

Horse Biosecurity

The glovebox guide



Keep this important information in your horse truck glove box or first aid kit, in the tack or feed room. Hand copies out to new agistment clients, students & members of your club.

Include in kits for coaches, truck drivers, vet nurses or staff induction kits. Place key messages in club newsletters, horse show programs or organisational magazines.

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COVER PHOTO: Supplied courtesy of Industry & Investment NSW.

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INTRODUCTION

The Horse Biosecurity Glove box Guide is an **AWARENESS LEVEL** guide to preparing yourself and your business for emergency disease outbreak. This guide is subordinate to both the **AUSVETPLAN** and any State Government Emergency Response Plan.

This guide seeks to raise awareness about

- Preparing yourself and your business for disease outbreak
- Reporting suspected disease outbreak
- What happens next

Success in managing a horse disease emergency response will depend on people being aware of the threats and taking action to reduce or eliminate these threats.

In a suspected emergency response, it will be critical to **STOP** horse movement, **CONTROL** people movement and **ACTIVATE** a response plan even while the suspect threat is being confirmed by laboratory testing.

The purpose of this guide is to raise awareness of Biosecurity related issues and action plans, in order that you can plan to reduce, minimise or eliminate any effects on yourself or your business.

To assist horse organisations or horse related businesses to share information with others, this document has several design features:

- It is available for free download
- All parts of this document may be reproduced in full or part, in its original unchanged form, as long as the original source is acknowledged
- Organisations and government agencies may contact Horse SA to seek to include their own logos or insert local photographs to support uptake of the key messages at a local level

If you suspect that you might have an emergency horse disease (or even a sick or ill horse with symptoms you do not recognise)

DO NOT DELAY ACTION

1. Isolate the sick horse
2. Implement **STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURES** for horse hygiene
3. Immediately place a voluntary **STOCK STANDSTILL** on your property, business, event or recreational activity.

CALL YOUR VET

If you cannot contact your own vet, call the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline

Telephone: 1800 675 888

Implement your property, business or event risk management plan immediately.

INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL EMERGENCY DISEASE

- Unusually high numbers of sick horses
- Dead horses
- Blisters, ulcers, or erosions around the feet or mouth
- Profuse, bloody diarrhoea
- Severe hacking cough
- Nervousness or other behaviour change
- Unexplained lethargy, listlessness or depression
- Rapid spread of signs and symptoms throughout the stable
- Recent overseas contact by horses, humans or equipment
- Recent contact with feed, horses, humans, equipment from an Australian state with a known disease problem
- A sick horse that has arrived from interstate within the past 3 weeks

CALL YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY

USE THE ABCD

ALERT - BEWARE - CONTACT - DECIDE

ALERT

Increase your own, and your staff or members alertness. Every day, routinely assess and compare current state of horses health and behaviour from what you know is normal. Implement training, reminder signs, include in meeting agendas, provide news updates.

BEWARE

Be Aware and Be Smart. Never assume that an exotic or reportable disease will not affect you. Get immediate advice. DO NOT take an ill or suspect horse to a gathering (event, race meeting or recreational event, social visit etc)

CONTACT

Call a veterinarian for advice

DECIDE

Don't ignore a situation you may be aware of. Decide to get a veterinary diagnosis and a decision on how to proceed.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

HYGIENE - PROTECT YOURSELF

Consider how your day to day activities with horses can potentially spread disease between horses, properties, trucks and equipment.

ISOLATION

Isolate sick horse(s) immediately from healthy horses at the first signs of illness. Place an “*exclusion zone*” around these horses whereby untrained personnel, vehicles etc cannot enter. Isolate “*in-contact*” horses. Check and record their temperatures & vital signs at least twice a day Stop manure, urine and other waste products which have been in contact with the suspect horse from entering water courses, drainage system or public rubbish bins or dumps. Separate out from other waste on your property.

STANDSTILL

Stop horses from leaving the enterprise. Stop horses from entering the premises unless they can be immediately completely isolated. Stop people who enter and leave the property from contact with isolated horses. Place an exclusion zone around the sick horses accommodation.

ROUTINE

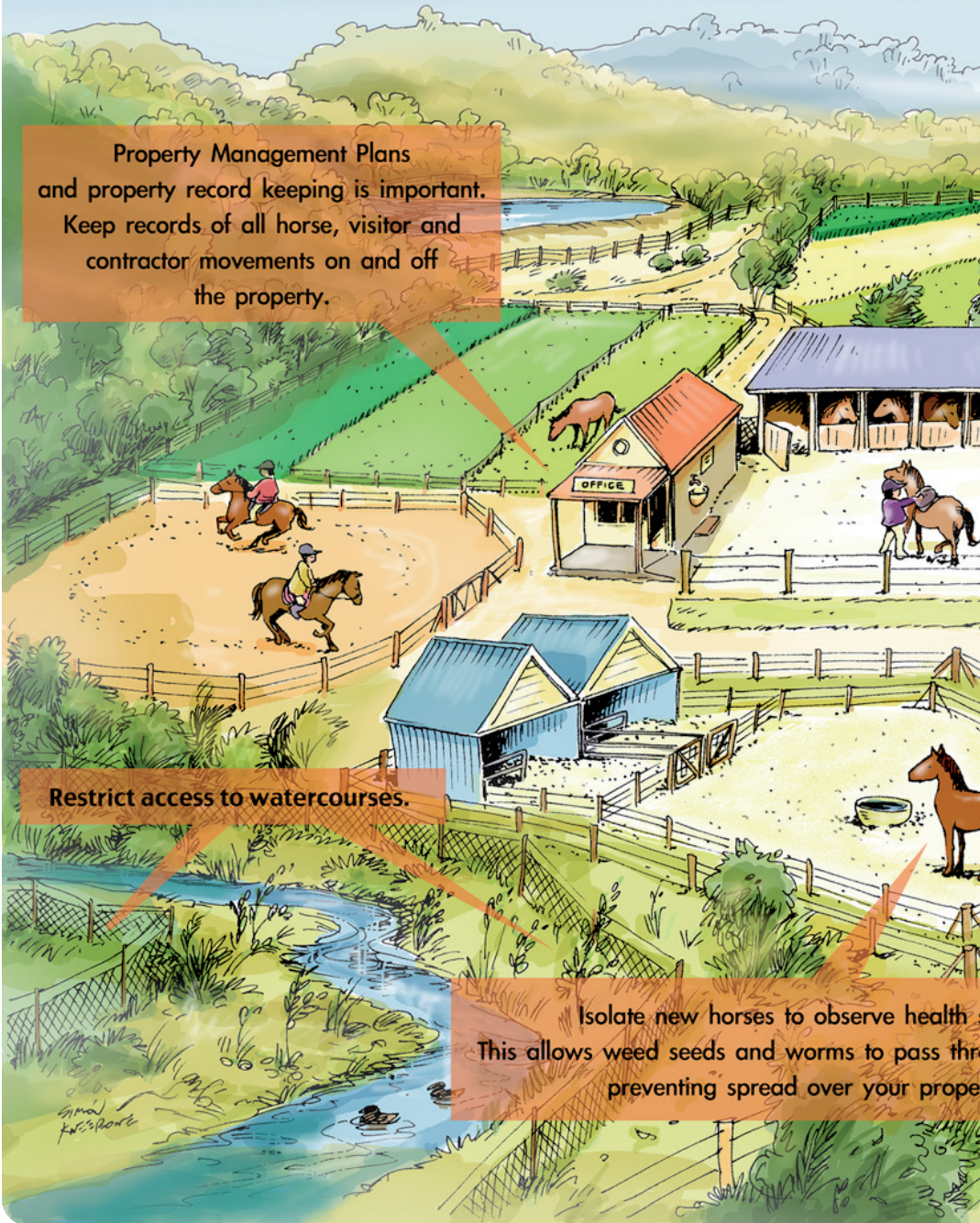
Handle sick and isolated horses last. Ideally, have people allocated to handle these horses who do not have to handle any other horses. Allocate separate equipment, including stable cleaning tools, to the isolated horses. Regularly disinfect. Wash hands & boots between handling all horses. Change clothing & wash after handling isolated horses before doing any other tasks.

Linking good land management

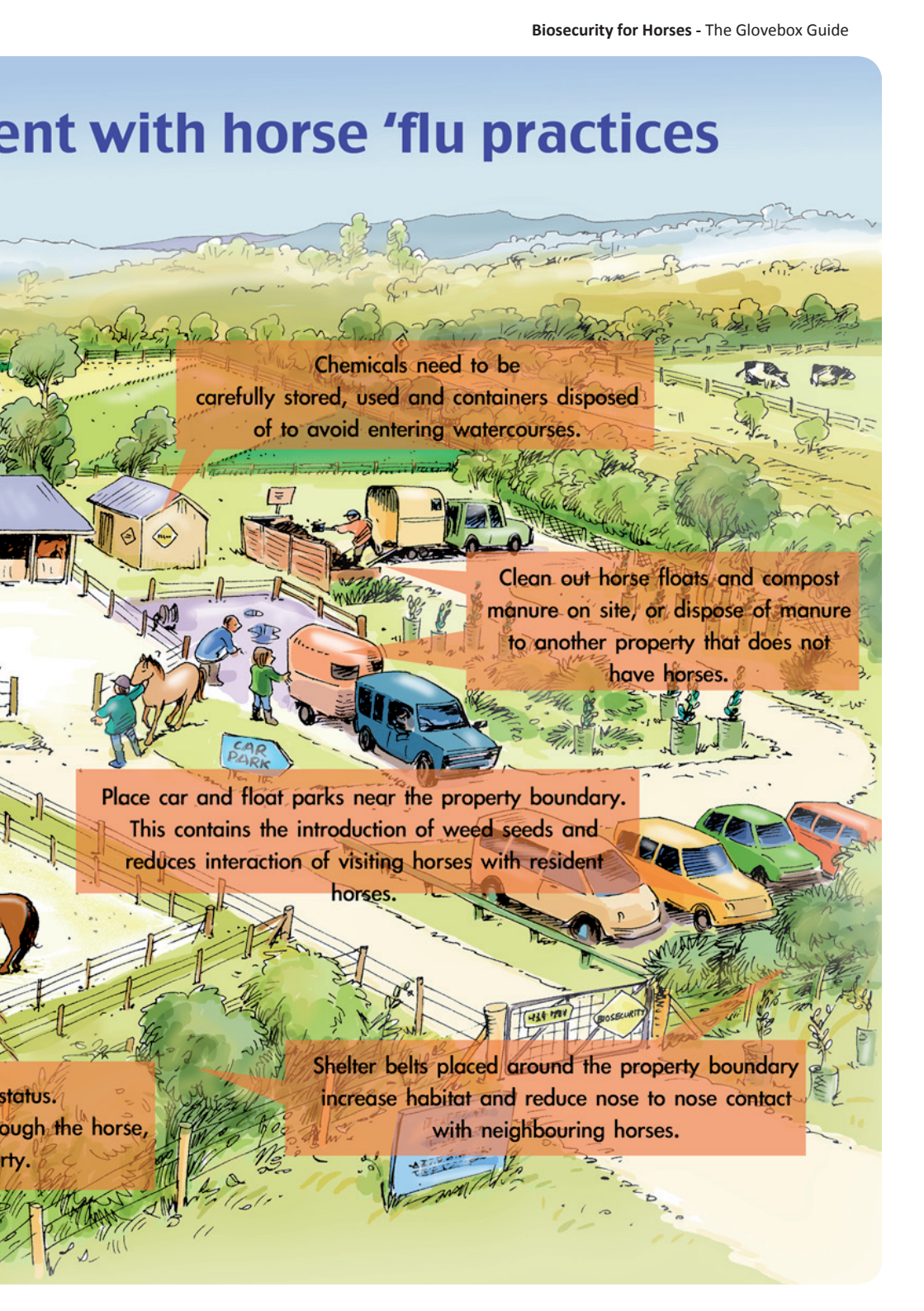
Property Management Plans and property record keeping is important. Keep records of all horse, visitor and contractor movements on and off the property.

Restrict access to watercourses.

Isolate new horses to observe health. This allows weed seeds and worms to pass through preventing spread over your property.



ent with horse 'flu practices



Chemicals need to be carefully stored, used and containers disposed of to avoid entering watercourses.

Clean out horse floats and compost manure on site, or dispose of manure to another property that does not have horses.

Place car and float parks near the property boundary. This contains the introduction of weed seeds and reduces interaction of visiting horses with resident horses.

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Shelter belts placed around the property boundary increase habitat and reduce nose to nose contact with neighbouring horses.

INFORMATION

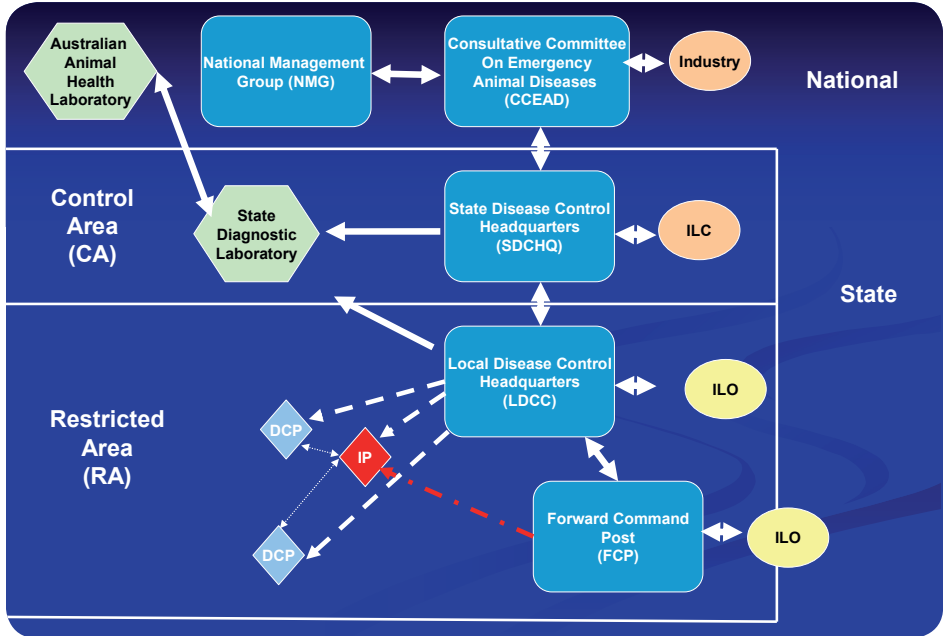
WHAT INFORMATION WILL YOU NEED TO SUPPLY TO A VETS OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

- Name, address, contact details of the property where the horse is kept
- Property Identification Code (*PIC CODE*)
- Horse owners name and contact details
- Total number of horses on the property (*suspect and non-suspect*)
- Number of sick horses, grouped by age and sex if possible
- Number of dead horses
- Has there been any overseas or interstate contact by any persons in contact, equipment, vehicles, feed or other livestock e.g. dogs? Where, when?
- Description of signs and symptoms, and any changes since the first observations
- Clear directions to the suspect property
- Travel history of the suspect horse(s) over the last 3 weeks
- All treatments, feeds, feed sources or other introduced treatments or items for the past 10 days
- What Biosecurity or horse hygiene procedures you have currently implemented

Registering your horse property with *PIRSA* is an essential part of being prepared for an emergency, including fire & flood. Property Identification Codes (PIC) for horse properties are currently free of charge.

Phone 8207 7900 or visit <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/livestock> and navigate to Animal Identification

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL & COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE



Acknowledgement: *Animal Health Australia*

HORSE MOVEMENTS

State regulations may require that sick or ill horses are not transported across state borders without notifying the relevant state Primary Industries Chief Veterinary Officer.

All persons transporting horses need to familiarise themselves with the pending national regulations for the land transport of horses.

For more information visit:

www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au

ACTIONS REQUIRED

by Horse Event Organisers and Race Meeting Managers if a disease outbreak is **SUSPECTED** at a horse event

The person in charge of the event must be identified and accept responsibility for taking immediate action. The person in charge of the event may have appointed a Horse Biosecurity Officer from whom to receive advice and to delegate operational tasks.

1. Isolate the suspect horse(s)
2. Call the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888**
3. Implement a Stock Standstill on the Event. Prevent anyone entering or leaving the property. If this **CANNOT BE DONE** place persons at every entrance and exit point to record all personal and vehicle details, including destination points in order that a **TRACEBACK** or **TRACEFORWARD** response plan can quickly be implemented.
4. Announce what has happened and what actions have been taken, seek cooperation
5. Record all movements, including all persons, horse ID & vehicles currently on the property
6. Request that any spectators or other persons in contact with the suspect horse or equipment to come forward
7. Start your plan implementation of the Event/Property Biosecurity Plan (this role should be allocated to a person or persons working under the Horse Biosecurity Officer)
8. After liaison with the Veterinarian, follow instructions for getting back to business, releasing persons & horses from the property or establishment of a **CONTROL AREA**

Sick horses must not be brought onto an event ground

20 SIMPLE STEPS

TO HEALTHY HORSES

1. Train all staff, volunteers and club members in disease prevention, identification and hygiene procedures
2. Control insects. Good drainage and manure management help prevent insects like mosquitoes and March flies from breeding
3. Control rodents and keep feed in rodent-proof containers
4. Administer and record vaccinations and boosters for diseases like tetanus, strangles and equine herpes virus
5. Use a fresh needle and syringe for every horse, every time, when administering vaccine or medications
6. Verify proof of vaccine for new arrivals onto a property
7. Isolate new arrivals for at least ten (10) days or introduce only horses from properties with a known high health status. Pay particular attention to horses which have come from sales complexes, show grounds, have utilised commercial horse transport services or originated from other mixed accommodation situations.
8. Isolate horses at the first sign of sickness until contagious disease has been ruled out. Keep all equipment separate
9. Handle, feed, water and treat sick horses last or use separate staff
10. Do not move sick horses except for veterinary treatment or under veterinary supervision
11. Avoid the use of communal watering troughs when away from home
12. Contact a veterinarian or the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline if unusual sickness or unexplained death occurs, especially if it is something you have not seen before

13. If the horses are stabled, take twice daily rectal temperatures. Fever immediately suggests that a disease is present. Take temperatures of other horses as often as possible.
14. Group horses by use and ages, as in small as a group as practicable. e.g. keep yearlings separate from older horses and pregnant mares, and competition horses separate from stay-at-home horses
15. Keep records of movements of horses and semen so that contacts can be traced in the event of a disease outbreak
16. Regularly clean and disinfect stables, equipment and transport vehicles. Remove as much soil and organic material as possible before disinfecting
17. Clean, then disinfect equipment such as tooth rasps, stomach tubes, endoscopes, bits and twitches between use on different horses
18. Wash your hands between handling groups of horses and use separate protective clothing and footwear when handling any sick horses. Handle sick horses last.
19. Keep boundary fences in good condition. Barriers such as double fences & tree plantations increase perimeter security
20. Avoid locating horse properties in swampy areas, near bat colonies or intensive piggeries as these may be carriers of some viruses that affect horses.

VITAL SIGNS FOR HORSES AT REST

Temp. 36.5-38.5C **Heart rate** 25-45 beats per min. **Breathing** 8-16 breaths per min. **Capillary refill time** 1-2 sec. **Hydration Status (*pinch test*)** 1-2 secs.

Clear eyes, normal stance, no nasal discharge.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

EQUINE VET MOBILE

ALL HOURS: _____

EQUINE VET MOBILE

ALL HOURS: _____

EMERGENCY DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE:
1800 675 888

CONTACT LIST - STATE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

South Australia..... (08) 8207 7900

New South Wales/ACT..... (02) 6391 3100

Victoria..... (03) 5332 5000

Western Australia 1300 725 572

Northern Territory (08) 8999 5511

Tasmania 1300 368 550

Queensland (07) 3404 6999

This document was prepared as a partnership between the

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http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/livestock/advisory_groups/horse_advisory_group

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Equestrian Australia	www.sa.equestrian.org.au
Harness Racing SA	www.harness.org.au/sa.cfm
Pony Club Australia (SA)	www.ponyclub.asn.au
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Thoroughbred Racing SA	www.racingsa.com.au
Magic Millions	www.magicmillions.com.au
SA Thoroughbred Breeders	www.sabreeders.com.au
RAHS	www.adelaideshow.com.au
SA Jockey Club	www.sajc.com.au