

The Australian Distance Riding Association Inc

TADRA



Event Biosecurity Plan

Event Name:

Event Date:

Event Address:

PIC Number:

BS Plan Proposal date:

Date accepted by TADRA:

Overview

This Biosecurity Plan outlines a set of preventative control measures and actions aimed at reducing the risk and spread of an infectious diseases outbreak affecting people and horses on and off the event venue. Every individual present at the event base or otherwise involved in the event has a responsibility to abide by the biosecurity measures and to follow the directions of the Event Organisers (EO) and its relevant officials or risk expulsion from the event.

This document applies to management of infectious disease risk generally, which could include strangles, diarrhoea and respiratory illness and includes information relating specifically to Hendra virus risk. Biosecurity also includes management of risk associated with livestock pests such as cattle ticks.

Infection with Hendra virus carries significant human health implications and vaccination of horses against Hendra is encouraged. Vaccination *provides the single most effective means of reducing the risk of Hendra virus infection in both horses and humans.*

The Event Biosecurity Manager must be advised if a horse health issue has arisen prior to the Event Veterinarian's arrival and is in charge if a biosecurity risk arises before the Event Veterinarian's arrival.

Biosecurity management will be in accordance with the policies and advice of the relevant State Government department.

The objectives of this Biosecurity Plan are to:

1. Prevent or minimise the risk of equine infectious disease arriving at the event venue.
2. Prevent the spread of equine infectious disease amongst participants, should illness appear.
3. Protect the health of all participants, horse and human.
4. Present biosecurity measures that are guided by government policy and which will present least impediment to the event.

This Biosecurity Plan applies the known science to identify risk of infectious disease and appropriate management actions to reduce this risk to people and horses. Where scientific knowledge is uncertain, a precautionary risk management approach will be taken.

Planning will be applied at the ride venue, but also before horses arrive at the event, focusing on movement of horses on and off the event venue, identification of horses and people, hygiene of horses, people, vehicles and equipment, provision of appropriate horse health care, record keeping and provision of information. The Biosecurity Plan contains information and guidance for all participants, including event organisers, competitors, and volunteers.

It must be noted that **the person responsible for each horse is ultimately responsible** for ensuring that their horse does not pose a risk to the health of horses or people at the event. Every participant has a responsibility to abide by the biosecurity measures and to follow the directions of the Biosecurity manager, Event Organisers (EO), Event Manager and Event Veterinarian. Failure to do so risks exclusion from the event.

Participants must check with their relevant State or Territory Government regarding legislative requirements such as waybills, travel permits, fodder declarations, and cattle tick movement regulations.

Overseas participants must familiarise themselves, and comply with, the applicable Australian quarantine requirements. Information about traveling to Australia can be found at <http://agriculture.gov.au/travelling/to-australia/>

Biosecurity Policy Introduction

Biosecurity is the management of infectious diseases to reduce the risk of transmission to the minimum with a comprehensive approach. The critical elements are the control of disease agents and the prevention of the spread of any disease agents.

This includes hygiene practices and the quarantine and control of infectious diseases onto and within an event venue and surrounding roads and tracks. This information applies to management of infectious disease risk in general (such as strangles and other respiratory illness, diarrhoea, etc.) and includes information relating to Hendra virus risk and its' zoonotic potential. While this document is not specifically related to Hendra virus and associated outbreaks, it is important to note that the **vaccination of horses in relation to the Hendra virus is recognised as the most effective way to prevent Hendra infection.**

Vaccination provides a public health, workplace health and safety benefit. Vaccinating horses is an important measure to prevent human infection. *Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA) is in complete agreement with these ratings and advises that vaccination is a reasonably practicable risk mitigation strategy by any standard. EVA advises that Hendra virus risk at equestrian events is extremely difficult to manage and requires vaccination.*

Under recommendation and guidance from EVA, in regard to the areas of Australia that are most likely to host a Hendra Virus crossover to horses, TADRA has identified those areas as:

1. All the State of Queensland; and
2. The area of NSW bounded by - the NSW-Qld border; the eastern Australian coastline from the Qld border south to Sydney; then the Great Western Highway west and then north-west from Sydney to Marrangaroo; then the Castlereagh Highway north through Gulgong, Dunedoo to Mendooran, then Mendooran Rd north to the Newell / Oxley Highway, then the Newell Highway to Boggabilla, then the Bruxner Highway to the Qld border.

As a result of this land area definition TADRA requires that:

- a) all horses resident in these defined areas, and
 - b) all horses attending an event in these areas,
- must be vaccinated against Hendra Virus.

Responsibilities of People in charge of the horse

- They have a biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease, or contaminant.
- A Horse Movement Record and the Temperature Log are mandatory requirements and must be completed by the person responsible for the horse and presented upon arrival at the Event Base.
- The property identification code (PIC) of the horse's origin and returning property must be included on the Horse Movement Record.
- Acceptance into the event will be refused if either of these documents are not presented at the point of entry or the designated registration point.
- No horses with signs of illness are to be brought onto the grounds.
- Direct nose to nose contact between horses should be minimised.
- Biosecurity equipment should be available at all times.
- Competitors are responsible for cleaning up manure from yards and placing it in designated areas or receptacles when required by the EO to do so.
- Competitors are required to advise the EO immediately if a horse is sick, to stop all non-essential contact with the sick horse and not allow children to have close contact with the sick horse.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility - and everybody has a role to play in protecting people, animals and property from biosecurity risks. The management of infectious diseases requires the fulfilment of certain obligations prior to the ride and at the ride by people in charge of a horse, on the one hand, and by ride organisers on the other.

Preventing the Introduction of disease onto the Event Base

All people who bring horses or livestock onto the grounds are expected to be aware of their legislated biosecurity obligation, that they must take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a disease or contaminant.

All horses entering grounds must be from a property actively practicing good biosecurity principles within their management.

If your horse is vaccinated against Hendra Virus proof of current vaccination is required - either a vaccination certificate or notation in the horse's passport completed by the vet who administered the vaccine. Horses will be deemed to be vaccinated only if they show as "Protected" in the Hendra Vaccine registry -<https://health4horses.com.au/About/Hendra-Vaccination-Lookup/>

Hygiene

- Check for:

- any evidence of ticks and abide by all government regulations for spraying For E.g., Entering NSW from QLD and related cattle tick requirements.
- Or other requirements for entry into an Australian State i.e., Western Australia, and Liver Fluke requirements.
- Try to wash your horse/s before leaving home so that soil and organic matter are removed from their coats and hooves.
- Try to wash your vehicles and floats before leaving home to remove visible dirt or organic matter.
- Clean all horse gear of visible dirt before leaving home.
- Bring sufficient tack, feed, and water containers with you, to avoid sharing these at the event.
- Adhere to all regulations regarding the transport of plants (including horse feed) and animals, which apply to your point of origin. International competitors must comply with Australian quarantine regulations.
- As much as possible, minimise your contact with other people's horses, and restrict access to your horse by others, **in particular other people's horses**. Clean your horse yards of manure and feed scraps on a regular basis.

Financial responsibility

The person responsible for any horse requiring treatment, including sampling and laboratory testing, will also be responsible for all costs associated with treatment, including all PPE gear and other consumables used. Horses' passport will not be returned while accounts remain outstanding.

Owner provided Horse Information

Provide the ride secretary with the name and contact details of the person (including any changes that have occurred) who is responsible for each horse when finalising entries.

The Horse Movement Record and the Temperature Log should include full details of your horse/s identity and property of origin, including PIC, and will be collected by the EO.

Before leaving home, health checks should include normal eating and drinking habits and temperatures between 37.5°C - 38.5°C.

If, before leaving home, there is any nasal discharge, coughing, fever (temperature higher than 38.5°C for more than 12-24 hours), swelling of lymph nodes, lameness, or lack of appetite for food or water a veterinarian should be engaged to conduct an examination, and to give an "all clear" for the horse to travel.

DO NOT bring an unwell horse onto the ride base.

Horses suspected of potential contagious disease will be refused entry to the venue and the event.

If a horse becomes unwell while travelling, contact the Event Organiser, before arrival at the ride base, so they have time to prepare for your arrival.

If a horse is showing signs of illness when at the Event Base a rectal temperature will be required, if safe to do so - fractious horses can be the exception. The Event Biosecurity Manager must be informed, and the horse must be clinically examined, if possible, in the designated isolation area, most likely with appropriate PPE. Based on the clinical findings, if the horse is suspected of having a communicable disease, then the Event Biosecurity Manager will, in conjunction with the Event Veterinarian (if they are different people), will decide as to the best course of action to take, to give all people and horses at the event the safest outcome.

The person responsible will ensure that any contagious (e.g., faecal) material is promptly removed from the ground and appropriately disposed of.

Responsibilities of Event Organisers and Event Officials

Veterinary Treatment Hospital and Isolation Zone

Prior to the event, the Biosecurity Manager, Event Manager and Event Veterinarian will agree on the best locations for the **Veterinary Treatment Hospital**, and an **Isolation Area**, away from the Event base's high traffic areas.

The Treatment Hospital will preferably have yards, and sufficient facility to accommodate the overhead drip bags.

The Isolation area should preferably be securely fenced, and as remote as possible from all types of event traffic, at least 15m away from people and horses.

Biosecurity Incident Contingency Plan

If a sick horse is confirmed at the event, the following plan is to be followed:

Sick horse

- Event Organiser, Event Manager or Biosecurity Manager are to be advised of a sick horse immediately.
- The Event Vet will be notified.
- The horse is to be taken to the isolation area, via the most direct route, whilst avoiding any unnecessary contact with other people or horses. They will then undergo examination and review by the Event Vet or Event Treatment Vet.

- OR -

- If the horse is diagnosed as being a possible biosecurity threat, it is to remain in isolation zone with a minimum 15 metre to other horses or passing people.

- Biosecurity Manager will contact *Emergency Disease watch hotline* for the state in which the event is held.
- All people within the isolation zone i.e., vet, officials, owner, are to wear appropriate PPE gear when tending to horse.
- Disinfection of shoes via footbaths and strict hand hygiene are to be followed.

Biosecurity issue Identified

- The Event Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with the attending vet will contact the relevant State Biosecurity authority.
- The Event Biosecurity Manager will ask the EO to close exit points and broadcast to all present at the venue to remain on site until further information and exit points are closed.
- Event Organiser and Event Manager will take advice about whether to continue with the event, after discussion with the Government Biosecurity authority of the state involved and advise participants of this decision.
- Horse Health Declarations for all horses on site are made available to the Biosecurity authority.
- Access to isolation area will be patrolled by the Event Biosecurity Manager or their nominee and access limited to essential personnel.
- All horse movement to cease unless authorised by the Government Biosecurity authority.

Lockdown

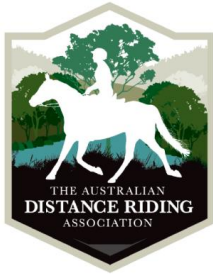
- The Government Biosecurity authority will advise if a total lockdown of the venue is required, and the Event Organiser and Event Manager will advise event participants of this decision.
- All participants/entrants will be responsible for their own costs in the event of a lockdown.
- The Event Biosecurity Manager will regularly check entry/exit points to ensure anyone leaving the venue is given an exit notice and their vehicle registration is noted.
- The Event Biosecurity Manager will decide for waste removal if required.
- The Government Biosecurity authority will advise the Event Biosecurity Manager and participants of any further protocols required.

Definitions

Event Biosecurity Manager	Person nominated by the Event Organiser to oversee the creation and management of the Event Biosecurity Plan.
Communal water trough	Large trough of water that will be accessed by multiple horses. A communal water trough may or may not be used at an event, but if in use, water should be bucketed from the trough, horses should not drink directly from the trough.
Event Manager	The Event Manager must be accredited by TADRA and is responsible for the general control and conduct of the event from the opening of the ride base until the closure of the ride base. Further details of responsibility are listed in the TADRA rules
Event Organiser	The Incorporated Association which is formally affiliated with TADRA to conduct an event in accordance with the TADRA Rulebook.
HeV	Hendra Virus, a zoonotic disease
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment	Refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.
Property Identification Code (PIC)	An eight-character code allocated by the DPI or equivalent authority in some states/territories, to identify a livestock producing property. The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for the permanent identification and tracing of livestock for market access, food safety and disease control purposes.
Property of Origin	A code allocated by allocated by the DPI or equivalent authority in some states/territories, to identify a livestock producing property.
Responsible person	The person responsible for the horse at a ride is prima facie, the rider and the trainer of the horse, (jointly and severally), however support personnel and the owner of the horse may also be regarded as additional persons responsible if they are present at the event and/or make a relevant decision about the horse, and compelling circumstances warrant such an extension.as defined by the TADRA rulebook (2021) is the nominated rider of the horse in the event.
Event Venue	The nominated address for this document

EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

ORGANISATION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	COMMENT
Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline		1800 675 888	
Biosecurity _____ (State)	Animal Services Emergency Hotline	1800 675 888	
Event Biosecurity Manager			
Event Veterinarian			
Event Treatment Veterinarian			
Event Manager			
Equine referral hospital			
Venue Owner/Manager			
Ride Base doctor/First Aid			
Local hospital			
Other			
Other			
Other			



Horse Movement Record 2021

Please give, together with your Temperature Log, and any other requested information, to the Event Manager or their representative, upon arrival at the Event Base
 PIC = Property Identification Code PoO = Property of Origin

Owner / Responsible Person					
Home address					
Mobile No		Email			
Address of PoO if different					
PIC number of PoO					
Address of destination property (event)					
PIC number of destination Prop. (event)					
If horse not returning to same property, give address of other prop.					
PIC number of other property					
Arrival at event date			Departure from event date		
Full Horse name Please print clearly	Sex	Colour	Microchip number	Last Hendra Vax date	Other vaccinations + date of

I declare that the horse(s) named above have been in my care and have been in good health, eating normally and not showing any signs of illness in the 3 days prior to travel.

I agree that if these horse(s) require veterinary treatment then I will pay the associated expenses.

I agree to ensure that: 1) if required before travel all horses will be shampooed, rinsed and dried, and will have their hooves picked clean of solid material and rinsed with shampoo; 2) all vehicles and equipment will be in a clean condition at the start of travel; 3) the information in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge; 4) I will abide by all conditions and directions.

I understand that: 1) failure to comply may result in refusal of entry; 2) in the event of horse movement restrictions to or from the event I will be responsible for the care, maintenance, feeding and watering of the horses in my care and the costs associated with same.

Owner / Responsible Person

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____



Temperature Log

2021

Begin Temp log 3 days before 1st day of travel

If travel day is the same as Event Arrival Day, then
leave Travel Days entries blank.

Full Horse Name Please print clearly	Prior to Travel			Travel Days			Event Arrival Day	Cattle Tick Precaution
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3		

I declare that all the information in this Temperature Log is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree to abide by the TADRA Rules and by all conditions imposed by the Event Organiser, or an Event Manager in their management of the event.

I understand and acknowledge that:

- 1) if I or others in my support crew fail to comply with conditions or instructions I or we may be instructed to depart the event, and that depending on which stage of the event that occurs I or we may have our nominations forfeited;
- 2) decontamination and disinfection procedures may be required of me if instructed by the Event Organiser, an Event Manager, or the Event Veterinarian;
- 3) there is a real possibility that event horses may become affected with disease agents and consequently event premises and horses may be quarantined in accordance with legislation covering such occurrences;
- 4) In the eventuality of 3) occurring the Event Organiser, TADRA or its members, Event Managers or Event Veterinarians or others involved in an event are not in any way liable for any cost, expense, loss, damage, claim, action, proceeding, or other liability incurred or made against me as a result of any movement of horses to or from the Event, farm, or other property.

Name of Owner or Person Responsible _____ Mobile No. _____

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____