

Current Protocols for Hendra Virus Risk Management in School of Veterinary Science and Gatton Campus

Horses and horse biological samples of two different Hendra virus (HeV) vaccination status may be brought onto UQ facilities:

(a) Fully vaccinated OR

(b) Unvaccinated

There are 7 destinations UQ-wide:

(1) Gatton:

- i. Office of the Director of Gatton Campus (ODGC);
- ii. School of Veterinary Science Equine Specialist Hospital (UQVETS – ESH);
- iii. School of Veterinary Science Pathology (SVS Pathology)
- iv. Horse biological samples used in School of Veterinary Science teaching, PC2 diagnostic services and research labs

(2) Pinjarra Hills

- i. For temporary agistment of teaching horses (if required);
- ii. Equine Research Unit for research, 212 Pinjarra Road

(3) Dayboro ambulatory first opinion veterinary clinic (UQVETS – Dayboro)

Current Controls as per UQ PPL, October 2019:

GATTON:

1 (i) ODGC:

- a) All horses including students' owned are all fully vaccinated as per their procedures and guidelines (contact ODGC for details).
- b) For research and teaching horses acquired elsewhere and arriving unvaccinated, equine clinician from UQVETS-ESH does the assessment and starts the vaccination process on the day of arrival and the horse is kept isolated (quarantined in a yard - under shelter) for 3 weeks until the initial vaccination series is complete (contact ODGC for details).

1 (ii) For UQVETS-ESH:

- a) **Fully vaccinated horses** (as per on-line veterinary only registry) together with tiered biosecurity procedures are examined without further HeV exclusion tests.
- b) **Unvaccinated horses** – All horses undergo HeV exclusion test while being held in quarantine.

1 (iii) For SVS Pathology services:

- a) **Fully vaccinated horses that come through UQVETS-ESH** (cleared through quarantine or fully vaccinated) are necropsied without further HeV exclusion test, unless the pathologist has a compelling reason to retest them – such as a syndrome closely aligning with Hendra.
- b) **Fully vaccinated horses that come to post-mortem directly:** (i.e independently of UQVETS-ESH): are necropsied without further HeV exclusion test unless the pathologist has a compelling reason to retest them – such as a syndrome closely aligning with Hendra.
- c) **Unvaccinated horses** – All horses undergo HeV exclusion test while being held in quarantine (cold room with procedures in place).

1 (iv) For teaching including anatomy practical and equine clinical classes, diagnostic and research:

- a) **Fully vaccinated horses** are euthanised and used for teaching purposes without further HeV exclusion tests. If unvaccinated horses are acquired for teaching, they will be held in the stalls on Gatton Campus while vaccination strategy is undertaken.
- b) Biological samples from **fully vaccinated horses** are used in research and teaching without further HeV exclusion test.
- c) Samples from one export slaughterhouse that processes horse meat for human consumption are used.

Pinjarra Hills:**2 (i) Horses held temporarily for Anatomy teaching:**

- Temporary agistment of anatomy teaching horses - Vaccination strategy commences soon upon procurement if to be held for longer than 10 days. Therefore when transferred to Gatton campus, they are fully vaccinated. For short-term (less than 10 days) agistment, HeV exclusion tests are carried out.

2 (ii) Equine Research Unit, 212 Pinjarra Road:

- Horses which are used in short-term terminal research studies (10 days or shorter) undergo HeV exclusion test upon arrival on-site. Therefore use in research occurs only after test results are received.
- Horses are kept under cover at all times while enrolled in a research trial and are closely monitored by the veterinarian/s listed in the ethics application form.
- Horses which are used in research studies for longer than 10 days duration are fully vaccinated prior to initiation of research activities.

3 Dayboro ambulatory first opinion veterinary clinic (UQVETS – Dayboro):

- Regardless of the vaccination status, PRIOR to any horses arriving on-site all horses are assessed via phone contact as per tiered biosecurity triage system by a UQ veterinarian.

The following flow diagram summarises the **CURRENT** procedures.

Red arrows indicate entry procedures for unvaccinated horses

Current procedures mandate while all fully vaccinated horses have direct entries without quarantine, they still undergo HeV exclusion test prior to any down-stream procedures.



