



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

HENDRA VACCINATION BY-LAW

Effective 1 July 2014

The Equestrian Australia Hendra By-Law may also be found on the
Equestrian Australia website: <http://www.equestrian.org.au>

1. Introduction:

Equestrian Australia (EA) has a responsibility to its members, horses, event organising committees and venues to take reasonable steps to protect equine and human health.

EA recognises the potentially serious impacts of Hendra virus and accepts the advice of relevant government agencies that vaccination is the single most effective way of reducing the risk of Hendra virus infection in horses and people.

EA has determined that there is a risk to equestrian Events from Hendra Virus and that this can be reduced by the implementation of appropriate biosecurity plans. Organising Committees should contact their State Branch for a template plan.

The EA Board under rules 19 and 31.1 of the EA Constitution has acting reasonably, in good faith and in the best interest of Equestrian sport, formulated this by-law for the proper advancement, management and administration of Equestrian sport.

2. Definitions:

Organising Committee (OC): Any organisation, group, society, body or person which is recognised by the relevant EA National Sport Committee and which is, or held to be, responsible for the management of an Event.

Event: A complete meeting, "Show", "Championship" or "Games". Events may be organised for one or more than one Discipline.

1. Dressage Event - Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Dressage.
2. Driving Event - Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Carriage Driving.
3. Endurance Event - Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Endurance Riding.
4. Equestrian Event - Events that include competitions for more than one Sport.
5. Eventing Event- Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Eventing including Three-Day Events (3DE). Two-Day Events (2DE). One-Day Event (ODE),
6. Jumping Event - Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Jumping.
7. Para-Equestrian Event – Events where the competitions are exclusively for Athletes with a disability.
8. Reining Event – Events where the Competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Reining.
9. Show Horse Event - Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Show Horse.
10. Vaulting Event - Events where the competitions are exclusively for the Sport of Vaulting.
11. Interschool Event – Events where the competitions are exclusively for athletes enrolled as a student in a school.

3. Application:

EA requires that, as of 1 July 2014:

All Organising Committees are encouraged to classify all their Events as **Hendra Vaccinated Events** (HVE). An HVE is an Event that has an entry requirement that participating horses must be vaccinated against Hendra Virus (HEV) to be eligible to participate.

During the initial planning stages for any Events, all Organising Committees must assess the biosecurity risk of a Hendra virus incident at their Event by using the EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION HENDRA BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST (as provided in Annexure 2).

3.1 Requirements for events located within the Endemic Regions

Organising Committees running an Event in the Endemic Regions, (as defined in Annexure 3), having applied the Equestrian Competition Hendra Biosecurity Checklist and getting a score of 50 or above, shall make their Event a HVE. In this situation, the OC shall make Hendra vaccination a condition of entry/attendance for horses.

Riders/owners must not enter/attend the HVE without their attending horses being fully vaccinated for HEV.

Organising Committees must advise all participating riders that all attending horses must be vaccinated against Hendra virus before being permitted to attend and participate in the Event.

Hendra vaccination is defined in Annexure 1.

3.2 Requirements for events located within the Non-Endemic Regions

Organising Committees running an Event in a Non Endemic Region, (as defined in Annexure 3), having applied the Equestrian Competition Hendra Biosecurity Checklist and getting a score of 50 or above, shall make their Event a HVE. In these situations, ONLY horses travelling from the Endemic Region(s) must be Hendra vaccinated and horses from the Non-Endemic Region(s) DO NOT have to be Hendra vaccinated (refer to annexure 3 for the definition of Endemic and Non-Endemic regions).

Organising Committees must advise participating riders that horses from the Endemic Region(s) must be vaccinated against Hendra virus before being permitted to attend and participate in the Event.

Regardless of their origin, it is strongly advised that all horses competing at a HVE in Non-Endemic Regions be vaccinated against Hendra Virus.

4. Exemptions:

4.1 For horses

Visiting International Horses (eg, from NZ) are exempt from this EA Hendra Vaccination By-Law unless they are attending a HVE and have been residing in Australia for a period of more than 6 continuous weeks duration.

Exemptions for individual horses from this EA Hendra Vaccination By-Law may be granted on the basis of:

1. A horse suffering one or more severe reactions as certified by a veterinarian; and
2. A certified blood test that details the current levels of circulating HEV antibodies (HEV antibody titre blood test). The EA Veterinary Committee will then determine if the resulting HEV antibody titre is sufficient to confer protective immunity.

4.2 For Events

An opportunity exists for reclassification of a HVE ONLY under extenuating circumstances, by application to the EA Veterinary Committee prior to the scheduling of the Event.

4.3 Applying for an exemption

Applications for exemption must be made in writing to the Chair of the EA Veterinary Committee to be considered by the EA Veterinary Committee in conjunction with the EA CEO. Any decision on an exemption by EA cannot be subject to appeal.

5. Compliance and Audit:

The onus on compliance with this By-law lies primarily with owners and riders. It is the responsibility of riders/owners to comply with any vaccination Event requirements under this by-law.

EA can assist Organising Committees in;

1. assessing their biosecurity risk with respect to Hendra Disease;
2. developing appropriate biosecurity plans and policies for their events;
3. correct Event classification process.

EA will conduct random audits on Organising Committees and/or Events to determine compliance with this by-law.

EA will conduct random audits on Event participating horses to determine compliance with this by-law.

Riders must ensure that they have records (A Hendra Vaccination Certificate from Zoetis) of any HEV vaccinations and/or can demonstrate the vaccination status of their horse via the Zoetis Hendra Vaccination Registry.

6. Sanctions:

6.1 Penalties for Riders

The following penalties will be imposed if this by-law is found to be breached:

- **First breach:** EA will issue the rider with a written warning and the horse found to have breached the by-law will be suspended from competing at HVE's until the rider can prove the horse has been vaccinated according to the definition outlined in Annexure 1.
- **Second breach:** The rider of the horse found to have breached the by-law will be fined \$500 and must forfeit any prize money gained from the Event where the breach was found to occur.

The horse will be suspended from attending HVE competition until it can be proven the horse has been vaccinated according to the definition outlined in Annexure 1.

- **Third breach:** The rider of the horse found to have breached the by-law will be suspended from EA competition for a period of six months, he/she will be fined a further \$500 and must forfeit any prize money gained from the Event where the breach was found to occur. The horse will be suspended from attending HVE competition until it can be proven the horse has been vaccinated according to the definition outlined in Annex 1.

All fines received under this by-law shall be remitted to EA for integrity in equestrian programs or as otherwise deemed appropriate.

6.2 Penalties for Organising Committees

If through random audits an Event is found to be not correctly classified then EA will work with the Organising Committees to ensure the Equestrian Competition Hendra Biosecurity Checklist is being correctly applied.

7. Review:

This By-Law will be reviewed by EA and the EA Veterinary Committee as required.

Annexure 1

Horses require two doses of HEV (Hendra Virus) vaccine administered 21 to 42 days apart to provide protection with 21 days to have elapsed following the second dose before full protection is achieved.

Every six months following the second HEV vaccine dose, another booster vaccination dose is required. Full protection is maintained if this booster dose is administered within 35 days from the due date.

Failure to give a booster vaccination with 35 days of the due date means that full protection is not maintained until it is administered. If the booster dose is more than 6 months late, the vaccination program would need to be restarted again.

Annexure 3 – HEV Endemic and Non Endemic Regions

The HEV Endemic and Non-Endemic regions are defined by EA, based on information made available from the relevant state animal biosecurity authorities. Hendra virus is regarded as endemic in Australian flying fox populations.

Currently, Hendra disease in horses has occurred in the states of New South Wales and Queensland. These are both regarded by Equestrian Australia as Endemic regions.

To date, there has been no occurrence of Hendra disease in the states of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and the territories of Northern Territory and the ACT. These states and territories are regarded by Equestrian Australia as Non-Endemic regions.

These classifications may be altered.