bordered by Great Eastern Highway, Tonkin Highway, Grandstand Road and Ascot racecourse. The area on one side of Ascot racecourse consists of about 10 suburban blocks of properties containing stables and yards that can house about 300 horses. The Ascot track is open every morning for trackwork and horses from the Ascot area attend plus horses from outer suburban areas that arrive by float.

On examination, the horse was lethargic, had a rectal temperature of 39.5°C, a deep dry hacking cough and a thin watery nasal discharge. The horse had attended Ascot trackwork the previous morning. Dr Sing remarked how bright ‘Go Slow’ had appeared when he had routinely rasped his teeth four days ago on Friday, 3 November.

Back at Perth Horse Clinic, Dr Sing received a phone call from racing industry vet, Dr Barri Err, who was at Belmont racecourse where three horses from Hong Kong, one of which had just returned from racing in the United Kingdom, were being kept in quarantine. The horses had arrived the previous week early on the morning of Thursday, 2 November, in order to compete in the Railway Stakes at the end of November.

The Perth Horse Clinic vets had been accredited to attend to these horses’ basic veterinary requirements while they were in quarantine. Dr Err informed Dr Sing that one of the horses, ‘Lucky King Prawn’, had been found that morning to have a cough and nasal discharge, plus an elevated body temperature. He noticed in the quarantine centre activity register that Dr Sing had given ‘Lucky King Prawn’ a saline drench on the morning of Friday, 3 November. The equipment used for the drench had been left at the quarantine facility for the duration of the horses’ stay. Dr Sing acknowledged that he had been in a hurry that day and may have rushed through washing his hands and boots at the quarantine facility. He explained that he was now suspicious that the clinical signs shown by ‘Go Slow’ matched those of the quarantined horse.

Blood and nasal swabs were taken from ‘Lucky King Prawn’ and ‘Go Slow’ and sent to the Department of Agriculture and Food WA’s Animal Health Laboratories for examination after consultation with the chief veterinary officer.

Joe King contacted Dr Sing on Wednesday morning, 8 November, to notify him that the other two horses in his stable were now also coughing and lethargic. The vet again visited the property and treated the other horses, as well as advising the trainer not to take the horses to the track for exercise while they may have a potentially communicable disease. That afternoon Dr Sing also had a call from trainer Whip Hand, of Mathieson Road, to visit a horse in his stable that was coughing and had a nasal discharge. That horse’s yard was directly adjacent to the cyclone fence separating his property from the horses of Joe King.

At 5.30pm on Friday, 10 November, the Australian Animal Health Laboratory advised the WA chief veterinary officer that both horses had tested positive to equine influenza.

The WA chief veterinary officer immediately notified the Commonwealth chief veterinary officer that equine influenza was suspected in WA. A complete horse standstill was imposed and the Ascot precinct was completely shut down and quarantined. In the ensuing days equine influenza was confirmed in all sampled horses and most horses within the Ascot area became infected within the following week. Traceback data revealed that infected horses had left Ascot for spelling paddocks before the standstill was declared and equine influenza rapidly spread throughout south-west WA.
Horse owners, managers, trainers, jockeys, veterinarians, farriers, chiropractors and horse dentists all have a role to play in preventing the spread of horse diseases.

Check that your service providers such as veterinarians, farriers, horse dentists, chiropractors and transporters have cleaned and disinfected equipment between use on different horses and especially between properties. This equipment includes leather aprons, stethoscopes, stomach tubes, thermometers, rasps, mouth gags and boots.

Can you pass the biosecurity checklist? Or will you pass on disease instead?


A summary of the material is below:

**For horse owners and horse property owners**
- Biosecurity brochure and checklist: _Keeping horses healthy_
  
The brochure and checklist provide practical, easy-to-adopt suggestions that will minimise the risk of horses becoming infected with infectious diseases. Equestrian and pony clubs are encouraged to promote this information.

**For horse industry service providers**
- Biosecurity guidelines for horse industry service providers
  
  These guidelines describe general biosecurity principles, disinfection procedures, property entry and exit guidelines and recommended hygiene practices for all horse industry service providers including veterinarians, farriers, horse dentists, chiropractors, Bowen therapists and riding instructors.

**For horse event organisers**
- Biosecurity guidelines for WA horse event organisers
- Horse event participation declaration (HEPD) form
- Event contingency plan template

Horse event organisers can help safeguard the WA horse industry by implementing and enforcing biosecurity standards at their events.

_Biosecurity guidelines for WA horse event organisers_ will assist horse event organisers to provide a minimum standard of biosecurity at every horse event. The guidelines outline the key responsibilities of event organisers including setting biosecurity standards for the event, ensuring tracing details are available in the event of a disease outbreak, appointment of horse health officials and arranging veterinarians for the event. The guidelines also explain the roles of the horse health officials and on-call veterinarian and the responsibilities of the owner or person(s) in charge of horses at the event.
The guidelines include measures such as insisting that all participants complete a **horse event participation declaration (HEPD)**, which asks event participants to declare the health of their horse. Completion of the HEPD will minimise the risk of sick horses at events and improve the capacity to trace horse movements from an event. The HEPD also requires event participants to declare that all horse equipment and transport vehicles have been cleaned and disinfected before the event. Event organisers are encouraged to mail the HEPD to entrants or post it on the website with instructions to fill it out on the day of the event prior to competing.

When planning an event, organisers must consider what they would need to do if there was suspicion of an emergency horse disease at the event, and how to manage the consequences of a livestock movement ban if an emergency animal disease was declared while the event was in progress. The WA Horse Council has developed an **Event contingency plan template** that equestrian/recreational event organisers can either directly implement or adjust to suit the requirements of the event.

See Appendix A for internet links to the event contingency plan template and copies of the HEPD form and biosecurity guidelines for event organisers.

Racing and Wagering WA has also developed both contingency plans for business continuity, and an operational management plan template completed by WA racing and pacing clubs, which details their plans if a standstill is called during a race meeting.

Visit Equestrian WA's website www.equestrianwa.org.au for biosecurity guidelines and the members’ HEPD form.
Stewart, a keen eventer who owns a property and several horses in Albany, attends a competition at Geraldton. While at the event he buys a mare from another attendee, who owns a property and horses in Margaret River. As Stewart has only brought one of his own horses, he has room for the mare on his float but decides to break the return journey to Albany by staying with his brother Matt at his Gingin property. Stewart unloaded the two horses into a paddock with Matt’s two geldings and mare with four-month-old foal for an overnight stay. Stewart continued his journey to Albany the next day.

Two weeks later Matt called a vet to the foal, which had a runny nose and was barely suckling from the mare. The vet found severe swelling under the lower jaw and a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius and began treatment for strangles.

Matt called Stewart, who advised that he was also dealing with a strangles outbreak in five of his seven horses, including the newly purchased mare.

Stewart had contacted the new mare’s previous owner and was told that a horse he had agisted for a couple of days had shown signs of strangles or some mild respiratory infection but all his other horses were fine.

Simple biosecurity measures such as quarantining new arrivals for 7 days could have stopped the cost and inconvenience associated with strangles spreading on Matt and Stewart’s properties. For other steps you can take to keep your property disease-free, see the biosecurity brochure and checklist in Appendix A.

**HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO**

**Spreading strangles — from Geraldton to Gingin to Albany**

The following hypothetical scenario describes how disease can easily travel from horse to horse and then between properties.
2 Reporting and responding to an unusual disease
Section 2: Reporting and responding to an unusual disease

Why do I have to report unusual disease signs?
Investigating unusual disease signs early is crucial to limit the spread and effects of an emergency horse disease. Many common horse diseases appear similar to emergency diseases and can often only be differentiated from emergency diseases with laboratory testing. The laboratory will not charge for tests carried out to exclude an emergency disease.

What are ‘unusual’ disease signs?
While most horse owners or managers are not veterinary experts, you do know how your horses normally behave. Watch for changes in your horse’s behaviour that are unusual.

Other signs to look for include:
• several animals affected over a short time
• different or more severe signs of illness including neurological signs such as head tilt, uncoordinated walking or staggering, unusual aggression or agitation, convulsions or severe respiratory illness.

AUSVETPLAN describes many of the significant emergency horse diseases and their management strategies. You can access these at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm.

An overview of some emergency horse diseases is available in Appendix B.

Who do I notify if my horse has unusual disease signs?

- a private veterinarian
- OR a Department of Agriculture and Food veterinary officer
- OR the emergency animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

If your horse has unusual disease signs, contact your local veterinarian quickly. The local veterinarian is usually familiar with your horses and is aware of diseases circulating at that time of year and is able to provide treatment if appropriate. If the veterinarian is unavailable, ring your local district veterinary officer. Phone numbers for regional offices of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia are available in Appendix C. Out of hours or if department vets are not available, ring the emergency animal disease hotline.

What action should I take immediately?
Many diseases are infectious so you can limit disease spread by:
• isolating sick horses
• ensuring a high standard of hygiene
• stopping horses leaving the property.

Isolation entails separating sick horses from other horses, isolating horses which have had contact with the sick horses, and minimising human contact with sick horses.

Good hygiene involves handling sick and isolated horses last, and disinfecting hands, boots and equipment between horses. Wear protective clothing such as overalls that can be removed for washing immediately following handling affected animals.

Ensure that all horses, not just the sick horse, remain on the property until the disease has been diagnosed. Any horses entering the affected property should be isolated.
Section 2: Reporting and responding to an unusual disease

How can I help the veterinarian?
Providing accurate information about the circumstances of the disease will help the veterinarian to decide whether the disease is likely to be an emergency disease.

Tell the vet:
• what signs your animals are showing
• the severity of illness
• when you first noticed the signs
• if you have introduced new animals to the property
• if animals have become sick after going to events
• the number of horses affected
• any treatments given.

What will the veterinarian do?
Your vet will examine your horse and start to make a diagnosis. A veterinarian who identifies or suspects an emergency disease has a legal obligation to notify a DAFWA inspector immediately.

Whether the disease is found to be an emergency disease or not, your vet can advise you how to minimise the spread of the disease to other horses, appropriate treatment and any risk of transmission of disease to humans and how to prevent it.

What will DAFWA do?
DAFWA will investigate the report of a suspect emergency disease. This usually includes sending samples from the horse to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to confirm the diagnosis.

DAFWA carries out hundreds of investigations each year to rule out emergency diseases and most are negative.

How will my information be handled?
DAFWA treats investigations into suspect emergency diseases confidentially. Only people directly involved in the investigation know whose property and horses are involved. Most investigations can be carried out without having to notify other parties.

Occasionally DAFWA may need to give out information as part of the measures to contain disease. If tracing the movements of in-contact horses, DAFWA may need to disclose the identity of a suspect horse or property to other authorities or people assisting with the investigation, such as horse owners, transport drivers and others who may have handled in-contact horses. DAFWA would advise these people that they must treat the information confidentially.

In some cases where horses have moved from an infected area and cannot be located, DAFWA may identify the affected region to alert people to the risk.

DAFWA may also issue general alerts about an area to help stop the spread of disease.

DAFWA does not usually provide individual details to the industry and media but it is out of the department’s control if members of the industry and media choose to identify properties or horses involved.
What happens if it is an emergency disease?

The category of disease will dictate the level of emergency response (see table on page 19).

Unlike diseases such as foot and mouth disease, most horse disease emergencies do not require horses to be euthanased. However, diseases that are a human health risk, such as rabies and Hendra virus, may require infected animals to be destroyed to minimise the risk to humans.

If the emergency disease is serious enough, the WA chief veterinary officer will take the appropriate steps to control the spread of the disease. Control may include:

• quarantining a property or several properties
• ordering a standstill on horse movements in a prescribed area which may be the entire state
• restricting horse movement in a prescribed area
• ordering the treatment or vaccination of at-risk horses
• ordering the cleaning and disinfecting of premises, trucks and equipment to limit spread of the disease
• prescribing methods to control insects and animal pests.

Depending on the disease, states and territories will probably impose bans on the movement of horses from WA until the disease is diagnosed and the risk to their state is more clearly understood.

Depending on the particular disease, the ongoing control or eradication program could vary in scale from local movement restrictions and treatment of suspect and in-contact horses through to the type of response experienced with equine influenza in 2007 with movement standstills over a large prescribed area and large-scale vaccination of horses at risk.

The national plan AUSVETPLAN describes emergency horse diseases considered a threat to Australian horse industries and includes disease management strategies.

AUSVETPLAN can be accessed at the following link: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm.
Which diseases must be reported?
The list of all stock diseases that must be reported — *Notifiable Stock Diseases Western Australia* — can be downloaded from www.agric.wa.gov.au.

All exotic diseases (diseases not found in Australia) are notifiable as are some infections that already occur in Australia. Notifiable diseases include diseases that affect only horses, such as contagious equine metritis, and diseases that affect other species, some including humans, such as rabies and Hendra virus. Reporting your suspicions of a notifiable disease allows authorities to verify if the disease is present and to carry out agreed control measures to reduce the economic, human health and social consequences.

The table below lists the notifiable diseases of horses in Western Australia. The notification category indicates the level of seriousness of the response.

### Notifiable diseases of horses in Western Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Affects people</th>
<th>Transmitted by insects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese encephalitis (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western, Venezuelan) (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glanders (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendra virus (4)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New World screwworm (<em>Cochliomyia hominivorax</em>) (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old World screwworm (<em>Chrysomya bezziana</em>) (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vesicular stomatitis (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African horse sickness (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthrax (major outbreaks) (2)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borna disease (1)</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contagious equine metritis (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dourine (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epizootic lymphangitis (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine piroplasmosis (babesiosis) (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine encephalosis (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine influenza (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getah virus infection (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potomac fever (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surra (1)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notification category**

1. Diseases foreign to Australia. Mandatory notification of presence or suspicion of disease. Discretionary quarantine on suspicion of disease.
3. For areas outside the Cattle Tick Infected Area (Kimberley). Mandatory notification of presence or suspicion of disease. Mandatory quarantine on presence of disease. Discretionary quarantine on suspicion of disease.
Section 3: Emergency disease response agreements
National arrangements

The Commonwealth Government has powers under the Quarantine Act 1908 to control the import and export of animals and products. Under the Australian Constitution, control of animal disease is the responsibility of the states and territories.

In March 2002, the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) was ratified. It provides certainty of funding for the initial response to a disease incursion or outbreak through a partnership of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and major livestock industry organisations. It specifies 63 diseases, divided into four categories. The government and industry share of costs for each category depends on who benefits from controlling and eradicating infection. This is measured in terms of the impact on human health, socio-economic well-being, the environment, animal production and trade.

Various livestock industries and the federal and state governments have jointly agreed to a national cost-sharing agreement for the control of prescribed emergency diseases: the ‘Government and Livestock Industry Cost Sharing Deed Agreement’ (EAD Response Agreement or EADRA). Once agreed by the national management group, costs incurred to eradicate the disease are covered by a predetermined mix of industry and government funds. The costs for which each party is liable are managed by applying an ‘agreed limit’ that ensures intense scrutiny of costs and benefits by the parties before committing to further spending. The livestock industry contributions are collected by a variety of means appropriate to particular industries, but usually by a predetermined levy to be implemented under industry arrangements.

On 3 March 2011, the horse industry became a signatory to the EADRA and agreed to a funding mechanism to enable the horse industry to repay the prescribed costs of a government response to a national emergency disease affecting the horse industry. The legal process to collect the levy is currently being formalised.

The response category 1–4 in the table below refers to the level of government and industry funding in the management of a response to an emergency animal disease affecting horses.

### Categorisation of horse diseases according to the EADRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EAD response category</th>
<th>Diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;100% government funded</td>
<td>Japanese encephalitis&lt;br&gt;Rabies&lt;br&gt;Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western, Venezuelan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;80% gov’t: 20% industry</td>
<td>Glanders&lt;br&gt;Hendra virus&lt;br&gt;New World screwworm (<em>Cochliomyia hominivorax</em>)&lt;br&gt;Old World screwworm (<em>Chrysomya bezziana</em>)&lt;br&gt;Vesicular stomatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;50% gov’t: 50% industry</td>
<td>African horse sickness&lt;br&gt;Anthrax (major outbreaks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;20% gov’t: 80% industry</td>
<td>Borna disease&lt;br&gt;Contagious equine metritis&lt;br&gt;Dourine&lt;br&gt;Epizootic lymphangitis&lt;br&gt;Equine piroplasmosis (babesiosis)&lt;br&gt;Equine encephalosis&lt;br&gt;Equine influenza&lt;br&gt;Getah virus infection&lt;br&gt;Potomac fever&lt;br&gt;Surra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As well as provisions related to cost-sharing, the EADRA details how an emergency animal disease response is to be carried out. In particular, it requires the use of AUSVETPLAN and defines standards for training of response personnel, accounting and auditing. It also refers to National Animal Health Performance Standards that jurisdictions and industry must work towards.

Industries signed up to the EADRA also have an obligation to promote improved on-farm biosecurity arrangements. This means encouraging simple measures that will reduce the likelihood of a serious disease being introduced and spreading within and between premises.

The biosecurity brochure and checklist, *Keeping horses healthy*, in Appendix A outline such a strategy for horses.

### Western Australian Government arrangements

DAFWA is responsible for coordinating and managing response activities for animal and plant pest and disease emergencies in WA. In WA, the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1993* and the *Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act 1968* provide the legislative power to the chief veterinary officer to carry out emergency animal disease eradication or control measures. AUSVETPLAN describes the national response to emergency animal diseases linking policy, strategies, operations, coordination and emergency management plans.

WESTPLAN is WA’s state emergency management plan for animal and plant diseases. *Horse Alert WA* forms part of the WA horse industry’s management plan.

DAFWA responds to notifications of suspicion of emergency animal diseases from a number of sources including:

- reports or physical samples supplied to DAFWA by someone within the WA horse industry, including private veterinarians or individual property owners
- reports to the emergency animal disease hotline
- reports from another government agency either within WA or another interstate primary industry agency about the detection or outbreak of a major disease in another jurisdiction or state
- DAFWA’s routine disease surveillance and testing programs.

### WA Government – DAFWA response to an emergency horse disease

The chief veterinary officer will declare an emergency animal disease in horses if there is sufficient reason to suspect a disease emergency exists, and initiate the responses required under EADRA, WESTPLAN and WA legislation. This will include communicating with organisations responsible for implementing emergency responses nationally such as the Consultative Committee for Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD) and relevant organisations in WA including the state emergency coordination group if it is likely to be a multi-agency incident.
The level of response for an emergency animal disease will depend on the threat, nature and distribution of the disease. The response itself is conducted in five phases — investigation, alert, operations, stand down, and recovery, as outlined below:

**Phase 1 – Investigation**
The investigation phase begins whenever there is suspicion — however low — that a report of an animal disease could become an animal health emergency. A government veterinarian or veterinary pathologist investigates and assesses the report. This involves collecting initial details about the source and nature of the disease, affected animals, possible carriers of the disease, tracing of the disease, environment factors and stock management.

**Phase 2 – Alert**
The alert phase starts when the chief veterinary officer determines that:
- there is a high probability that an emergency disease exists OR
- there is a moderate suspicion but the impact would be high OR
- an emergency disease is confirmed in another state.

DAFWA places key response staff on stand-by and notifies and consults with national and other state animal health authorities. Investigations continue in order to define the extent of the problem and obtain a definitive diagnosis. At this stage it is likely DAFWA would notify and consult industry representatives.

**Phase 3 – Operations**
The operations phase begins when DAFWA determines that an emergency animal disease exists in WA. DAFWA implements an emergency response plan designed to contain and/or eradicate the disease and usually will establish the State Control Headquarters and Local Control Centre to manage policy and operational activities respectively. DAFWA would also convene the WA Equine Industry Consultative Group to ensure rapid communication and consultation with the industry.

When a disease is found on a certain property, DAFWA may classify it as an infected premise. DAFWA may classify other properties as dangerous contact premises or suspect premises based on proximity, tracing or further investigation. DAFWA may quarantine these places and may impose controls over the movement of animals, animal or plant products, fodder, fittings, vehicles and, in some cases, people.
Section 3: Emergency disease response agreements

DAFWA may declare a restricted area and control area around all affected premises to allow appropriate disease control arrangements. The size of the restricted area will vary depending on the disease, tracing, and the potential of the disease to spread.

DAFWA may declare a control area in response to an emergency disease in another state or territory. This allows DAFWA to control what animals and products enter the state.

DAFWA may also impose a stock standstill for a short time, usually several days, to carry out initial tracings to ascertain the potential for further spread of the disease.

Successful control of most horse disease emergencies will not require euthanasia of horses.

The WA legislation either under the Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1993 or the Emergency Management Act 2005 provides for strong powers to control emergency animal diseases.

DAFWA employees and industry representatives receive emergency management training as part of EADRA and WESTPLAN requirements.

In the event of a large-scale emergency, DAFWA would need additional human resources. The state emergency coordination group would access support from other government departments such the WA Police, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Main Roads, Water Corporation, Department of Health, Department of Environment and Conservation and local government.

Phase 4 – Stand down

The stand-down phase begins when any of the following apply:

- the investigation or alert phase fails to confirm the presence of an emergency animal disease
- eradication of a confirmed emergency animal disease is not considered economically or technically feasible for Australia and/or WA
- the emergency animal disease is eradicated or otherwise under control
- attempts to eradicate the emergency animal disease have failed and the disease is considered endemic.

Although DAFWA reduces control operations during the stand-down phase, disease surveillance may continue for some time.

Phase 5 – Recovery

Initial recovery activities are aimed at assisting affected people, industries and communities to become re-established. Recovery starts at the operational phase and continues well after the conclusion of the stand-down phase. Relevant organisations will support industries affected by control measures to help them re-establish. Recovery activities include counselling for the owners of affected stock, their families and the communities in which they live.

DAFWA will provide a representative on the State Recovery Coordinating Committee.
WA horse industry arrangements to manage an emergency animal disease

Horse racing industry – Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA)

Under the Australian Rules of Racing and the Australian Harness Racing Rules, articles prescribe actions that must be taken with respect to registering horses and licensing trainers, jockeys, drivers and stablehands. These powers to license and register give Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA) considerable authority to help manage the risks of emergency diseases occurring and spreading in horses in WA.

Stewards have broad powers to enter premises, inspect and secure animals and items and the controlling bodies require records of movements through the lodgement of stable returns.

Harness Racing Rule 104 (1) requires that:

> If a horse contracts or is suffering any contagious disease or condition specified by the Controlling Body, the connections of the horse must immediately and in any event within 24 hours of the horse being diagnosed as suffering from the disease or condition, notify the Controlling Body in writing of that fact.

Thoroughbred Racing Rule AR 64K states that:

(1) The following animal diseases or conditions are declared to be notifiable, and must be notified and dealt with in accordance with subrules (2) to (8) of this rule:

- African horse sickness
- Borna disease
- Contagious equine metritis
- Dourine
- Epizootic lymphangitis
- Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
- Equine encephalomyelitis (Venezuelan)
- Equine encephalosis
- Equine herpes-virus 1 (abortigenic and neurological strains)
- Equine infectious anaemia
- Equine influenza
- Equine piroplasmosis (Babesiosis)
- Equine viral arteritis
- Getah virus
- Glanders
- Hendra virus
- Japanese encephalitis
- Potomac fever
- Screw-worm fly – New World (Cochliomyia hominivorax)
- Screw-worm fly – Old World (Chrysomyia bezziana)
Section 3: Emergency disease response agreements

Strangles
Surra (Trypanosoma evansi)
Trichinellosis
Warble fly myiasis
West Nile virus infection
[subrule replaced 1.9.09]

(2) A person who owns or is in charge of, or has in his possession or control, a horse which
the person suspects or should reasonably suspect is infected with a notifiable disease
or condition, and who does not, as soon as possible after he should have suspected or
became aware that the horse is infected, report the fact to the Principal Racing Authority
in that State or Territory by the quickest means of communication available to the person is
guilty of an offence.

(3) A person who owns or is in charge of, or has in his possession or control, a horse which the
person suspects or shall reasonably suspect is infected with a notifiable disease or condition
must as far as practicable keep that horse separate from other horses or animals not so
infected. A person who contravenes this subrule is guilty of an offence.

(4) If they reasonably suspect any premises, place or area to be contaminated with a notifiable
disease or condition, the Stewards may by order in writing declare it to be an infected place.
Such written notice of an order declaring any premises, place or area to be an infected place
must be given to the owner or person in charge or in apparent control of the premises, place
or area to which the order relates.

(5) If they reasonably suspect any vehicle to be contaminated with a notifiable disease or
condition, the Stewards may by order in writing declare it to be an infected vehicle. Such
written notice of an order declaring a vehicle to be an infected vehicle must be given to the
owner or person in charge or in apparent control of the vehicle to which the order relates.

(6) Any person (other than a person expressly authorised to do so by the Stewards) who brings,
moves, takes or allows any person to bring, move or take any animal, fodder or fitting into,
within or out of any such premises, place, area or vehicle, declared under subrules (4) or (5),
or who causes, permits or assists any vehicle to enter or leave any such premises, place or
area is guilty of an offence.

(7) Without limiting their powers, the Stewards may attach conditions to an authorisation
referred to in subrule (6) including conditions that the animal, fodder, fitting or vehicle to
which the authorisation relates –

(a) must first be disinfected to the satisfaction of the Stewards and in a manner specified by
the Stewards before leaving or being taken out of the infected place or infected vehicle;
and

(b) must not go or be brought to any other premises or place where any specified animals,
fodder or fittings are located.

(8) The Stewards may give any direction or order with respect to biosecurity precautions
that shall be taken by any person on licensed premises, or any person handling or riding
racehorses. [rule added 28.8.07][amended 1.9.09]

(9) An order made under this Rule comes into effect on the day it is made. [rule added 27.8.07]
Section 3: Emergency disease response agreements

RWWA Emergency Animal Disease Contingency Plan
Racing and Wagering WA has developed an Emergency Animal Disease Contingency Plan to assist in the management of an emergency animal disease incident that would affect the WA racing industry.

RWWA developed the plan based on the following principles:
• provide leadership to the racing industry and represent the racing industry on any groups or other functions
• work in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) during the crisis
• ensure RWWA and the racing industry comply with the requirements of DAFWA and other authorities.
• ensure the outbreak of the emergency animal disease is contained and does not spread
• ensure that the racing industry survives the crisis
• communicate the situation to the racing industry.

As part of its contingency planning, RWWA developed an Operational Management Plan to respond to an emergency animal disease outbreak in the WA racing industry. This plan outlines the responsibilities of key racing industry personnel, veterinarians, trainers and jockeys during an emergency disease response, and includes guidance notes for unlicensed individuals such as commercial racehorse transport operators/drivers and the race-going public. It also contains a template action plan for a racecourse standstill. Key horse racing clubs in WA have been required to complete and lodge these plans with RWWA.

Equestrian industry – WA Horse Council, Equestrian WA
If an emergency horse disease occurred in WA or nationally, DAFWA would first impose a horse standstill. Horses at events when the standstill begins would have to stay there until the stock standstill was lifted.

Event organisers are responsible for having made arrangements for food, water and shelter/accommodation for the horses and the persons taking care of them. The WA Horse Council has developed an Event Contingency Plan template to assist organisers to develop their own contingency plan for their events.

The event contingency plan outlines responsibilities for event personnel such as secretaries, stewards, horse health officials, judges and veterinarians, along with recommended biosecurity guidelines for managing suspicion of the presence of a notifiable disease or a declared emergency disease. The plan recommends how to manage issues that might arise during an emergency disease outbreak where movement restrictions were imposed.

This template can be used for a broad range of events including horse shows, endurance or pony club events. Remember that each event is different and will have specific things that need to be addressed for that particular event or location such as fencing for enclosures and long-term stabling or agistment in the event of a stock standstill. The Event Contingency Plan template is available for download from www.wahorsecouncil.com.au.

EWA recommends all members and competitors familiarise themselves with biosecurity guidelines and their obligations at an event should a disease outbreak occur.
Communications between government and the WA horse industry

In order to control and eradicate any emergency disease successfully, government departments, horse industry authorities, and horse industry participants need to cooperate closely. When the chief veterinary officer declares an emergency animal disease in horses, DAFWA becomes the lead agency in managing the responses required under AUSVETPLAN, the EADRA and WA legislation.

During the 2007 equine influenza outbreak, government and the horse industry worked together to develop effective ways to communicate rapidly with all sectors of the horse industry.

When an outbreak is declared, DAFWA communicates with national organisations responsible for the implementation of emergency responses, such as the Consultative Committee for Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD), and at a state level, the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

DAFWA also convenes a meeting of the Western Australian Equine Industry Consultative Group (WAEICG). WAEICG was formed to provide a consultative body representative of all sectors of the WA horse industry that could advise DAFWA about managing the impact of the disease incursion on industry during an emergency disease outbreak and assist in communicating emergency information to horse industry members.

The full terms of reference for WAEICG can be found in Appendix D.

The flowchart below outlines the communication chain between the WA Government, DAFWA and the WA horse industry.
Communications within the WA horse racing industry

RWWA communicates with all racing industry participants via consultative groups representing different industry bodies such as owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys and racing clubs. DAFWA is able to liaise both directly with RWWA, and through the WAEICG, to communicate important emergency disease information about movement restrictions, importation of horses from other states and biosecurity guidelines.

RWWA communicates to stakeholders through posting directly to the RWWA website, Racing AheadWA calendars and other industry publications, Racing Radio, email, SMS, newspaper including TABForm, industry information sessions and television. RWWA also employs industry liaison officers who can be seconded into the State Control Head Quarters to assist with communications between racing industry bodies and DAFWA, and to act as a focus for consultation about local industry factors that could affect the campaign.

Communication within the WA equestrian and recreational horse industry

The 2007/2008 equine influenza outbreak in Australia identified the absence of an effective method for disseminating emergency information to the recreational horse industry. To address this, the WA Horse Council developed the WA Horse Emergency website. At DAFWA's request, the WAHC developed a key stakeholder contact list to facilitate communications to the recreational sector of the WA horse industry during an emergency. These contacts were developed into a communications database known as the WA Horse Council Emergency Contact List (WAHC-ECL) where individuals, organisations, breed societies and other clubs, as well as industry service providers such as horse transporters, farriers and chiropractors could register their emergency contact details including email.

All individuals and organisations, clubs and societies can register their contact details on the WAHC-ECL by visiting the WA Horse Emergency website at www.wahorseemergency.com.au. Registration will ensure that they receive official DAFWA and horse industry body communication on significant matters affecting the WA horse industry.
Section 3: Emergency disease response agreements

The WAHC-ECL will provide a significant communication link between government/DAFWA and the recreational sector of the WA horse industry during an emergency disease outbreak by communicating with all registered members about rapidly changing circumstances, including government-imposed stock standstill/movement restrictions and recommended biosecurity procedures.

The WAHC has assumed responsibility for the continued development, maintenance and use of the database during emergency and non-emergency periods. All WA horse industry participants are encouraged to visit the website and register their contact details on the emergency communications database. Details of the website are in Appendix C.

Other significant organisations such as the Veterinary Surgeons’ Board of WA (VSB); Equestrian Western Australia (EWA), and Equine Veterinarians Australia WA Branch (EVAWA) all have communication processes in place to communicate emergency disease information from DAFWA to their members.

During an outbreak, DAFWA will also use other media including television, newspapers, weekly journals, radio, the internet, and social media to communicate important announcements about the status, control strategies and management of an emergency disease.

Members of many horse clubs and associations received industry liaison officer training during 2004, allowing them to assist State Control Head Quarters communications between horse industry bodies and DAFWA during emergency disease outbreaks, and to act as a focus for consultation about local industry factors.
4 Appendices: resources, contacts and other references
Appendix A

Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Resources in Appendix A include:

1. **Biosecurity brochure text:** *Keeping horses healthy*  
2. **Biosecurity checklist text:** *Keeping horses healthy*  

* The brochure and checklist are also available separately — the brochure as a DL colour brochure, and the checklist as an A5 booklet. Contact Racing and Wagering Western Australia, the WA Horse Council, Equestrian WA or the Department of Agriculture and Food for copies or visit their websites to download a copy.

3. **Biosecurity forms:**  
a) Sample horse movement recording  
b) Horse event participation declaration (HEPD)

4. **Biosecurity guidelines:**  
a) for WA horse event organisers  
b) for WA horse industry service providers

5. **Internet links to other biosecurity resources:**  
a) WAHC – *Event Contingency Plan template*  
b) WAHC – *Biosecurity and Event Planning (DVD)*  
c) AHA – *Horse Venue Biosecurity Workbook*
Keeping horses healthy – brochure
A biosecurity guide for horse owners, trainers and service providers
The Western Australian horse industry is committed to helping horse owners to keep their horses and their properties disease-free through the adoption of effective biosecurity measures.

Biosecurity simply means ways that you can keep your horses healthy, and your property disease-free.

Effective, inexpensive and easy-to-use biosecurity measures are the keys to avoiding disease in your horses, whether on your property or at an event.

Act now before it is too late
Putting biosecurity measures into practice will reduce the chance of your horses catching a serious disease and of introducing disease to your property.

Once an infectious or emergency disease outbreak occurs it is often too late to try and stop the disease from spreading throughout your property.

However, you can take basic steps before any disease breaks out to limit the spread and impact of any disease on your horses, you and your hip pocket. It will also reduce the chance of your horses being affected by or spreading more common infections like ‘colds’ that result in lost training and competition days.

Horse owners, trainers and service providers all play a part in reducing the spread of horse diseases.

This brochure contains practical biosecurity measures all horse industry members can take to protect your horses and the horse industry as a whole.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

At the stables

Fencing
Keep boundary fences in good condition. Double fencing and tree plantations increase perimeter security.

Pest control
Control insects and rodents. Good drainage and manure management help prevent insects from breeding. Keep all feed in rodent-proof containers.

Clean and disinfect
Regularly clean and disinfect stables, equipment and transport vehicles. Remove as much soil and organic material as possible before disinfecting.

Clean then disinfect equipment such as tooth rasps, stomach tubes, endoscopes and twitches between uses on different groups of horses.

Monitor temperature of stabled horses
If horses are stabled, take daily rectal temperatures. Rectal temperatures above 38.5 degrees Celsius suggest the presence of disease.

Isolate new arrivals and returning horses
Isolate new arrivals from resident horses for a minimum of 7 days or introduce horses only from premises with known high health status. Pay particular attention to horses that have come from large sales, have been transported over long distances by commercial transport or recently returned from events.

Attend to isolated horses last. Use separate equipment and clean and disinfect after use. (Where space limits isolation of introductions, pay more attention to good hygiene between handling horses and check their temperatures daily.)

Hand hygiene
Wash hands between handling separately stabled groups of horses.

Isolate sick horses
Isolate any horse at the first sign of sickness until contagious disease has been ruled out. Keep their gear separate. Use separate protective clothing and footwear when handling any sick horses, or handle them last.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Vaccinate for common diseases
Give a full course of vaccinations and regular boosters for diseases like tetanus, strangles and equine herpes virus. Verify proof of vaccination for new arrivals.

Use clean gear to give vaccinations and medicine
Use a fresh needle and syringe for every horse when vaccinating or giving medicine.

Group horses
Group horses by use and ages, in as small groups as practicable (e.g. keep yearlings separate from older horses and pregnant mares, and competition horses away from stay-at-home horses).

Keep records of horse movements
Record horse movements on and off your property so contacts can be traced if a disease breaks out.

Keep records of visitors to the stables
Train staff to follow biosecurity rules
Train all stable handlers in disinfection methods and disease prevention, identification and control procedures.

Before and after horse transport
Check horse health before and during events
Do not take sick animals to an event. Sick horses may get worse during transport and may infect other horses. Visually inspect horses to be transported and check their rectal temperatures on the morning of the event. If in doubt, ask your vet to examine the horse.

Disinfect vehicles, equipment and boots
Disinfect floats, both before leaving and returning to your property. Pay particular attention to wheels and wheel arches. Remove all organic material such as mud and manure before disinfecting.

Disinfect all horse equipment before leaving the property and upon return. This includes your boots and items such as lead ropes, saddles, girths, bridles, brushes, head collar, rugs, and boots.

Leave the property in clean clothing and change into fresh clothes before your return.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Destroy used bedding
Do not recycle or swap bedding such as straw between horses. Destroy used bedding by burial, composting or burning.

Isolate horses returning from events
Keep returning horses away from other horses on the property for 7 days. Attend to isolated horses last. Use separate equipment and clean and disinfect after use. This will prevent them infecting your other horses if they have caught a disease.

Disinfection is not a dirty word!
Surfaces must be clean before disinfectants can work.
✔ Brush off loose dirt and manure.
✔ Wash item with laundry detergent or soap first and then use a disinfectant.
✔ Dip grooming and veterinary tools in disinfectant.
✔ Wipe tack with a disinfectant-dampened cloth.
✔ Scrub or brush boots and then spray with disinfectant.
✔ Wash hands with soap and water. At events or where water is not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitisers between contacting different horses.

Examples of effective disinfectants include:
✔ household bleach (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) — good for tools and shoes
✔ chlorhexidine, Betadine and Virkon — good for washing most tack and equipment
✔ quaternary ammonium compounds such as Pine disinfectants — good for tack and floats.

At an event or race meeting

Clean housing
Clean the stable or housing areas before you allow your horse to enter and avoid yards with a lot of weeds.

Avoid horse-to-horse contact
Avoid unnecessary interaction and contact between horses. Discourage people from touching your horse as this is a key way for disease to spread from horse to horse.

Bring your own equipment
Do not borrow equipment from other attending horse owners or from event facilities. If in an emergency you need to borrow equipment, then clean and disinfect it thoroughly before use.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Do not share feed and water
Do not allow your horse to drink from shared water buckets or troughs or eat from shared feed bins. Do not allow strangers to feed your horse. If you arrange someone else to feed your horse while at the event, make sure they do not use the same equipment on other horses first.

Wash your hands between horses
Wash your hands, or disinfect with waterless hand sanitiser, between handling different horses.

Monitor horse health
Keep an eye on your horse’s health throughout the event so that you will notice any changes in health or behaviour.

If you are at the event for longer than one day, take your horse’s rectal temperature regularly. A rectal temperature above 38.5 degrees suggests disease.

Check service provider biosecurity
Make sure that veterinary staff clean and disinfect equipment and themselves before attending to your horse.

Report disease signs
If you notice strange behaviour or signs of disease in your horse, or any horse, report it immediately to the event organiser so they can determine the risk to other horses. Do not move the horse.

Observe event biosecurity measures
Follow all required biosecurity measures at the venue including filling in horse health declaration forms if provided.

Healthy horses at rest have:
- clear eyes, normal stance, no nasal discharge
- temperature: 36.5–38.5°C
- heart rate: 24–45 beats per minute
- breathing: 8–16 breaths per minute
- capillary refill time: 1–2 seconds
- hydration (pinch test): 1–2 seconds.

If you see unusual illness or behaviour or unexpected deaths in horses, call your veterinarian immediately.

If you suspect an emergency or notifiable disease, ring the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.

If you are handling horses from a tropical or sub-tropical area with signs suspicious of Hendra virus, take personal protective measures. Visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au and search on Hendra virus for the latest information.

Note: All horse owners should obtain a property identification code (PIC) from the Department of Agriculture and Food in order to assist tracing of horses in the event of an emergency disease. Search on ‘brands’ at www.agric.wa.gov.au for more information.
Keeping horses healthy – checklist

A biosecurity checklist for horse owners, trainers and service providers

What can I do to protect my horses and the Western Australian horse industry from the devastating effects of emergency horse diseases? What steps can I take to protect my horses from getting more common diseases that cost time and money in treatments and lost recreation or racing?

This checklist summarises the actions needed to protect your horses — and the WA horse industry — from serious and more common diseases.

Assess your property/horses for each section. More ticks mean better biosecurity and less risk of your horses — and others’ horses — getting sick.

Protect the WA horse industry from emergency diseases:

report unusual disease signs, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths in horses to your veterinarian or the emergency disease watch hotline immediately on 1800 675 888.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

At the stables

Fencing
- Keep boundary fences in good condition. Double fencing and tree plantations increase perimeter security.

Pest control
- Control insects and rodents. Good drainage and manure management help prevent insects from breeding. Keep all feed in rodent-proof containers.

Clean and disinfect
- Regularly clean and disinfect stables, equipment and transport vehicles. Remove as much soil and organic material as possible before disinfecting.
- Clean then disinfect equipment such as tooth rasps, stomach tubes, endoscopes and twitches between uses on different groups of horses.

Monitor temperature of stabled horses
- Take daily rectal temperatures for stabled horses. Call a veterinarian if a horse’s temperature exceeds 38.5 degrees Celsius.

Isolate new arrivals and returning horses
- Isolate new arrivals from resident horses for at least 7 days or introduce horses only from premises with known high health status. Pay particular attention to horses that have come from large sales, have been transported over long distances by commercial transport or recently returned from events. Attend to isolated horses last. Use separate equipment and clean and disinfect after use. (Where space limits isolation of introductions, pay more attention to good hygiene between handling horses and checking their temperatures daily.)

Hand hygiene
- Wash hands between handling separately stabled groups of horses.

Isolate sick horses
- Isolate any horse at the first sign of sickness until infectious disease has been ruled out. Keep sick horses’ gear separate. Use separate protective clothing and footwear when handling any sick horses, or handle them last.

Vaccinate for common diseases
- Give a full course of vaccinations and regular boosters for diseases like tetanus, strangles and equine herpes virus. Verify proof of vaccination for new arrivals.

Use clean gear to give vaccinations and medicine
- Use a fresh needle and syringe for every horse when vaccinating or giving medicine.

Group horses
- Group horses, by use and ages, in as small groups as practicable (e.g. keep yearlings separate from older horses and pregnant mares, and competition horses away from stay-at-home horses).

Keep records of horse movements
- Record horse movements on and off your property so contacts can be traced in the event of a disease outbreak.
- Keep records of visitors to the stables.

Train staff to follow biosecurity rules
- Train all stable handlers in disinfection methods and disease prevention, identification and control procedures.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Before transport

Check horse health before and during events
- Do not take sick animals to an event. Sick animals may get worse during transport and infect other horses. Visually inspect horses to be transported and check rectal temperatures on the morning of the event. If in doubt, ask your vet to examine the horse.

Disinfect vehicles, equipment and boots
- Disinfect floats before leaving your property. Pay particular attention to wheels and wheel arches. Remove all organic material such as mud and manure before disinfecting.
- Disinfect all horse equipment to be transported before leaving the property. This includes all lead ropes, saddles, girths, bridles, brushes, head collars, and rugs.
- Clean all clothing before leaving the property. Also clean and disinfect boots.

Disinfection is not a dirty word!
Surfaces must be clean before disinfectants can work.
- Brush off loose dirt and manure.
- Wash item with laundry detergent or soap first and then use a disinfectant.
- Dip grooming and veterinary tools in disinfectant.
- Wipe tack with a disinfectant-dampened cloth.
- Scrub or brush boots and then spray with disinfectant.
- Wash hands with soap and water. At events or where water is not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitisers between contacting different horses.

Examples of effective disinfectants include:
- household bleach (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) — good for tools and shoes
- chlorhexidine, Betadine and Virkon — good for washing most tack and equipment
- quaternary ammonium compounds such as Pine disinfectants — good for tack and floats.

At an event or race meeting

Clean housing
- Clean the stable or housing areas before you allow your horse to enter and avoid yards with a lot of weeds.

Avoid horse-to-horse contact
- Avoid unnecessary interaction and contact between horses. Discourage people from touching your horse as this is a key way for disease to spread from horse to horse.

Bring your own equipment
- Do not borrow equipment from other attending horse owners or from event facilities. If in an emergency you need to borrow equipment, then clean and disinfect it thoroughly before use.

Do not share feed and water
- Do not allow your horse to drink from shared water buckets or troughs or eat from shared feed bins. Do not allow strangers to feed your horse. If you arrange someone else to feed your horse while at the event, make sure they do not use the same equipment on other horses first.

Wash your hands between horses
- Wash your hands, or disinfect with waterless hand sanitiser, between handling different horses.
Monitor horse health
- Keep an eye on your horse's health throughout the event so that you will notice any changes in health or behaviour.
- If you are at the event for longer than one day, take your horse’s rectal temperature regularly. A rectal temperature above 38.5 degrees suggests disease.

Check service provider biosecurity
- Make sure that service providers including veterinarians, farriers, dentists and chiropractors clean and disinfect equipment and themselves before attending to your horse.

Report disease signs
- If you notice strange behaviour or signs of disease in your horse, or any horse, report it immediately to the event organiser so they can determine the risk to other horses. Do not move the horse.

Observe event biosecurity measures
- Follow all required biosecurity measures at the venue including filling in horse health declaration forms if provided.

Returning home
Disinfect vehicles, equipment and boots
- Clean and disinfect your vehicle and float thoroughly before returning to your property. Remove all dirt and manure and disinfect.
- Put on clean clothes, wash your hands and clean and disinfect your boots before handling your other horses after returning from an event.
- Disinfect all horse equipment on returning to the property. This includes your boots and items such as lead ropes, saddles, girths, bridles, brushes, head collar and rugs.

Destroy used bedding
- Do not recycle or swap bedding such as straw between horses. Destroy used bedding by burial, composting or burning.

Isolate horses returning from events
- Keep returning horses away from other horses on the property for 7 days and follow all hygiene procedures. If they have caught any infectious disease, it will prevent the disease from being passed on to your other horses.

More information
Discuss with your veterinary adviser how to improve horse biosecurity on your property.

Useful websites for horse biosecurity information include:
- www.rwwa.com.au
- www.equestrianwa.org.au
- www.wahorsecouncil.com.au
- www.agric.wa.gov.au
- www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au
- www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au (Hendra virus)

Note: All horse owners should obtain a property identification code (PIC) from the Department of Agriculture and Food in order to assist tracing of horses in the event of an emergency disease. Email brands@agric.wa.gov.au or search on “brands” at www.agric.wa.gov.au for more information.
### Horse movement recording sheet

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date and time</th>
<th>Name of transporter</th>
<th>Name of horse(s) moved</th>
<th>From</th>
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Horse event participation declaration (HEPD)

Fill out this Horse Event Participation Declaration ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT and hand it to the event secretary BEFORE the event begins.

Event: Event date:

Name of owner or person in charge of horse(s) at the event: (Separate form for different owners please.)

Contact phone:
(H) (W) (Mob)

Email:
Address:

Owner of horse(s):
Owner’s address (if different to above):

Contact phone:
(H) (W) (Mob)

Email:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of horse(s)</th>
<th>Sex (S,M,G)</th>
<th>Identification (colour/markings/brand)</th>
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Address of property at which the horse(s) normally resides:

Address(es) of property where the horse(s) resided before the event (include stays overnight in transit; anywhere unloading and reloading occurred):

PTO
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Address of the property to which the horse(s) will be returning after this event:

________________________________________________________________________

List any current medical conditions/ailments and treatment administered:

________________________________________________________________________

Health of horse

I, ____________________________ , declare that the horse(s) named above has/have been in good health, eating normally and not shown signs of respiratory or any other disease during the past three days leading up to this event. I authorise the designated event horse health official to call for veterinary inspection of the horse(s) named above if they show any signs of a respiratory illness or any other disease at any time during the course of the event. I agree to pay any veterinary fees incurred as a result of this veterinary examination.

Signed ______________________ Date __________________
(Owner or person in charge of the horse(s) at the event)

Signed ______________________ Date __________________
(Owner or person in charge of the horse(s) at the event)

Event organisers must keep this form for 28 day for disease traceability purposes.
Section 4: Appendix A – Biosecurity and event contingency planning resources

Biosecurity guidelines for WA horse event organisers

Infected horses, contaminated tack, equipment and personnel can transfer some diseases, such as equine influenza, strangles or ringworm, between premises.

Equine influenza can survive on skin, fabrics and the surface of contaminated equipment for up to 48 hours. The bacterium that causes strangles (Streptococcus equi) can survive in the environment for at least two months.

Horse events act as multipliers for the spread of disease should an outbreak occur.

Biosecurity procedures will reduce the risk of spreading a contagious disease. The following guidelines provide a minimum standard for all horse events in Western Australia.

Biosecurity procedures

Ensure all event entrants complete a horse event participation declaration (HEPD). These forms are to trace all horses that have been at an event if an emergency disease occurs in order to minimise spread of disease. Event organisers need to keep these forms for 28 days after the event.

Encourage event participants not to bring sick horses to events by sending out horse event participation declaration forms to entrants before the event.

Promote event hygiene, such as not sharing tack and washing hands between horse contacts, to entrants on signs and by other methods such as providing entrants with the biosecurity brochure Keeping Horses Healthy.

Provide an isolation area or stable for sick horses which contains disposable overalls, rubber boots and gloves for handlers’ use.

Restrict visitor access to horse facilities to essential areas only. Consider designing the event layout to separate spectators and vehicles from competitors and horses. Designate entry and exit points for separation areas, which should be supervised where possible. Highlight the additional risk presented by visitors returning from overseas who have contact with horses.

Evaluate the venue

Event organisers can use the Horse Venue Biosecurity Workbook available from Animal Health Australia to evaluate the event venue and to design an event biosecurity plan. Download a copy from www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au.

Before the event the organisers should:

• decide on the biosecurity standards under which the event will operate
• provide all participants with a list of biosecurity requirements and biosecurity practices before the event such as the biosecurity brochure Keeping Horses Healthy in Appendix A
• advise entrants which health conditions (such as infectious diseases) will render a horse ineligible for admission to an event
• require all participants to complete a horse event participation declaration (HEPD) form before arrival. See Appendix A for the document template. If a horse(s) arrives without a HEPD, do not allow registration or participation in the event until the form has been completed
• ensure an HEPD is filled in for all horses at the event, not just ones that are competing
• on arrival provide a designated arrival area separate from other horses, for horse health official or stewards to check registration and documentation
• appoint a horse health official (or steward) who will have authority to call a veterinarian to examine any horse suspected of being ill. For the racing industry this role may be carried out by the official veterinarian present at all race meetings. The horse health official should immediately escort the horse to the designated isolation area for sick horses, taking care to minimise contact with other horses and people on the way
• arrange for a veterinarian or veterinary practice to be available/on call to visit the event premises to examine any horse(s) at short notice. The attending veterinarian will be responsible for instituting appropriate action for any sick horse(s)
• develop a contingency plan to manage the situation if the attending veterinarian identifies a horse(s) with signs of an emergency disease. See the Event Organisers Contingency Plan template link at www.wahorsecouncil.com.au
• be aware that they have a duty of care to the participants and their horses and they are clear on their responsibilities if an emergency disease outbreak occurs.

After the event the organisers should:
• keep all HEPD forms for at least 28 days after the event in case tracing of disease spread is necessary.

The role of the horse health official is:
• to ensure that the signed HEPD relating to the horse is complete before allowing the horse(s) to enter the event
• if signs of illness in a horse are reported, to check the declaration for existing conditions first; then to contact the nominated veterinarian or veterinary practice and request an urgent examination of any horse suspected to be ill, especially with respiratory disease.

Signs to query include a horse:
• not eating normally.
• with an abnormally runny nose or abnormal cough
• with unusual neurological (nervous) signs
• with a temperature above 38.5°C (more than two hours after unloading from transport).

If a horse health official is not available to check and collect declarations on arrival at the event, the secretary or steward registering horses and riders should be responsible for ensuring completed declarations accompany every entrant and horse.

The role of the on-call veterinarian:
An on-call veterinarian needs to be available if the horse health official suspects that a horse is unwell.

If the veterinarian suspects the horse has an emergency animal disease, he/she should call the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 and isolate the horse in the designated area.
The role of event entrants:
The owner or person in charge of the horse(s) at the event is expected:
• not to bring sick horses to an event
• to provide truthful, accurate information as required
• to complete an HEPD for each horse and hand it to the registration steward or secretary or the horse health official
• to carry out instructions from the horse health official
• to monitor their horse’s health throughout the event and notify the horse health official if they see any signs of illness, not just leave the event
• not to share tack and equipment between horses
• to ensure each horse has its own water and feed bucket
• not to use communal water troughs
• to minimise contact between horses
• to minimise contact between other people and your horse(s)
• not to allow horses to eat any other horse’s feed
• to take home any leftover feed or place in designated compost site
• to wash hands between horse contacts.

After the event, event entrants should:
• clean and disinfect all horse equipment and the horse transport vehicle
• have a thorough shower, wash hair and blow their nose to expel any inhaled bacterial or viral particles
• change into clean clothes
• continue to monitor the health of the horse(s)
• report any unusual signs of disease to their veterinarian
• isolate returning horses from other horses as much as is practical.
Biosecurity guidelines for horse industry service providers

As horse industry service providers such as grooms, veterinarians, farriers, dentists, and chiropractors frequently work on more than one horse on a property and then move onto another property, they can very easily spread disease from one horse to another and from one property to another on their contaminated hands, clothes or equipment.

Some viruses such as equine influenza can survive on equipment for up to 48 hours, and the bacteria that causes strangles can survive for up to two months. Carefully washing your hands, changing clothes and cleaning boots between properties, and disinfecting equipment and vehicles can prevent disease transmission.

General principles

Make up a car biosecurity kit so you do not spread disease from one property to another (see box).

Wash hands thoroughly after handling horses and between handling individual animals. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser is useful if no hand washing facilities are available. Wear disposable gloves when handling infectious or contaminated material.

If you handle horses that are sick with infectious disease, or suspected infectious disease, change clothes/overalls and boots (and shower if available) before proceeding to other properties. Disposable overalls and rubber boots are useful for this purpose.

In cases presenting with unusual respiratory or nervous symptoms, with high suspicion of Hendra virus, wear full protective clothing, including P2 masks, before examination. Notify a government veterinarian or the emergency disease watch hotline immediately on 1800 675 888 if you suspect Hendra virus.

If visiting more than one property and handling horses, change into clean clothes or overalls. Change boots or wash and thoroughly disinfect between properties.

Where practical avoid using your own equipment; use saddles, halters and twitches already on the property.

Clean and disinfect any equipment that you use before using again on another property or horse. Examples include endoscopes, stomach tubes, mouth gags, tooth rasp, thermometers, leather aprons.

Keep a record of all your movements between horse properties and contact with horses.

Where practical, deliver feed or other deliveries away from horse living areas.

Biosecurity kit for service providers

The service provider biosecurity kit should include:

✔ alcohol-based hand sanitiser
✔ disposable gloves
✔ changes of clothes/overalls or disposable overalls
✔ changes of boots or boot covers
✔ disinfectant such as Hibitane, Pine-o-clean, methylated spirits in spray bottle and as concentrate
✔ plastic tub to hold disinfectant for cleaning equipment/boots between properties
✔ variety of scrubbing brushes
✔ soap
✔ 20-litre container of water
✔ paper hand towels
✔ rubbish bags for disposable overalls or contaminated clothing and equipment that require cleaning and disinfection away from the property.
Check what the particular biosecurity rules and practices are on each property.

**Cleaning and disinfection**

Organic material such as dirt, manure and straw can make disinfectant ineffective. Clean equipment thoroughly before disinfection.

Disinfect all equipment such as endoscopes, mouth gags, stomach tubes and tooth rasps after use on all horses.

Scrub boots with disinfectant or use footbaths filled with recommended disinfectants when entering and exiting a property. If you regularly visit or work at different properties each day (like stablehands or jockeys), keep one pair of boots for each property. If you have been in contact with horses that have, or are suspected to have an infectious disease, change clothing and boots before handling any other animals.

**Recommended disinfectants:**
- quaternary ammonium compounds (e.g. Pine disinfectant)
- chlorhexidine (e.g. Hibitane)
- Virkon (not used on skin)
- any bleaching agent containing hypochlorite.

**Entering horse properties**

Observe any biosecurity arrangements that the property owner has in place such as footbaths, vehicle hose-down facilities and quarantine areas.

Park your vehicle away from immediate horse contact or where horses walk.

Where contagious disease is suspected, wear clean fresh clothing for each property visited, or wear disposable overalls and change between properties.

Where practical use one pair of boots per property visited; if this is impractical thoroughly clean and disinfect boots after each visit.
Exiting horse properties
Before leaving the property, wash hands, thoroughly clean, wash and disinfect boots and equipment. Soap and water are sufficient for washing hands.

Hose off mud and straw from your vehicle if you have driven it onto a property where infectious disease is suspected.

After leaving horse properties
Wash contaminated clothing; put disposable overalls in rubbish.

If you have handled a sick horse which could have an infectious disease, have a thorough shower, wash your hair and blow your nose to expel any inhaled bacterial or viral particles and change clothes.
Contingency plans for racing and event organisers

An outbreak of a serious disease, such as equine influenza, at a race track or horse event requires rapid action. Every event organiser/race club or authority should have a contingency plan to cope with such an outbreak.

Racing and Wagering WA has developed an Operational Management Plan which outlines the response of the WA racing industry to an emergency animal disease outbreak, and includes an action plan for a racecourse standstill to assist racing clubs and stewards in the response.

The Western Australian Horse Council has developed an Event Contingency Plan template to assist sporting and recreational horse clubs to create their own plan.

This template contingency plan can be found at www.wahorsecouncil.com.au.

The WAHC in conjunction with Equestrian Western Australia and Racing and Wagering WA has also produced a DVD on event biosecurity and event contingency planning. The DVD is available to download from the WAHC (www.wahorsecouncil.com.au) or by contacting the WAHC on 9291 0202 or email bennit@optusnet.com.au.

Animal Health Australia has also produced a Horse Venue Biosecurity Workbook for managers of all horse venues including racecourses, showgrounds, riding and pony club venues, agistment properties and horse events. The workbook guides managers to produce a horse health biosecurity plan for their venues/events. The booklet is available for download at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au.
Appendix B

Emergency diseases of horses — overview

The following emergency disease pages present a brief overview of common clinical signs for the information of horse owners and handlers.

The diseases covered are:

- equine influenza
- Hendra virus
- contagious equine metritis
- Japanese encephalitis
- anthrax
- African horse sickness
- surra
- rabies.

The disease information has been summarised from:

- Biosecurity Queensland Hendra virus website.
Equine influenza

Equine influenza is a very infectious respiratory disease of horses characterised by high fever, severe coughing and a runny nose. Australia recorded its first outbreak in August 2007, and was declared free of the disease in June 2008. Equine influenza is present in most other countries of the world and in those countries vaccination is used as one of the methods to control spread.

Most affected horses recover completely within a couple of weeks with supportive treatments as prescribed by a veterinarian.

Key signs:
- rapid spread of infection in horses
- high fever
- severe coughing
- runny nose
- loss of appetite
- depression.

Caused by:
Type A influenza virus

Susceptible species:
Horses, donkeys, mules and zebras

Spread:
Infected horses spread the virus in airborne particles before they show signs and for up to 8 days after initial infection.

Infectious material on vehicles, tack, equipment and people (such as contaminated clothing, unwashed hands) can spread the virus as it can survive in the environment for up to 36 hours and more. It spreads rapidly by close direct contact between horses.

Control strategy:
- control and eradicate through stringent quarantine and movement controls
- decontaminate and disinfect people, equipment, vehicles and premises
- vaccinate susceptible animals in an area.

If you see signs of equine influenza, call your veterinarian or the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.

Further information is available at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au.
Hendra virus

Australia is the only country that has recorded any outbreaks of Hendra virus. There have been 14 incidents of Hendra virus infection recorded involving more than 40 horses since it was first identified in 1994. The cases have been in northern, central and southern coastal Queensland and in northern New South Wales. Hendra virus has been identified in fruit bats (flying foxes) in all areas of Australia and in bats in Papua New Guinea.

Horses affected by Hendra virus typically suffer acute onset of illness, with increased body temperature, increased heart rate, may appear depressed, show little appetite, and appear restless or colicky. This rapidly progresses to cardiovascular collapse and either respiratory or neurological signs with death occurring in 75% of cases.

People who have close contact with secretions from the infected horse, such as vets or handlers, are at risk of contracting the disease and dying. AAHL research (2009) suggests that the stronger the signs of Hendra virus, the more infectious the horse is likely to be.

The following clinical signs have been taken from Hendra guidelines for vets on the Biosecurity Queensland website (www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Visit the site for the most up-to-date information on Hendra virus.

**Key signs:**

- acute onset of illness
- increased body temperature
- increased heart rate
- discomfort/weight shifting between legs
- depression
- rapid deterioration.

**Other respiratory signs:**

- pulmonary oedema and congestion
- respiratory distress—increased respiratory rates
- terminal nasal discharge—can be initially clear progressing to stable white froth and/or stable blood-stained froth
- terminal weakness, loss of control of muscle movement and collapse.

**Other neurological signs:**

- ‘wobbly gait’ progressing to loss of control of muscle movement
- altered consciousness—apparent loss of vision in one or both eyes, aimless walking in a dazed state
- head tilting, circling
- muscle twitching
- urinary incontinence
- lying down with inability to get up.

**Susceptible species:**

The natural host of Hendra virus is the Pteropid bat (fruit bat or flying fox).

Occasionally horses become infected from exposure to bat secretions. Humans have become infected when exposed to infected horse secretions. Of the seven people infected to date, four have died.
Section 4: Appendix B – Emergency diseases of horses — overview

**Spread of the disease:**
Because Hendra virus is so rare, the scientific information available is not complete and the research into how it is transmitted from fruit bats to horses, and from horses to humans is ongoing. At this stage it is thought that infection in horses may occur from contact with items or feed contaminated by the body fluids of fruit bats.

The risk of horses becoming infected is low, and the few cases of infection in humans have occurred only in those with very close contact with horses infected with the virus. There is no evidence of human-to-human spread.

**Protection of horses**
Flying foxes often visit properties where native eucalypts, bottlebrushes, lilly-pillies, figs and melaleucas are flowering. Blossoms are their primary source of food. They will also feed on palm seeds and exotic fruits when native food is less abundant.

Horse owners should follow these steps to protect their horses:

- Place feed and water containers under cover if possible.
- Do not place feed and water containers under trees, particularly if flying foxes are attracted to those trees.
- Do not use feed that might be attractive to flying foxes if they are known to be in the area. Fruit and vegetables (e.g. apples, carrots) or anything sweet (e.g. molasses) may attract flying foxes.
- If possible, remove horses from paddocks where flowering or fruiting trees have resulted in a temporary surge in flying fox numbers. Return the horses after the trees have stopped flowering or fruiting.
- If removal of horses from paddocks is not possible, restrict their access to the areas where the flying foxes are active and for the period of time they are present (e.g. under trees while flowers and fruit are present).

**Safety precautions as Hendra virus can be fatal to humans:**
Human infection is thought to occur through contact with body fluids including mucus secretions of infected horses. Persons in close contact with horses that have Hendra-like signs should wear protective face masks, goggles and gloves and take care with personal disinfection.

For more general information about preventing Hendra virus, and personal protective equipment to wear if Hendra virus is suspected, visit the DEEDI Biosecurity Queensland website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

To report suspicions of Hendra disease, ring the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.
Contagious equine metritis (CEM)

Contagious equine metritis (CEM) is a venereally transmitted disease affecting the genital tract of horses, caused by the bacterium *Taylorella equigenitalis*. Infected animals may not show any signs of the disease, making it difficult to detect and control.

CEM was first identified in Australia in 1978, but was eradicated by 1980 and Australia has been free from the disease ever since. Because of the insidious nature of the disease, it is difficult to determine its origin or how widely it is distributed throughout the world.

The disease has never been recorded in New Zealand or South Africa.

**Key signs:**

CEM is a sexually transmitted disease of horses that causes endometritis and temporary infertility in mares. A characteristic sign is the early, unexpected return to oestrus of multiple mares that have been served by the same stallion.

Stallions show no clinical signs.

There are three states of infection in the mare:

- acute state – with active infection and vaginal discharge
- chronic state – with less obvious signs
- inapparent carrier state – where bacteria persist in the reproductive tract.

**Susceptible species:**

Horses.

**Spread of the disease:**

CEM is primarily transmitted through natural mating although mechanical transmission may also occur if good hygiene is not adopted when examining the genital tracts of mares or stallions or performing artificial insemination. Stallions and mares can remain chronic carriers of CEM. Teaser stallions can be an important source of transmission.

Occasionally an infected mare conceives and may produce a congenitally infected foal that becomes a long-term carrier.

**Control strategy:**

- contain the disease on infected premises by strict quarantine and movement controls
- stop breeding activities on infected premises
- test horses for infection and treat infected animals and in-contact animals with antibiotics
- trace breeding history of infected horses.

If CEM is suspected, call the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.
Japanese encephalitis

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a mosquito-borne viral disease of humans and animals occurring throughout much of Asia. It is associated with disease in pigs and encephalitis in humans and horses. Waterbirds are the reservoir for the virus.

In recent years, the disease has spread beyond its traditionally recognised boundaries with, for example, outbreaks occurring in the Torres Strait and north Queensland in 1995 and 1998.

JE is essentially a disease of pigs and wading birds, and is transmitted between these animals by Culicine mosquitoes. JE is not transmitted directly from animal to animal. Horses and humans are not believed to transmit the virus.

Key signs in horses:
Most infected horses do not show clinical signs but if they do show signs, they fall into the following three categories:

- **transient** — fever, anorexia, sluggish movement, congested or jaundiced mucous membranes and uneventful recovery
- **lethargic** — fever, pronounced lethargy, loss of appetite, difficulty in swallowing, jaundice, haemorrhages in mucous membranes, incoordination, staggering and falling, transient neck stiffness, and usually recovery within a week
- **hyperexcitable** — high fever, with aimless wandering, violent and demented behaviour, blindness, profuse sweating, muscle trembling, collapse and death.

Susceptible species:
Pigs and waterbirds are important transmitters of the virus.

Infection in humans and horses may cause severe and often fatal encephalitis, but these species are incidental hosts.

Cattle, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, wild mammals, reptiles and amphibians may be infected without showing signs.

Spread:
Japanese encephalitis virus persists in the environment in mosquitoes or vertebrate hosts and circulates in the tropics between mosquitoes, birds and pigs. Occurrence of the virus in conjunction with water masses, mosquitoes, birds and pigs (both wild and farmed) would provide a suitable circumstance for rapid spread of JE.

Spread of disease on the Australian mainland is likely to occur in three ways:

- movement of waterbirds further south
- dispersal of infective insects by the wind
- transport of pigs carrying the virus in their blood.

Cases in humans and horses tend to be sporadic or occur in small clusters, but serious outbreaks could occur in a large susceptible population exposed to mosquitoes.

Control strategy:
If JE became established in Australia, eradication would not be feasible.

Control of JE relies on four principles:

- protecting susceptible animals and humans from disease by vaccination
- preventing exposure of susceptible animals to JE virus-infected mosquitoes
- limiting the amplification of virus by susceptible animals
- controlling insect carriers.
Anthrax

Anthrax is an acute disease caused by infection with the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It can affect a wide variety of domestic and wild animals. Humans are also susceptible to anthrax, although in Australia human cases are very rare.

Anthrax is endemic in most countries. Only a few have never reported the disease. In Australia it was introduced and spread widely throughout New South Wales in the mid-1800s. Most outbreaks occur within Gippsland and the ‘anthrax belt’ which extends from the northern area of Victoria, through to the central pastoral grazing areas of NSW. However, an outbreak in January 2008 occurred on properties outside the anthrax belt in NSW. Western Australia recorded an outbreak near Walpole in 1994.

Susceptible species:

Many domestic and wild animals are susceptible, including horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, cats and humans.

Most cases in Australia occur in cattle and sheep, and occasionally pigs.

Cases in horses occur rarely and even more rarely in humans.

Key signs:

• in grazing animals: sudden death with blood-stained discharges from ears and nose of dead animals, but not all cases of anthrax show these signs
• horses are usually sick and ‘colicky’ for 1–3 days beforehand and may have extensive swelling of the lower parts of the body.

Spread of the disease:

The bacteria can survive indefinitely as a spore in the environment. Spores form when blood infected with the bacteria is exposed to air.

Anthrax bacteria that have been long-buried in the soil may be exposed after heavy rainfall or earthmoving such as that undertaken in road or channel building.

Outbreaks of anthrax are not unusual during the warmer months when the weather is dry and livestock forage deeper into the soil when eating grass.

Anthrax is not contagious but is spread by release of spores containing bacteria from the carcasses of animals that have died of the disease. Grazing animals consume spores in soil, feed or water or from chewing old bones.

Scavengers may be infected directly from carcasses infected with anthrax spores.

Anthrax cases in humans can result from bacteria entering cuts or abrasions and sometimes by inhaling spores. Human infection is most likely to occur when handling the carcass of an affected animal.

Control strategy:

• burn affected carcasses on the property
• quarantine and trace animals and animal products from affected farms
• vaccinate stock on affected or ‘at-risk’ premises
• do not vaccinate horses as they react to the vaccine
• handle carcasses carefully and map disposal sites accurately
• decontaminate contaminated areas.

Safety precautions:

Take care when handling suspected anthrax cases as human infection can result from bacteria entering cuts or abrasions, and sometimes by inhaling spores. Do not open carcasses of suspected cases as the highly resistant spores form when blood is exposed to air. AUSVETPLAN Disease Strategy also provides safety information.

Where anthrax is suspected, ring the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.
African horse sickness (AHS)

African horse sickness is not present in Australia.

AHS is an insect-borne, non-contagious viral disease affecting horses, donkeys and mules. It is frequently fatal in susceptible horses.

AHS is most likely to be introduced by windborne spread of the insect carrier from Asia to northern Australia.

**Clinical signs:**

Signs of AHS reflect the effects of the virus on the lungs or on the heart and circulatory system, or a combination of both.

The most severe form of the disease is characterised by a high fever, a lot of fluid in and around the lungs leading to breathing difficulties and death within 3–5 days.

- **Lung form** – sudden fever (to 41 degrees Celsius) with panting and coughing, frothy nasal discharge. The affected horse collapses and dies within 4–24 hours of the onset of signs, literally drowning in its own fluids

- **Heart and circulatory form** – less acute with fever of 39–40 degrees Celsius, with swelling above and behind the eyes. The eyelids are warm and swelling may cause them to close and bulge out. Swelling often extends to the lips, cheeks, tongue and throat area and to the back of the neck, brisket and lower chest and abdomen. The swelling gradually subsides in horses that recover.

**Spread:**

The disease is spread by biting midges that feed on horses between dusk and dawn. It is not contagious between horses but dogs can be affected by eating fresh uncooked meat from infected horses.

The midges prefer warm, moist conditions and are most prolific after rains. Horses and mules can have the virus in their blood for about 4–8 days (and very rarely as long as 18 days), so biting midges can pick up the virus during this period.

**Control strategy:**

Eradicating the disease is the preferred option but the disease would need to be detected early in a small or isolated group of animals in an area that is either free of the midge or free of the infected midge.

A combination of strategies may be used including:

- removing known sources of the virus
- quarantine and movement controls to limit spread of infection
- midge control
- vaccination of susceptible animals.

If African horse sickness is suspected, ring the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.
Surra

Surra is a blood parasitic disease transmitted by biting flies. It affects a wide range of species but is most severe in horses, donkeys, mules, deer, camels, dogs and cats. A wide variety of wild animals is susceptible to the parasite and agile wallabies and pademelons, found in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea, have demonstrated a high susceptibility to infection.

Surra was found in imported camels at Port Hedland in Western Australia in 1970, but was eradicated, and no further cases have been recorded.

In Southeast Asia it has been reported in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Laos and Malaysia, but is probably present throughout the region.

Surra could be introduced to Australia by the import or illegal entry of an infected animal.

**Key signs:**
The main clinical feature of surra is anaemia.

**Clinical signs:**
- after an incubation period of 5–60 days, intermittent fever, weakness and lethargy
- pinpoint haemorrhages of the membranes, often around the eyelids, nostrils and anus
- oedema and swelling of the legs, brisket and abdomen
- progressive weight loss in the presence of a good appetite, anaemia and jaundice
- usually fatal in horses, donkeys and mules after a prolonged illness.

**Control strategy:**
Although outbreaks of surra have been eradicated, no country is known to have eliminated the disease once it has become well established. Control and eradication of surra could involve quarantine of affected animals; movement controls and zoning; surveillance and if warranted depopulation or slaughter in domestic and feral populations; treatment of animals and control of the biting fly.

If surra is suspected, call the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.
Rabies

Rabies is an almost invariably fatal viral encephalitis affecting all warm-blooded animals. Rabies has a long and variable incubation period (four days to many years).

The policy is to eradicate rabies quickly for public health reasons and to prevent spread to both domestic and wild animals.

The highest threat of introducing rabies to Australia is by the illegal entry of an infected animal.

As well as classical rabies virus, the Lyssavirus genus hosted by bats contains a number of related viruses that have the potential to cause rabies-like disease in humans and animals if bitten.

Key signs:
• abnormal behaviour for the species concerned
• increasing paralysis, coma then death.

Clinical signs:
In horses, other signs may include colic, nervous signs and incoordination. Death can occur within 10 days of the onset of clinical signs.

Horses are usually depressed and quiet, but can be irritable and excited.

Spread of the disease:
The most important animal families in maintaining rabies cycles in affected countries are dogs and other canines, skunks and ferrets, mongooses and meerkats, raccoons and bats. Many animal species are accidental hosts, and have little role in sustaining rabies epidemics. These include humans and other primates, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs.

The virus is transmitted by contamination of a fresh wound with saliva, usually from the bite of a rabid animal. The virus cannot penetrate intact skin.

The virus does not remain infective outside the body for more than a couple of hours. It is easily inactivated by soapy water and disinfectants.

Rabies is mainly transmitted by wildlife in Europe and North America.

Control strategy:
• quarantine and movement controls
• destruction of infected and dangerous contact animals
• vaccination
• tracing and surveillance
• a public awareness campaign.

Safety precautions:
Approach and handle potentially rabid animals with extreme caution. If the animal cannot be safely captured or confined, and therefore constitutes a risk to people or other animals, it should be euthanased immediately in such a way that the brain is not destroyed.

Avoid contact with the animal's saliva. Wear thick rubber gloves, eye goggles, face mask and a plastic or rubber apron that can easily be disinfected when doing autopsies. Incinerate carcasses and soak used instruments in disinfectant and then boil or autoclave them.

If a person is bitten by a suspected rabid animal, or if a fresh wound or skin abrasion is contaminated with its saliva or other body fluids, wash the wound immediately and flush with soap and water, detergent or water alone. Then apply a disinfectant. Seek immediate medical attention.

If rabies is suspected, call the emergency disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.
## Appendix C

### Key contacts and websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racing and Wagering WA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rwwa.com.au">www.rwwa.com.au</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9445 5333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Hasler Rd Osborne Park WA 6015</td>
<td>F: (08) 9244 5914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@rwwa.com.au">info@rwwa.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P: (08) 9445 5333</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F: (08) 9244 5914</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australian Horse Council (Inc)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wahorsecouncil.com.au">www.wahorsecouncil.com.au</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9291 0202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29 Ashurst Drive Lesmurdie WA 6076</td>
<td>F: (08) 9291 0206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:bennit@optusnet.com.au">bennit@optusnet.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P: (08) 9445 5333</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F: (08) 9244 5914</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Surgeons’ Board</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vsbwa.org.wa.au">www.vsbwa.org.wa.au</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9367 4674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 8235 Angelo St South Perth WA 6151</td>
<td>F: (08) 9367 1295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@vsbwa.org.au">admin@vsbwa.org.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P: (08) 9368 3333</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F: (08) 9474 2405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Food WA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agric.wa.gov.au">www.agric.wa.gov.au</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9296 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Baron-Hay Court South Perth WA 6151</td>
<td>F: (08) 9296 1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@agric.wa.gov.au">enquiries@agric.wa.gov.au</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>P: (08) 9360 7676</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F: (08) 9437 9068</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equestrian Western Australia (formerly EFA – WA Branch)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.equestrianwa.org.au">www.equestrianwa.org.au</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9296 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>303 Cathedral Ave Brigadoon WA 6069</td>
<td>F: (08) 9296 1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:reception@equestrianwa.org.au">reception@equestrianwa.org.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Murdoch University Veterinary Hospital</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vetbiomed.murdoch.edu.au/">www.vetbiomed.murdoch.edu.au/</a></td>
<td>Equine Centre:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hospital/</td>
<td>P: (08) 9360 7676</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 South St Murdoch WA 6150</td>
<td>Murdoch Pet</td>
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<td>Emergency Centre:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P: 1300 652 494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine Veterinarians Australia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eva.org.au">www.eva.org.au</a></td>
<td>P: (02) 9431 5080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit 40, Level 1, 6 Herbert Street St Leonards NSW 2065</td>
<td>F: (02) 9437 9068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@eva.org.au">admin@eva.org.au</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Farriers’ Association</td>
<td>Secretary: Mr Garry Woolaway 170 Lillie Rd Gidgegannup WA 6083.</td>
<td>P: (08) 9574 6156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M: 0409 293 792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSVETPLAN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm">www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9296 1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pony Club Association of WA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcawa.com/">www.pcawa.com/</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9296 1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>303 Cathedral Ave Brigadoon WA 6069</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:renee@pcawa.com">renee@pcawa.com</a> or <a href="mailto:office@pcawa.com">office@pcawa.com</a></td>
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</table>
## Section 4: Appendix C – Key contacts and websites

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>Riding Develops Ability (RDA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ridingdevelopsability.com/">www.ridingdevelopsability.com/</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 9296 4655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Equestrian Centre</td>
<td>F: (08) 9296 2363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>303 Cathedral Ave</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brigadoon WA 6069</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:eo@ridingdevelopsability.com">eo@ridingdevelopsability.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Agricultural Society of WA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.raswa.org.wa">www.raswa.org.wa</a></td>
<td>P: (08) 6263 3100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 135 Claremont WA 6910</td>
<td>F: (08) 6263 3171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:raswa@raswa.org.au">raswa@raswa.org.au</a></td>
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### DAFWA district offices and district veterinary officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>9892 8444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broome</td>
<td>9194 1400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bunbury</td>
<td>9780 6100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esperance</td>
<td>9083 1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldton</td>
<td>9956 8555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katanning</td>
<td>9821 3333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merredin</td>
<td>9081 3111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moora</td>
<td>9651 0555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrogin</td>
<td>9881 0222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Perth (Head Office)</td>
<td>9368 3333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Health Laboratories – duty pathologist South Perth</td>
<td>9368 3351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Health Laboratories – Albany</td>
<td>9892 8444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 4: Appendix C – Key contacts and websites

Your contact list for horse emergencies
Our vet’s name is:

Phone:

Closest DAFWA office and DVO:

Phone:

24-hour emergency disease watch hotline: 1800 675 888

WA Horse Council Emergency Contact list
Website: www.wahorseemergency.com.au
P: (08) 9291 0202
Email: bennit@optusnet.com.au
29 Ashurst Drive Lesmurdie WA 6076

Other useful websites
Appendix D

Western Australian Equine Industry Consultative Group (WAEICG)

The Western Australia Equine Industry Consultative Group (WAEICG) examines biosecurity issues that affect the horse industry in Western Australia. It includes representatives from relevant WA state government departments and the WA horse industry.

The purpose of the WAEICG is to facilitate effective communication and consultation between:
- the Western Australian equine industry (equestrian, recreational and racing)
- the WA government departments Agriculture and Food (DAFWA); Sport and Recreation; and Racing and Gaming.

The member organisations of the WAEICG are:
- Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA)
- Western Australian Horse Council (WAHC)
- Equestrian Western Australia (EWA)
- Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA)

Each member organisation provides the appropriate number of members to the WAEICG with at least one deputy. WAEICG members comprise:
- one member from DAFWA
- one member from WAHC
- one member from EWA
- one member representing the thoroughbred racing industry (appointed by RWWA)
- one member representing the harness racing industry (appointed by RWWA)
- a WAEICG secretary.

The terms of reference for the WAEICG are to:
- provide a forum to consider and discuss significant equine industry issues (including biosecurity) affecting or having the potential to affect the equine industries including horse racing, equestrian and recreational
- provide a consultative and communication forum for the equine industry with the specific government ministries
- monitor, consider and recommend strategies for biosecurity issues impacting on the WA equine industry
- provide oversight and contribute to the Horse Alert program, which is the joint equine industry and government operational plan for exotic disease, animal welfare and awareness within the equine industry
- communicate through industry bodies with the equine industry on issues relating to significant matters and biosecurity impacting on the WA equine industry. Significant issues are those issues which have the impact of decimating the WA equine industries including the outbreak of emergency equine diseases.
Appendix E

Resources and references

The following resources are available for download from the Department of Agriculture and Food website www.agric.wa.gov.au or by contacting any DAFWA district office.

- Notifiable Stock Diseases, Western Australia

**Emergency animal disease plans**

- WESTPLAN – State Animal Diseases Emergency Management Plan

PDF version available for download by following the link:

- AUSVETPLAN – the following horse disease management strategies are available for download at: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm
  - African horse sickness
  - equine influenza
  - Japanese encephalitis
  - surra.
Horse importers:

How to meet your legal requirement to keep liver fluke out of Western Australia

It is a condition of entry to Western Australia that horses imported from interstate or overseas meet the conditions outlined in the Movement of Stock to Western Australia form (search for ‘AD1071’ at www.agric.wa.gov.au).

Horses moving into WA could bring liver fluke with them. To prevent liver fluke establishing in WA, which could cost the state’s grazing industries $10 million annually in treatment and lost production, horse owners must:

• Have a negative test for fluke on their imported horse(s) within 14 days of entry into WA
• Have a vet treat the horse(s) for fluke on entry into WA
• Complete the Movement of Stock to Western Australia form (AD1071) and present it to the inspector at the border entry post
• Have a vet treat the horse(s) for fluke 21–35 days after arrival in WA. This treatment will kill fluke picked up just before importation, and any that may have survived the first treatment, before it can spread.
• Keep the horse on high, dry ground until released from quarantine. This will keep horses away from the habitat of those aquatic snails that can spread liver fluke.
• Have a vet collect a faecal sample from the horse(s) 90–100 days after arrival. The faecal sample is tested for fluke to identify any horses infected with fluke resistant to triclabendazole so they can be treated with another chemical.
• Notify a DAFWA stock inspector before moving a horse in quarantine. The inspector will provide you with a Permit to Move. This will reduce the risk of spreading liver fluke and help the inspector keep track of the horse.
• Submit a declaration of treatment and testing to a stock inspector. A release from quarantine will be issued unless the test is positive.

Testing charges and arrangements

• Charges apply for the verification and release of a consignment from quarantine and for any property visits.
• Treatment and sampling are to be conducted by a private veterinarian (where available).

These requirements are current as at 1 June 2011.

For current information about importing stock, visit www.agric.wa.gov.au or contact your local DAFWA stock inspector.
Horse Alert WA has been developed to help participants in the racing, sporting and recreational sectors of the horse industry in Western Australia to prepare for, recognise and respond effectively to an emergency disease that affects horses, such as the equine influenza outbreak in Australia in 2007. This manual provides biosecurity information to minimise the risks of a horse disease establishing and spreading in Western Australia, and guidance on the actions to take if an emergency disease occurs.

Copies are available from Racing and Wagering WA, Equestrian WA, the WA Horse Council, and the Department of Agriculture and Food or may be downloaded from their websites.