



AERA BIOSECURITY PLAN TEMPLATE

EVENT	
LOCATION	

Ride organisers may add information and references specific to their area and State Government requirements.

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 Ride Organising Committee (ROC) and the Biosecurity Officer or risk expulsion from the event.

This plan includes:

1. Event Details
2. Emergency contact information
3. Biosecurity Policy - information for event organisers
4. Details of biosecurity kit and equipment required to be available at event
5. Communication Plan, Site Plan, Contingency Plan

Please note any biosecurity requirements specific to the event. Any requirements that are not aligned with the AERA Statement must be approved by the Division Association.

1 EVENT DETAILS

Name of event	
Address of the venue	
PIC of venue	
Number of exit and entry points	
Date of first arrivals and last departures	From: To:
Event Organiser and phone number	
Event Biosecurity Officer	
Site map attached	

2 EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

ORGANISATION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	COMMENT
Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline			
Biosecurity (State govt details)			
Biosecurity Officer			
Event Veterinarian			
Local Veterinarian 1			
Other Local Veterinarians			
Body Disposal Company			
Clinical waste disposal			
Venue Owner/Manager			
Neighbours with horses			
Local Police			
Workplace Health Safety (State govt details)			
Local hospital			

3 BIOSECURITY POLICY

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 for all rides.
- The property identification code (PIC) of the horse's origin and returning property must be included on the HHD.
- Acceptance into the event will be refused if the required HHD is not presented at point of entry or designated registration point.
- No horses with signs of illness are to be brought onto the grounds.
- Equipment, including food containers is not to be shared between horses.
- Direct nose to nose contact between horses that are not regularly in contact should be minimised.

- Horse floats and trucks should be cleaned and disinfected before leaving to go to the event.
- Biosecurity equipment identified later in this document should be available at all times.
- Competitors are responsible for cleaning up manure from yards and placing it in designated areas.
- 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 anyone to have close contact with the sick horse.
- Everyone handling horses should wash or sanitise hands between contacting different horses.

Please note that details relative to Horse Health Declarations and Temperature Log duration have been spelt out in more detail below. It is particularly important to observe the strong recommendations regarding duration of Temperature Log maintenance.

The Horse Health Declaration

A Horse Health Declaration - current forms available on the AERA website

<https://aera.asn.au/index.php/administration/forms> - must be completed prior to entry to the venue and will detail the contact details of the owner or person in charge of the horse, the address and PIC number of the horse's property of origin immediately prior to travel, a temperature log, a horse health declaration by the owner or person in charge of the horse(s), and a declaration.

The Temperature Log Duration

Temperature logs must be completed by the person in charge of the horse. The temperature log duration will be decided by the ride's Head Veterinarian in conjunction with the ride Biosecurity Officer at least one month before the ride commences. The recommendations re temperature logs are:

- For a horse not in a Hendra Risk Zone or a vaccinated horse in the Hendra Risk Zone: 3 days
- For an unvaccinated horse from a Hendra Risk Zone going to a ride in a Hendra Risk Zone, or a non-vaccinated horse from a Hendra Risk Zone going to ride in other areas: 10 days
- For National Championship (Tom Quilty) the temperature log duration is at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, the Biosecurity officer and AERA .

Horse Health Declarations should be collected at the point of entry to the ride base in Hendra Risk Zone areas. In other areas the Head Veterinarian in conjunction with the Biosecurity officer may permit them to be collected at a designated registration point, as the first point of contact. The required duration of the Temperature Log should be completed before the first point of contact, at which a supplementary Temperature Log may be required to be undertaken.

Veterinary Treatment Hospital and Isolation Zone

An endurance treatment hospital is a very important area of an endurance ride base, but can pose major risks to staff, volunteers and competitors, as such it is important that strict protocols and procedures are followed.

The Biosecurity officer, in consultation with the Organising Committee, is in charge should a biosecurity risk arise. While the Biosecurity officer does not possess the legal powers necessary to quarantine or

restrict movements of people, they will arrange to record the details of any person and/or animal leaving the grounds if they have been directed not to.

Equipment and Access

A suitable area in a quiet place on the ride base grounds needs to be set aside as designated Veterinary Team Hospital area. The area must be large enough to accommodate a number of horses, depending on the number of entries and the expected climate, terrain and experience of competitors. Horses may require some form of veterinary intervention. This can vary greatly depending on weather conditions, terrain and timing of the event (e.g. Early in the season). The area must be protected from the weather elements (sun and rain) and be private with screens erected around the Veterinary Treatment Hospital. The area must have adequate lighting to allow veterinary procedures to be conducted.

Access to the Veterinary Treatment Hospital needs to be restricted at the discretion of the Treatment Vet. If the rider or responsible person want to update or discuss with other people (e.g. strappers) they must leave the Veterinary Treatment Hospital. Officials who can access the Veterinary Treatment Hospital are the ride veterinarians, chief steward and any other ride officials at the direction of the chief steward or treatment veterinarian. There should be only one entry and exit point from the Veterinary Treatment Hospital, to allow monitoring of those present within the Veterinary Treatment Hospital.

No dogs or animals (other than horses entered in the ride) are permitted within the Veterinary Treatment Hospital.

Only ride veterinarians and trained veterinary staff are to administer treatment. The veterinarian may instruct that the person responsible or rider to leave the vicinity of the horse or stand more than 5 metres away during certain invasive procedures, or for the entirety of the treatment (at the discretion of the head veterinarian).

Certain invasive procedures may not be able to be carried out on some horses. Referral to some external hospital facilities for further diagnostic procedures and treatment must be made in consultation with the responsible person. Immediate referral may not be an option for some unvaccinated horses originating from known Hendra High Risk areas, or at/from rides conducted in known Hendra high risk areas. Referral may not be an option for some horses on financial grounds.

To ensure that all horses attending an event will be able to receive treatment if required, AERA Rulebook S1 rules 14.1 and 16.5 must be implemented well before the event date.

Riders and responsible persons must be aware that there are many limitations in the treatment of endurance horses at an endurance ride, due to the limited availability of diagnostic equipment, and the ambulatory nature of a ride base Veterinary Treatment Hospital (compared to permanent horse hospitals with 24-hour staffing and on call veterinarians and trained veterinary staff).

Appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn. Please refer to the interagency report <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/hev-inf-prev-adv.pdf> Pages 24 to 32 are particularly pertinent re infectious disease control recommendations. After administration of invasive procedures and treatment of horses, the veterinarian and those in contact must follow appropriate

decontamination procedures prior to leaving the Veterinary Treatment Hospital or having contact with another horse.

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

4 DETAILS OF BIOSECURITY KIT AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE AT EVENT

This is the *suggested minimum* list of biosecurity equipment required at an endurance ride.

Equipment Required at Event:

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

Biosecurity Field Kit

PPE Equipment:

- disposable nitrile gloves
- overalls
- boots/covers
- P2 respirators
- safety goggles
- paper hand towels
- heavy duty garbage bags
- clinical waste bags

Decontamination Equipment:

- buckets
- spray bottles
- scrubbing brush
- foot bath –detergents and disinfectant

Isolation Equipment comprising:

- star pickets with protective caps or panel fencing
- rolls of hessian
- large tarpaulin
- hazard tape

5 COMMUNICATION PLAN

Notification to 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.

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 (e.g. 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 vetting area

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/horses/hendra-virus>

A detailed site plan to be included here, and be displayed prominently at locations around the Ride Base

Biosecurity Incident Contingency Plan

In the event that a horse at the event is sick with symptoms similar to the symptoms of a notifiable disease, the following plan is to be followed:

Sick Horse

- ROC and Biosecurity officer are to be advised of a sick horse immediately.
- Biosecurity officer will contact the head vet.
- Horse is to be taken to isolation area, via the most direct route avoiding any unnecessary contact with other people or horses until review by the vet.

Vet Attendance

- If the horse is deemed to be non-infectious it may be returned to its regular stable and will be managed by the person responsible (for the horse) and the attending vet (at the responsible person's expense – see page 6).
- An event vet may decide to perform a diagnostic exclusion test and the horse will remain in isolation with a minimum five metre distance to other horses or passing people until the test results are available.
 - i. If a diagnostic exclusion test is performed with a positive result returned the event halts and State Government Biosecurity legislation ensues.
 - ii. If a diagnostic exclusion test is performed and there is strong suspicion that a positive result will be returned the event could be halted pending confirmation of the result.
 - iii. All people within the isolation zone i.e. vet, officials, owner, are to don PPE gear when tending to the horse.
 - iv. Disinfection of shoes via footbaths and strict hand hygiene are to be followed.
- If the diagnostic exclusion test result is negative the horse may return to the ride Vet hospital if treatment still needed, or to its regular stable if no further treatment is required.

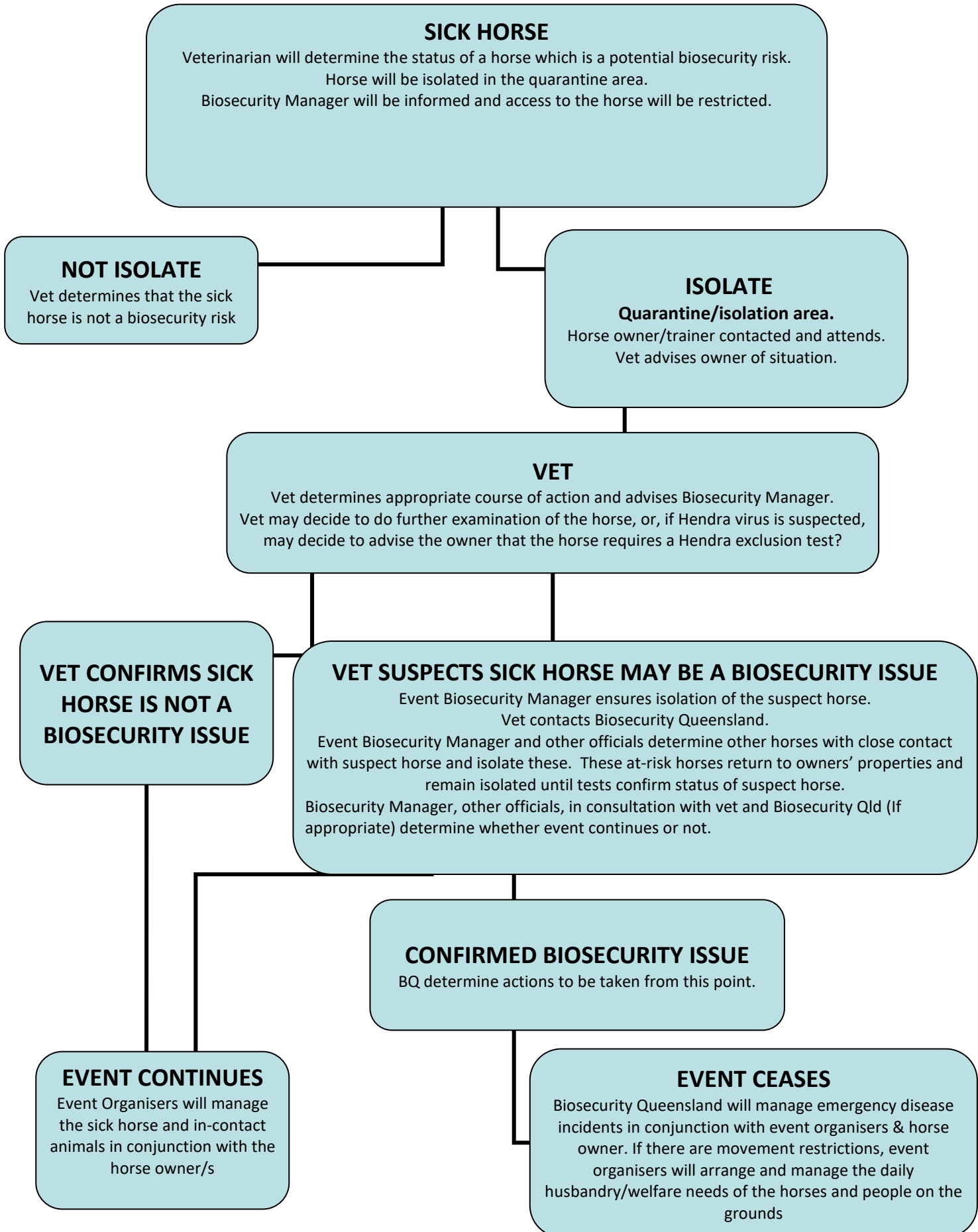
Biosecurity Issue Identified

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

Lockdown

- The Biosecurity authority of the state involved will advise if a total lockdown of the venue is required and the event organising committee will advise participants of this decision.
- The Biosecurity officer 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 officer will make arrangements for waste removal if required.
- The event organiser will arrange for fodder to be available for purchase by participants.
- Further bedding, if required, will be arranged by the Biosecurity officer in conjunction with the venue and be available for purchase by participants.
- The Biosecurity authority of the state involved will advise the Biosecurity Manager and participants of any further protocols required.
- The Biosecurity officer in conjunction with the Head Veterinarian and ROC will arrange removal and disposal of deceased animals if required.

BIOSECURITY CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SUSPECT BIOSECURITY RISK



Addendum

Links to State Government Departments responsible for Biosecurity

Qld – Farms, Fishing and Forestry: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry>

NSW – Department of Primary Industries: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

Vic – Agriculture Victoria: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture>

Tas – Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment: <https://dpiwpe.tas.gov.au/>

SA – Primary Industry & Regions: <https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/>

WA – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/>