

Notifiable Diseases of Livestock

B. Radunz, Chief Veterinary Officer, Darwin

INTRODUCTION

As required by the *Livestock Act*, the occurrence of any of the livestock diseases listed in Table 1 must be reported to the Chief Veterinary Officer by owners, managers, agents and veterinarians. The purpose is to ensure a rapid disease control response to minimise the spread of the disease and thereby prevent or control any adverse effects on the industry and the economy.

Reporting outbreaks of those diseases is mandatory when they are suspected or if there is a positive laboratory confirmation of a disease. Not reporting a disease intentionally carries a penalty of \$66 500. Owners and farm staff are therefore encouraged to report all unusual disease events in their livestock. It is important that no one attempts to hide an outbreak of a notifiable disease.



Anyone who intentionally fails to report an occurrence of a notifiable disease will be prosecuted. Then an educational campaign of proper procedures will be conducted to inform owners, property staff and veterinarians.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES

Emergency animal diseases must be reported immediately when there is a suspected case or when an emergency animal disease is confirmed. Contact the Chief Veterinary Officer by phone on (08) 8999 2130 during business hours. After hours, ring 1800 675 888.

Alternatively, contact the local Senior Field Veterinary Officer. Business hours phone numbers for Senior Field Veterinary Officers are:

Senior Field Veterinary Officer	Darwin	(08) 8999 2035
Senior Field Veterinary Officer	Katherine	(08) 8973 9716
Senior Field Veterinary Officer	Alice Springs	(08) 8951 8181

Under the national Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement there are severe financial consequences for the Northern Territory (NT) if an outbreak of disease is not reported nationally within 24 hours.

The national cost sharing arrangement will not apply if reporting to the NT authorities does not occur within 24 hours of an outbreak and if the NT authorities do not report to national authorities within 24 hours. Hence, there is the hefty penalty of \$66 500 for intentionally not reporting a disease outbreak within the specified period. In addition, the owner may not be eligible for compensation for any stock, animal products or buildings that may have to be destroyed.

EXOTIC AND ENDEMIC DISEASES

Endemic and exotic diseases must also be reported immediately. Exotic diseases are exotic to Australia but are not specified diseases under the national Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.

Reporting is mandatory if there is a positive laboratory result. The report will be investigated further before any action is taken if the laboratory finding is not consistent with the clinical symptoms of the disease, or if the diagnostic test is not precise. There are 21 endemic diseases of animals and two endemic diseases of bees that must be reported (see Table 1).

DISEASE LIST AND REPORT FORM

A reporting form has been issued to all registered veterinarians and is available on the departmental website (www.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au) and then click on 'Animals'.

Please visit us at our website:

www.nt.gov.au/d

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ISSN 0157-8243

Serial No. 821

Agdex No. 401/653

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Table 1. Notifiable animal diseases (February 2011)**EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES**

Acariasis of bees (*Acarapis woodi*)
 African horse sickness
 African swine fever
 Anthrax
 Aujeszky's disease
 Australian bat lyssavirus
 Avian influenza
 Bluetongue (clinical disease)
 Borna disease
 Bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*)
 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
 Braula fly (*Braula coeca*)
 Caprine and ovine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*)
 Classical swine fever
 Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
 Contagious equine metritis
 Dourine
 East Coast fever and Mediterranean theileriosis
 Encephalitides (tick-borne)
 Epizootic lymphangitis
 Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Venezuelan and Western)
 Equine encephalosis
 Equine influenza
 Equine piroplasmiasis (*Babesia equi*, *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*)
 Foot-and-mouth disease
 Getah virus disease
 Glanders
 Haemorrhagic septicemia
 Heartwater
 Hendra virus infection
 Infectious bursal disease (hypervirulent form and exotic antigenic variant form)
 Japanese encephalitis
 Jembrana disease
 Lumpy skin disease
 Maedi-visna
 Menangle virus infection
 Nairobi sheep disease
 New World screw-worm fly (*Cochiomyia hominivorax*)
 Newcastle disease (virulent)
 Nipah virus infection
 Old World screw-worm fly (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
 Peste des petits ruminants
 Porcine enterovirus encephalomyelitis (Teschen disease)
 Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
 Potomac fever
 Pulmonary adenomatosis (Jaagsiekte)
 Rabies
 Rift Valley fever
 Rinderpest
 Scrapie
 Sheep pox and goat pox
 Sheep scab
 Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*)
 Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)
 Swine influenza
 Swine vesicular disease
 Transmissible gastroenteritis
 Trichinellosis
 Tropiclaelaps mite (*Tropiclaelaps clareae*)

Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*)
 Varroasis (*Varroa destructor* and *Varroa jacobsoni*)
 Vesicular exanthema
 Vesicular stomatitis
 Wesselsbron disease

EXOTIC ANIMAL DISEASES

Any disease of stock not reported to occur in Australia
 Bovine virus diarrhoea (type 2)
 Camel pox
 Chagas disease
 Chronic wasting disease of deer
 Contagious agalactia
 Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
 Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever
 Duck virus enteritis (duck plague)
 Duck virus hepatitis
 Enzootic abortion of ewes
 Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (clinical disease)
 Feline Spongiform encephaloencephalopathy
 Fowl typhoid
 Leishmaniasis
 Louping ill
 Porcine cysticercosis (*Cysticercus cellulosae*)
 Post-weaning multi-system wasting syndrome
 Salmonellosis (*Salmonella abortus equi*)
 Salmonellosis (*Salmonella abortusovis*)
 Trypanosomiasis (tsetse fly associated)
 Tularaemia
 Turkey rhinotracheitis (avian metapneumovirus)
 Warble-fly infestation
 West Nile virus infection – clinical

ENDEMIC ANIMAL DISEASES

American foul brood (*Paenibacillus larvae*)
 Avian tuberculosis
 Bovine anaplasmosis in tick free areas
 Bovine babesiosis in tick free areas
 Cattle ticks (Parkhurst strain)
 Cattle ticks (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in tick free areas
 Cattle ticks (Ulum strain)
 Cattle ticks (Ultimo strain)
 Cysticercus bovis (*Taenia saginata*)
 Devil Facial Tumour Disease
 Enzootic bovine leucosis
 Equine herpes virus 1 (abortigenic and neurological strains)
 Equine infectious anemia
 Equine viral arteritis
 European foul brood (*Melissococcus pluton*)
 Hydatid disease (*Echinococcus granulosus*)
 Liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*)
 Malignant catarrhal fever (wildebeest associated)
 Paratuberculosis (John's disease)
 Porcine brucellosis (*Brucella suis*)
 Porcine myocarditis (Bungowannah virus infection)
 Pullorum disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)
Salmonella enteritidis infection in poultry