

10<sup>th</sup> October 2007

## **EQUINE INFLUENZA UPDATE**

We apologise for being late with our accounts this month, for any of you who came into the clinic this month you would have seen that all staff were hard at work helping clients with the equine flu crisis.

This crisis is now into its second month and we have seen nearly 80% of the district succumb to the epidemic. Symptoms have ranged from mild to very severe and seem to be lasting for up to 3 weeks and be very intermittent and yet persistent in their nature. Please continue to monitor your horses as many seem to relapse during the course of the illness and definitely need veterinary attention.

The DPI has been fairly inconsistent and ambiguous in their instructions during the epidemic which has been very frustrating. They have now divided regions into zones. Our district has a combination of purple and red zones. Please check with either the office or our website [www.hevc.com.au](http://www.hevc.com.au) or the DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au), to see in which zone your property lies and the necessary restrictions involved.

There are no restrictions on movement within the purple zone which will allow us to now start doing some routine work and breeding work. However, you cannot move out of the purple zone without a permit. The red zone is not able to move at all without a permit. There is no restriction on the movement of chilled or frozen semen, so this will help some of those wanting to breed, if you are unable to move your horse.

For those performance horses who are now recovering from the flu and may be ready to start work, it is best to wait at least 2 weeks after the last symptom and commence slowly, watching out for any returning respiratory symptom. It is advisable to get a full blood test done to check the metabolic state of your horse before work commences as in many cases there is a residual problem present even without clinical signs.

If you still have any concerns over your horses health, rules about movement or questions about ongoing breeding, training commencement or now routine work, please do not hesitate to contact us at the clinic and we will try and assist you as best we can.

John & Tony