

COTTON COUNTRY CUTTING CLUB

HENDRA VIRUS Protocol

Goondiwindi Futurity – 9-14th August 2011

Biosecurity Plan:

- A veterinarian will be on call throughout the event, see the CCCC office for veterinarian details
- The public will be advised not to visit the stables and areas where horses are housed
- Hand-hygiene will be available at the eating area and horse-owners are advised to be diligent in regard to hand-hygiene particularly after coming in direct contact with any horse
- Horse owners, competitors and trainers are advised that to contact the designated CCCC committee member (Craig Sim) immediately if any horse is displaying any clinical signs that could potentially be linked to Hendra
- CCCC officers, staff and committee members are advised to practice good hygiene after contacting any horse
- Any suspected case of Hendra will immediately be reported to Biosecurity Queensland

Recommendations for competitors

Primary responsibility for biosecurity at horse events lies with the horse owners/competitors, long before the event:

- Practise good biosecurity, good hygiene and decontamination of equipment.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand wipes and waterless hand hygiene solution immediately after handling horses.
- Do not share equipment, including food and water containers, between horses. Avoid use of communal water troughs.
- Do not knowingly take sick horses to an event.
- If a horse is unwell at an event, notify an event official.
- Stop all non-essential contact with the sick horse and blood or body fluids from the horse until a veterinarian has excluded Hendra virus infection as the cause of illness.
- Do not allow children to have close contact with a sick horse, at least until infection has been ruled out by a veterinarian.
- Promptly isolate sick horses and seek veterinary advice. Also isolate any equipment in contact with the sick horse.

Symptoms of Hendra Virus

The following symptoms have been associated with Hendra virus cases, but not all of these symptoms will be found in any one infected horse:

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

Respiratory signs include:

- respiratory distress
- increased respiratory rates
- nasal discharge at death - can be initially clear, progressing to stable white froth and/or stable blood-stained froth.

Neurological signs include:

- 'wobbly gait'
- apparent loss of vision in one or both eyes
- aimless walking in a dazed state
- head tilting and circling
- muscle twitching
- urinary incontinence
- inability to rise.