

24th October 2007

EQUINE INFLUENZA UPDATE

The latest update in the flu epidemic has a few new developments.

Firstly, the DPI have backed down about their initial first decision to only pay for surveillance consultations after 11th September, 2007. They now state that they will consider any claim prior to this date on a case by case basis. They will still not pay for any drugs used or revisits to sick animals, however should you wish to claim for the DPI to pay for your initial surveillance visit prior to 11th September, 2007 please contact our office and we can place you on the list we will submit to the DPI on your behalf.

Secondly, the DPI is now organizing to make vaccines available in the purple and red zones. This will be coordinated through your local veterinarian. If you are in the purple or red area and have not had the flu and are more than 500mts from an infected property you can apply to be vaccinated. Again just give the office a ring and we can take your details and submit your application to the DPI. You will need to provide your name, address, contact number, DP number of your property, number of horses (whether they are breeding stock etc) and if you are a business enterprise.

The DPI will allocate vaccinations on a priority basis. They are also requesting us to microchip all animals at the time of vaccinating.

Thirdly, if you have any EFA registered horses that are not infected or for some reason have not contacted the flu you can have your horses vaccinated immediately through vaccination made available by the EFA. Again please contact us so we can organize this for you.

Finally, as horses start to get over the flu and possibly get back into work, please remember to take it slowly and look out for any returning respiratory symptoms. A full blood count certainly gives you a good starting point and allows you to check there are no residual problems before your horse is exposed to heavy work.

We can now get back to routine work, with all procedures now available providing the horses are over the flu. Be aware that mosquitoes seem to be around with a vengeance at the moment so watch out for itch problems and keep their rugs on if possible.

Again any concerns over any of the above issues please give us a call and we will try and help you.

John and Tony