Keep this important information in your horse truck glovebox or first aid kit, in the tack or feed room.

Hand copies out to new agistment clients, students and 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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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Although all reasonable care has been taken in preparing this information, no responsibility or liability is accepted resulting from the interpretation or use of this information. This information is subject to change without notice.
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 the South Australian 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 guide:
- Is available for free download
- May be reproduced in full or part, in its original unchanged form, as long as the original source is acknowledged.
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 Animal Disease Watch Hotline**

**Ph: 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
Biosecurity for Horses

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 biosecurity in meeting agendas, provide news updates.

BEWARE

Be Aware and Be Smart. Never assume that a local exotic or reportable disease will not affect you. Get immediate advice.

DO NOT take an ill or suspect horse to a horse or mixed species gathering (e.g. country show, event, race meeting or recreational activity)

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.
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 and 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. Allocate separate equipment, including stable cleaning tools, to the isolated horses. Regularly disinfect. Wash hands and boots between handling all horses. Change clothing and wash after handling isolated horses before doing any other tasks.
Biosecurity tips for your property

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 also allows weed seeds and worms to pass through the horse, preventing spread over your property.
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 parking areas near the property boundary. This contains the introduction of weed seeds and reduces interaction of visiting horses with resident horses.

Shelter belts placed around the property boundary increase habitat and reduce nose to nose contact with neighbouring horses.
WHAT INFORMATION WILL YOU NEED TO SUPPLY TO A VET OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

- Name, address, contact details of the property where the horse is kept
- Property Identification Code (PIC)
- Horse owner’s 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 and flood.

Every property with one or more livestock is required by law to have a Property Identification Codes (PIC) Ph 8226 0995 or visit:

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL & COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE

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 national regulations for the land transport of livestock.

For more information visit:

www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au
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 will 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 Animal 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, and seek cooperation.
5. Record all movements, including all persons, horse ID and 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 and horses from the property or establishment of a **CONTROL AREA.**

**Sick horses must not be brought onto an event ground.**
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 or 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 Animal 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 and 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**

Temperature 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: ____________________________________________________________

EMERGENCY ANIMAL 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
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Equestrian Australia............. www.sa.equestrian.org.au
Harness Racing SA .............. www.saharnessracing.com
Pony Club Association of SA Inc. . www.ponyclub.asn.au
Horse SA ........................... www.horsesa.asn.au
Thoroughbred Racing SA ......... www.racingsa.com.au
Magic Millions .................. www.magicmillions.com.au
SA Thoroughbred Breeders ...... www.sabreeders.com.au
RAHS ............................... www.theshow.com.au
SA Jockey Club ..................... www.sajc.com.au