



EVENT BIOSECURITY PLAN



Date: 19th August, 2017

Name of event	Pony Club Australia National Championships 2017
Address of the venue	Toowoomba Showgrounds Glenvale Rd Toowoomba
PIC of venue	QJJD 0526
Number of exit and entry points	5 reducing to 1 as necessary
Date of first arrivals and last departures	From: 16 September 2017 To: 23 September 2017
Event Organiser and phone number	Kev Walsh – 0413 089 765
Event Biosecurity Manager	Mark Schmacker – 0419 796 972
Site map attached?	Yes

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 venue. Every individual has a responsibility to abide by the biosecurity measures and to follow the directions of the Organising Committee (OC) or risk expulsion from the event. For further information on Horse Movements, Biosecurity Concerns and Documentation requirements in Queensland, refer to <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/animal-industries>

While this document is not specifically related to the 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 single most effective means of controlling the spread of this virus.

This plan includes:

1. Emergency contact information
2. Biosecurity policy
3. Details of biosecurity kit and equipment required to be available at event
4. Biosecurity contingency plan
5. Communication plan
6. Biosecurity information for event organisers

1. EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

ORGANISATION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	COMMENT
Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline		1800 675 888	
Biosecurity Queensland		13 25 23	
Biosecurity Manager	Mark Schmacker	0419 796 972	
Biosecurity Services Laboratory	Coopers Plains Lab Health & Food Services Precinct Specimen Receipt Loading Block 12 39 Kessels Rd Coopers Plains	3276 6062 bslcl@daff.qld.gov.au	Hendra Exclusion Tests
Event Veterinarian	Lachlan Cameron		Darling Downs Vets Barham Stud Westbrook 1298 Gore Hwy.
Local Veterinarian 1	Darling Downs Vets	0408 452 846 (W'brook) 4691 9000 (Oakey)	Multiple Vets on call
Other Local Veterinarians			
Body Disposal Company	Pets RIP (Commercial operator)	1300 233 007	12 Rocla Crt. Toowoomba
Clinical waste disposal			
Venue Owner/Manager	RASQ Damon Phillips	4634 7400 0429 347 002	Glenvale Rd, Toowoomba
Neighbours with horses			
Local Police	Toowoomba Police	4631 6333	
Workplace Health Safety Queensland		1300 369 915	
Local hospital	Toowoomba Base Hospital	4616 6000	

2. BIOSECURITY POLICY

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

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

Competitors will be advised before and during the event that:

- They have a biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.
- Horse Health Declarations (HHD) are a mandatory requirement.
- Preferably, the property identification code (PIC) of the horse's origin and returning property must be included on the HHD, or if not available, a clear, precise street address is required.
- Acceptance into the event will be refused if the required HHD is not presented at point of entry.

- No horses, or dogs, with signs of illness are to be brought onto the grounds.
- No communal horse water troughs will be available at the event. Equipment, including food and water containers, is not to be shared between horses.
- Once a horse has entered the grounds, it must remain until completion of the event. Earliest departure of any horse from the grounds will be 22nd September 2017.
- Competitors are responsible for cleaning up manure from yards and placing it in designated areas.
- No horses are allowed in camping areas – saddling, grooming, feeding to be done in stable areas.
- All horses to be stabled in the undercover stables provided.
- Dogs are to be on leash at all times and are permitted only in camping areas.
- Do not share equipment between horses (tack, saddle cloths, food and water containers).
- Competitors are required to advise the event organisers 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.
- Everyone handling horses should wash or sanitise hands between contacting different horses.
- Stabling – Three under cover stable blocks will be used for this event. Horses from Queensland will be stabled in one building. Horses from other states (New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Northern Territory) will be stabled in a second building with maximum possible separation between horses from New South Wales and those of other states. The Organising Committee will assign each horse to a particular stable and each horse must be kept in only this stable for the duration of the event.

For this event a horse quarantine area (4 stables) has been established (in the third stable block). A second isolation/hospitalization area (2 stables) has also been established for use as needed. Both areas will be identified with biosecurity hazard tape and are shown on the attached ground map.

The Biosecurity Manager, in consultation with the Organising Committee, is in charge should a biosecurity risk arise. While the Biosecurity Manager does not possess the legal powers necessary to quarantine or restrict movements of people, he/she will arrange to record the details of any person and/or animal leaving the grounds if they have been directed to stay.

It is important to note that under the Biosecurity Act 2014, every horse owner has a general biosecurity obligation to take actions that are reasonable and practical to prevent and minimise the biosecurity risk. If you choose to leave the grounds before the Biosecurity Manager is satisfied the risk is being dealt with, you must be sure you can manage the risk at your next destination. It is recommended that you seek specialised professional advice before moving possibly affected animals.

3. BIOSECURITY EQUIPMENT

Biosecurity kit on hand at the event will include (as a minimum):

Equipment required at event:

- Microchip scanner for vet inspection (Biosecurity Manager)
- PA system (Organising committee)
- Hand sanitiser for stations around yard areas and at marshalling areas (Organising Committee)
- First aid kit (Organising committee)

Biosecurity field kit comprising:

PPE equipment

- disposable gloves
- impervious type overalls
- boots/covers

- P2 respirators
- safety goggles
- duct Tape

Decontamination equipment

- buckets
- spray bottles
- scrubbing brush
- foot bath – trays large enough to comfortably step into while footwear is worn
- Virkon for disinfection and foot baths

Isolation equipment comprising

- star pickets or panel fencing
- rolls of hessian
- large tarpaulin – isolation & exclusion areas
- hazard tape

Treatment equipment comprising

- stethoscope
- thermometer
- nasal Swabs
- specimen collection bags (Zip Lock)
- blood collection tubes
- paper hand towels
- heavy duty garbage bags
- clinical waste bags

4. BIOSECURITY INCIDENT CONTINGENCY PLAN

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

Sick horse

- Organising Committee and Biosecurity Manager are to be advised of a sick horse immediately.
- Biosecurity Manager will contact the event vet.
- Horse is to be taken to quarantine area, via the most direct route avoiding any unnecessary contact with other people or horses until review by the vet.
- All persons attending to the sick horse will use PPE until the event vet deems otherwise.

Vet attendance

- On examination of the sick horse, the event vet will decide on the initial course of action which may include a Hendra Exclusion test. If this is the determined course of action, samples will be prepared and delivered to the Biosecurity Services Laboratory, Coopers Plains (delivery prior to 2.00 pm for same day testing).
- The horse owner will be responsible for costs of such tests.
- In consultation with the event vet, the owner may be required to organise for their own treating vet.
- If a Hendra exclusion test is undertaken, the horse will be moved to and remain in isolation until the test results are available.

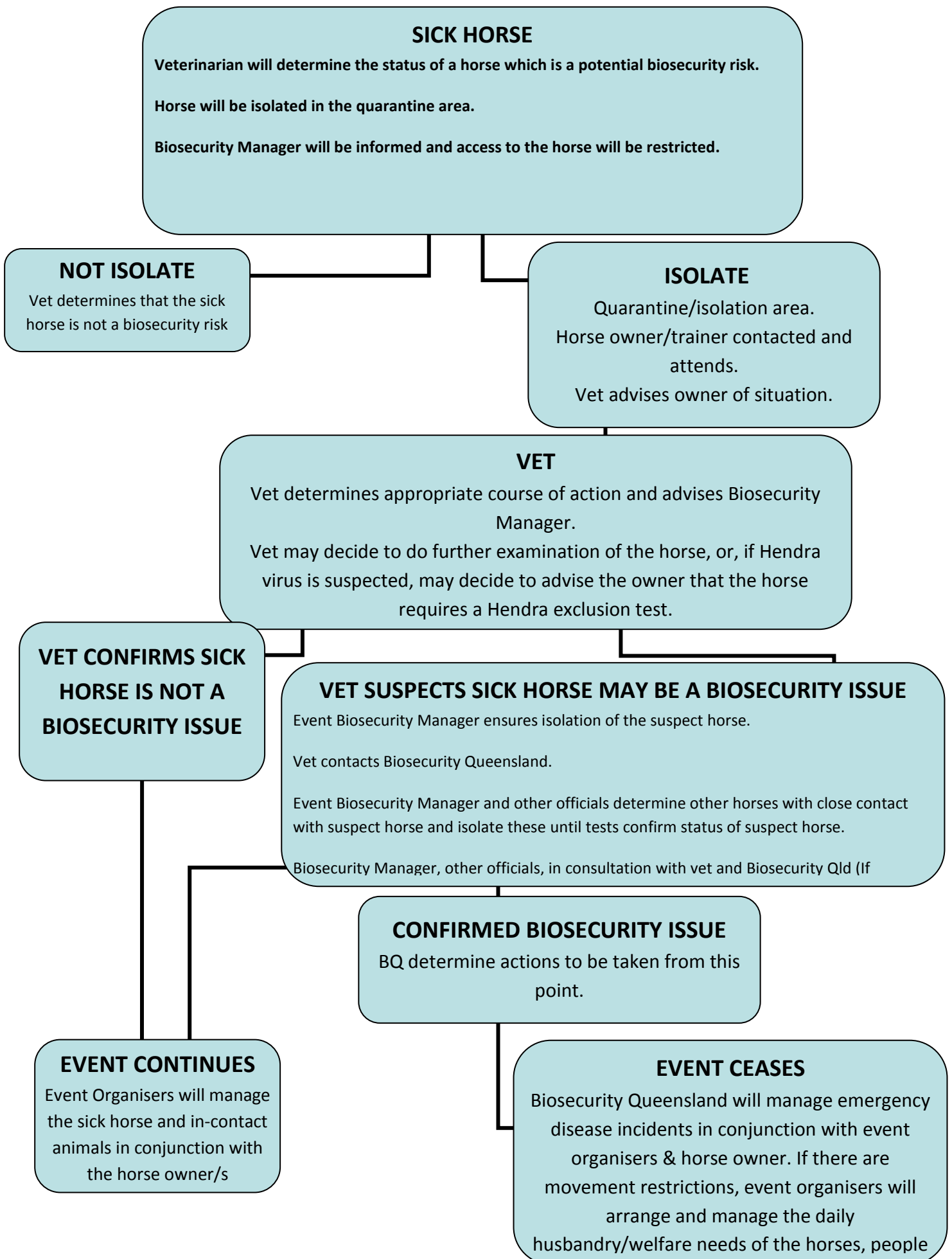
- If the horse is deemed to be non-infectious it may be returned to regular stable and will be managed by owner/ exhibitor and attending vet (at owner's expense).
- OR -
- If the horse is diagnosed as being a possible biosecurity threat it is to remain in isolation stable with a minimum fifteen metre perimeter to other horses or passing people.
- Biosecurity Manager will contact Emergency Disease watch hotline 1800 675 888.
- All people within the isolation zone ie vet, officials, owner, are to don PPE gear when tending to horse.
- Disinfection of shoes via footbaths and strict hand hygiene to be followed.
- Entry and exit points to grounds will be reduced to 1 monitored point only.

Biosecurity issue Identified

- Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with attending vet will contact Biosecurity Queensland 132523.
- Biosecurity Manager will ask Organising Committee to close exit points and broadcast to all present at the venue to remain on site until further notice and exit points are closed.
- Event organising committee will take advice about whether to continue with the event, after discussion with Biosecurity Queensland, and advise participants of this decision.
- Horse Health Declarations for all horses on site will be made available to Biosecurity Queensland.
- Access to isolation area will be patrolled by Biosecurity Manager and limited to essential personnel.
- All horse movement to cease unless authorised by Biosecurity Queensland.

Lockdown

- Biosecurity Queensland will advise if a total lockdown of the venue is required and the event organising committee will advise participants of this decision.
- The 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 Biosecurity Manager will make arrangements for waste removal if required.
- The event organiser will arrange for fodder to be available for purchase by participants.
- Further bedding for stables will be arranged by the event organiser in conjunction with the venue and be available for purchase by participants.
- Biosecurity Queensland will advise the Biosecurity Manager and participants of any further protocols required.
- The Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with the organising committee and horse owner will arrange removal and disposal of deceased animals if required – costs to be met by horse owner.



5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Notification of all affected parties is a critical component for an effective infectious disease control plan. Development of a clear, concise and accurate message about a situation, the measures being taken and the procedures for event participants to follow is critical to prevent the spread of disease and panic among event participants and the general horse-owning public.

This plan outlines the communication protocols and the range of biosecurity messages for competitors before the event, for all attendees during the event, including if there is a biosecurity incident.

BEFORE THE EVENT

Key messages	Audience	Communication Tools	Communication Channels	Person responsible
<p>Biosecurity is everybody's business.</p> <p>All horse owners and riders have a biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.</p> <p>Competitors expected to ensure good biosecurity practices at home, and at the event and act at the direction of the organizing committee and Biosecurity Manager.</p>	All event competitors, their parents, coaches and teachers.	Biosecurity Statement date 31 st May 2017	Via State Committees	Organising Committee to arrange distribution

DURING THE EVENT

Key messages	Audience	Communication Tools	Communication channels	Person responsible
<p>Organizing Committee has measures in place to mitigate risk of infection, disease and pests.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of a biosecurity incident, biosecurity plan will be implemented.</p> <p>You will be notified about the incident and expected follow the directions given by the organizing committee.</p> <p>Everyone will be expected to remain at the venue until cleared to leave by the organizing committee.</p> <p>In the event of horse movement restrictions participants are responsible for the care, maintenance and cost of their horses and themselves, including feeding, bedding, vets and personal needs.</p>	Competitors Everyone at venue	Biosecurity Statement A3 poster	<p>Handed to all competitors on arrival/collection of rider packs.</p> <p>Posted on gate and other visible points at venue</p>	<p>Biosecurity Manager to provide signage to Organizing Committee</p> <p>Contact person is Biosecurity Manager</p>
Information and tips for good biosecurity practice	Everyone at venue	Signage as per examples in this plan	Posted throughout venue	Organizing Committee/Biosecurity Manager

DURING THE EVENT IF THERE IS A BIOSECURITY THREAT/INCIDENT

In the unlikely event of a biosecurity incident, the Biosecurity Manager will:

1. Advise the organising committee of the situation.
2. Meet with the directly affected parties to advise the actions to be taken, including isolating the horse/s, contacting vet and authorities.
3. Contact the emergency disease hotline.
4. Identify all parties who may have had contact with the sick horse.
5. Act as the main point of contact between the authorities and the organising committee.
6. Prepare media/public statements as required.

The organising committee will:

1. Arrange for event staff to be stationed at venue exit points.
2. Provide staff at exits with equipment to take car/truck registration details of anyone who leaves the site, and information sheets to hand to people in exiting vehicles.
3. Advise all attendees at the event via public address system that a biosecurity matter is being investigated, the horse/s have been isolated, and authorities have been called.
4. Ask all people to stay well clear of the isolation area and request everyone to remain on site until further notice.
5. Advise everyone that updates will be provided as soon as information comes to hand.
6. Invite attendees to come to information booth if they have any questions.
7. Brief key messengers.
8. Arrange for notices to be produced and placed on vehicles on the grounds if required.

Key messages	Audience	Communication tools	Communication channels	Spokesperson/ Person Responsible
<p>OC is managing a potential biosecurity matter. We have a plan and will be enacting it for the safety of every person and horse on site. Horse/s have been isolated, authorities called. Ask everyone to stay well away from isolation area. Please do not leave the venue without discussion with OC. We will keep you updated. Questions to the information booth.</p> <p>Monitor your horse's health - what to look for.</p>	All attendees at event	Verbal Written	PA system Key messengers Notice given to all people leaving venue and placed on all vehicles at venue.	Event director/ OC BM has copies of notice. OC to arrange distribution
Status update of situation – particularly advising people when they can leave Venue	All attendees	Verbal Written	PA system Key messengers Notes on vehicles	OC
If there is a confirmed biosecurity threat	All attendees general public	Written statement Posts	Media Social media	BIOSECURITY QLD/DAF MEDIA

AFTER THE EVENT

Key messages	Audience	Communication tools	Communication channels	Spokesperson/ Person responsible
Outcome of bio security incident	Attendees Equestrian community General community	Statement	Media Social media EQ website	BIOSECURITY QLD/DAF MEDIA
	Authorities	Written report		BM

6. BIOSECURITY INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS

Workplace health and safety requirements

Horse Industry associations that conduct a business or undertaking have duties under work health and safety legislation to ensure the health and safety of themselves, their workers and other persons so far as is reasonably practicable. Risks to health and safety must be eliminated so far as is reasonably practicable. If this is not reasonably practicable, the risks must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

A horse event may be a workplace for some persons but not others. Events must:

- provide and maintain a work environment without risks to health and safety
- provide and maintain safe plant and structures
- provide and maintain safe systems of work
- ensure the safe use, handling, and storage of plant, structures and substances
- provide adequate facilities (including hand hygiene and first aid facilities) for the welfare at work of workers including ensuring access to those facilities
- provide any information, training, instruction or supervision that is necessary to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety

A Safework Australia Volunteer Resource Kit is available at:

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/aws/model-whs-laws/guidelines/volunteers/pages/resource-kit>

Biosecurity management

Biosecurity risks can be reduced by taking steps to:

- a. prevent introduction of disease onto grounds
- b. prevent the spread of disease on the grounds
- c. minimise the effect and spread of a disease incident within the ground

Prevention of introduction of disease onto grounds

Biosecurity policy and manager

Measures include adopting biosecurity policies as outlined in section 2 of this plan, appointing a biosecurity manager for the event, and ensuring good record keeping.

Record keeping

Horse Health Declarations should be kept by the biosecurity manager for six months after the event.

The Property Identification Code (PIC) of horse's origin and property it is returning to must be on the Horse Health Declaration. If no PIC is available, a clear, precise and identifiable property street address is to be used. In Queensland, it is a legal requirement that all horse owners must apply to register their property with Biosecurity Queensland <http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/moving-selling-livestock/national-livestock-identification-system/property-registration/multiple-land-parcels>.

Records should be kept of any volunteer/staff training activities the club or organisation has undertaken as it relates to activities/roles individuals are expected to perform during events or in the advent of a biosecurity outbreak.

Reviews and updates of your Biosecurity Plan should also be recorded and amendments noted on all such documents as soon as the reviews are completed.

It is prudent to lodge these documents on your club or organisation website for all to see, as well as during specific notice to them in newsletters, social media links or the like.

Prevention of spread of disease on the grounds

Venue

Venue planning should include:

- placement of hand washing facilities and sanitiser at strategic, prescribed areas eg near the toilet shower block, horse wash area, waste disposal area, isolation area, etc.
- an isolation area for sick horses
- restricted entry/exit points for spectators and competitors
- restricted access to isolation areas
- location of food preparation and dining areas away from animal contact areas
- identification of trees on-site that are attractive to flying foxes and restriction of access to these areas while the trees are flowering/fruited and attracting flying foxes
- covering feed and water troughs and not placing these under trees
- installing surfaces, equipment, fittings and materials that can be readily cleaned and disinfected
- good general ventilation
- design of traffic management systems and vehicle parking and delivery points for spectators, competitors, vendors, tradespersons, and emergency vehicles
- design of horse movement corridors within the facility
- design of waste management points and waste water management
- placement of biosecurity signage.

People

- Signage should inform visitors and competitors of the importance of biosecurity at the event.
- Specific biosecurity information should be included on event entries for all entrants to see.
- People should be encouraged to minimise (as much as practicable) contact with horses; **in particular other people's horses.**
- Horse carers should be encouraged to restrict public access to their horses as much as practicable.
- Horse handlers should be urged to regularly use hand sanitiser.
- The use of a detergent/disinfectant when cleaning equipment is recommended.
- Hand hygiene signage should be visible at all times.
- All officials should wash hands or apply hand sanitiser between contacting different horses or between classes where practicable and ensure any organic matter present is cleaned off hands or equipment prior to sanitisation.
- Where possible people should not camp in close proximity to where the horses are stabled, nor should horses be in close proximity to where people are cooking and eating.

Vehicles

- Every effort should be made to ensure the cleanliness of vehicles/floats entering the venue.
- All local regulations en-route regarding the transport of plant material, seeds, weed control, etc must be adhered to.

Horses

- No communal water troughs should be supplied.
- Contact with other horses and animals on the grounds should be minimised (as much as practicable).
- Encourage people not to share their horse's water, feed containers or equipment. If this must happen, they should clean and disinfect gear between horse use
- Where practicable stable horses that have been vaccinated for Hendra virus separate from horses that have not been vaccinated.
- Feed and water should be kept under cover and away from trees to prevent contamination from birds/flying foxes.

Manure

- Stables/yards should be kept clean of manure and feed scraps on a regular basis during an event, clinic or training days. This should be drawn to the attention of all concerned.
- Where possible, efforts are to be made to pick up manure from communal walkways and exercise areas as soon as possible.
- Manure is to be disposed of in designated 'manure' sites around the grounds.

Dogs

- Dogs are not a preferred option at events.

- If they are attending, dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and should be permitted in the camping areas only.
- It is the owner's responsibility to pick up and dispose of dog droppings.

Fodder (for interstate competitors)

- Any feed brought into the venue from Interstate must comply with Department requirements and a fodder declaration must be completed if required. Further information is at:
<http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/plants/moving-plants-and-plant-products/into-or-within-queensland/bringing-fodder-or-hay-into-queensland>

Minimising the effect and spread of a disease incident within the grounds

Veterinarian

- A designated veterinarian/isolation yard should be supplied.
- A veterinarian should be on call.
- A disposal area to bury or burn deceased horses should be organised prior to the event. This may be offsite. If this is the case a plan will need to be developed as to how the carcass will be transported to the burial site. (Ensure that you advise the horse disposal contractors of any potential human health risks if a horse is suspected, or confirmed to be infected, with a zoonotic disease).

Site map

A site map should include:

- entry and exit point/s
- isolation area
- stabling
- public access
- public parking
- participants' parking
- designated exercise/warm up areas
- event activities
- manure disposal area
- other waste areas (eg feed, soiled bedding, clinical waste including sharps)
- location of cleaning agents, disinfectant
- location of hand washing basins and hand sanitisers
- location of first aid kits
- location of PPE Kit
- water sources
- a traffic flow/movement of people information (spectators, competitors and officials), vehicles, animals and emergency vehicles for safe exiting of the venue.

Further information about horse movements, biosecurity concerns and documentation requirements in Queensland is at: http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/27_5857.htm