

Protect your horses from diseases and pests

Consult a Greater Sydney Local Land Services District Veterinarian for expert advice and assistance on managing livestock health including

- emergency disease prevention, preparedness and response
- disease surveillance and reporting
- advisory services
- movement advice
- certification
- regulation

If you see something unusual, contact the 24-hour emergency animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

Contact Us



1300 795 299



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Biosecurity is a shared responsibility

Are you introducing horses?

- consider a pre-purchase examination by a veterinarian
- isolate new arrivals from resident animals for three weeks and during this time check new arrivals twice daily for signs of disease
- treat introduced horses during the quarantine period for worms and external parasites if required. Handle, feed and water them last using clean, separate equipment.

Horses being moved from Queensland are subject to entry restrictions on account of cattle tick. If any direct contact is required including feeding and treatment, then handling of these horses should be done last using separate equipment.

Property Identification Codes (PIC)

A PIC is a unique identifier and a legal requirement for land on which livestock, including horses, is kept in NSW. It assists in responding to disease outbreaks such as the Equine Influenza outbreak in 2007 and natural disasters such as fires and floods. You can obtain a PIC by contacting Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

Movement requirements

Horses moving within NSW by vehicle may require a Transported Stock Statement (TSS).

The following horse movements are exempt from the requirement for a TSS

- horses being transported to or from any agricultural show, exhibition, gymkhana, pony club meeting or similar function
- racehorses or harness racing horses being transported from one place to another

- horses being transported to or from any place for use as working horses
- horses being transported to or from a place for veterinary treatment.

TSSs are available individually or in booklets from Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

Going to events

Events such as shows, camp drafts and pony club, where horses from many different properties come together have the potential to spread infectious diseases. There are some simple steps you can take to reduce the impact

- monitor your horse's health prior to the event and don't take any horses showing signs of illness
- do not share feed and water containers or gear
- avoid nose-to-nose contact with horses from other locations

Vaccinations

There are several vaccines available for horses. In general

- all horses should be vaccinated against tetanus
- all horses be vaccinated against Hendra virus
- other vaccines such as strangles and equine herpes virus may be recommended in certain situations.



Hendra Virus

There have been numerous confirmed cases of Hendra virus in horses in NSW.

Hendra virus can spread from flying foxes to horses. On rare occasions, it has spread from infected horses to people. There have been four deaths in humans infected with Hendra. A vaccine is available to protect your horse and in turn protect you and other people handling your horse.

The clinical signs of Hendra virus in horses vary, especially in the early stages. Affected horses often show either respiratory or neurological signs, or a combination of both. Death can occur quickly as result.

If you suspect your horse has Hendra virus, contact your vet and follow their advice. Ensure you have minimal contact with your horse until Hendra virus has been ruled out.