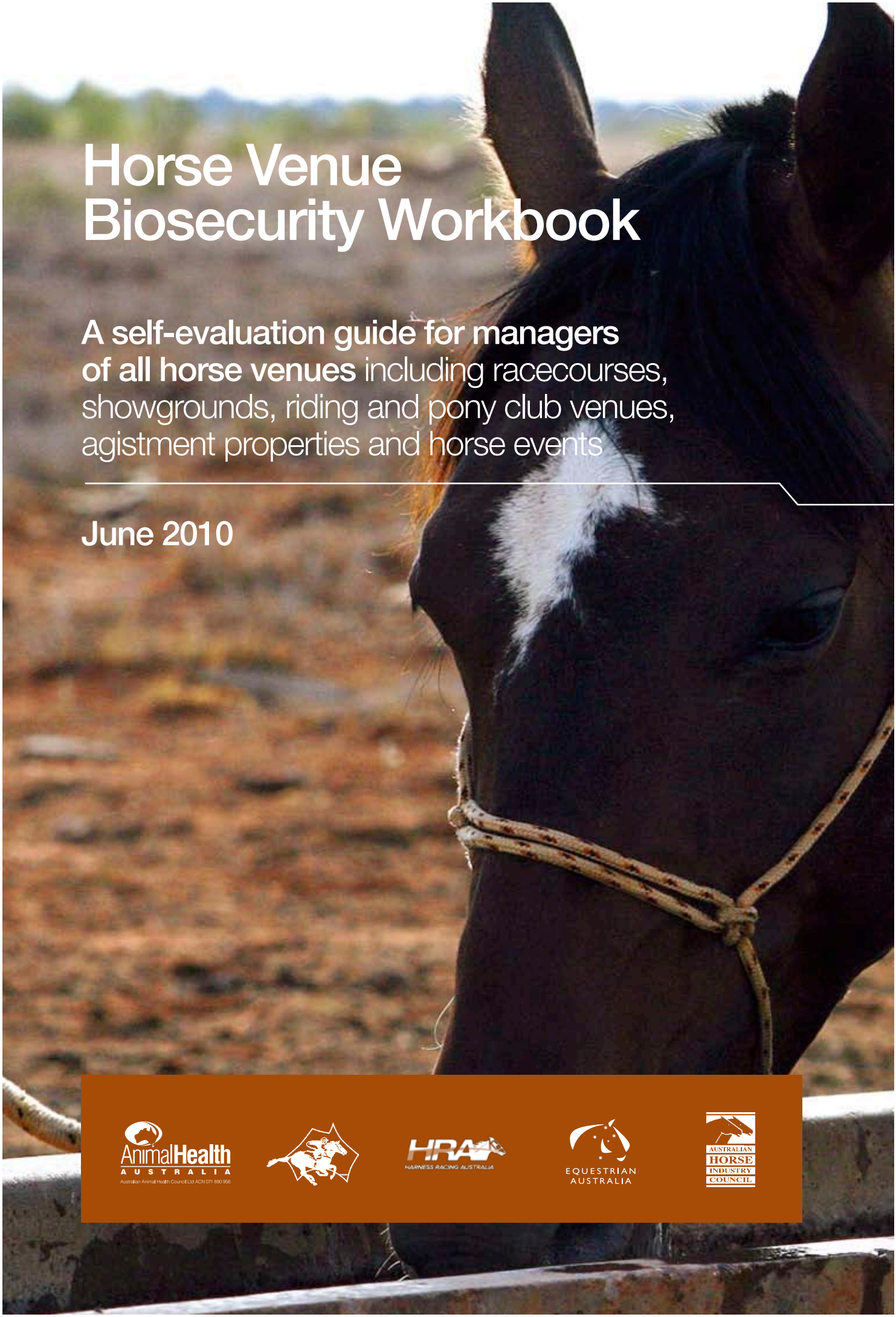

Horse Venue Biosecurity Workbook

A self-evaluation guide for managers of all horse venues including racecourses, showgrounds, riding and pony club venues, agistment properties and horse events

June 2010

Animal Health Australia
Australian Animal Health Council Ltd ACN 071 890 956

HRA Harness Racing Australia

Equestrian Australia

Australian Horse Industry Council

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Purpose

2 The purpose of this workbook is to assist venue owners and managers to establish a set of biosecurity measures applicable to their venue, which can easily be implemented over time to ensure horses are protected from disease and pests.

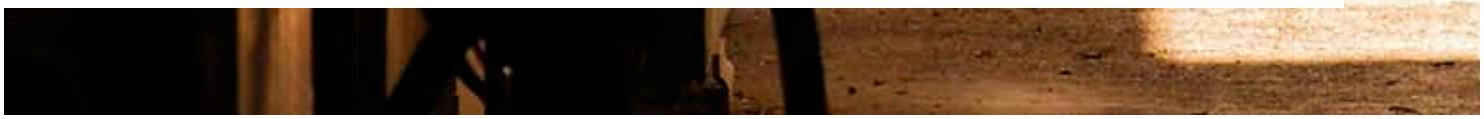
The workbook was produced so a venue holding just one horse, or a racing complex holding hundreds, could design and implement measures appropriate for their particular venue, while also addressing individual management and site issues.

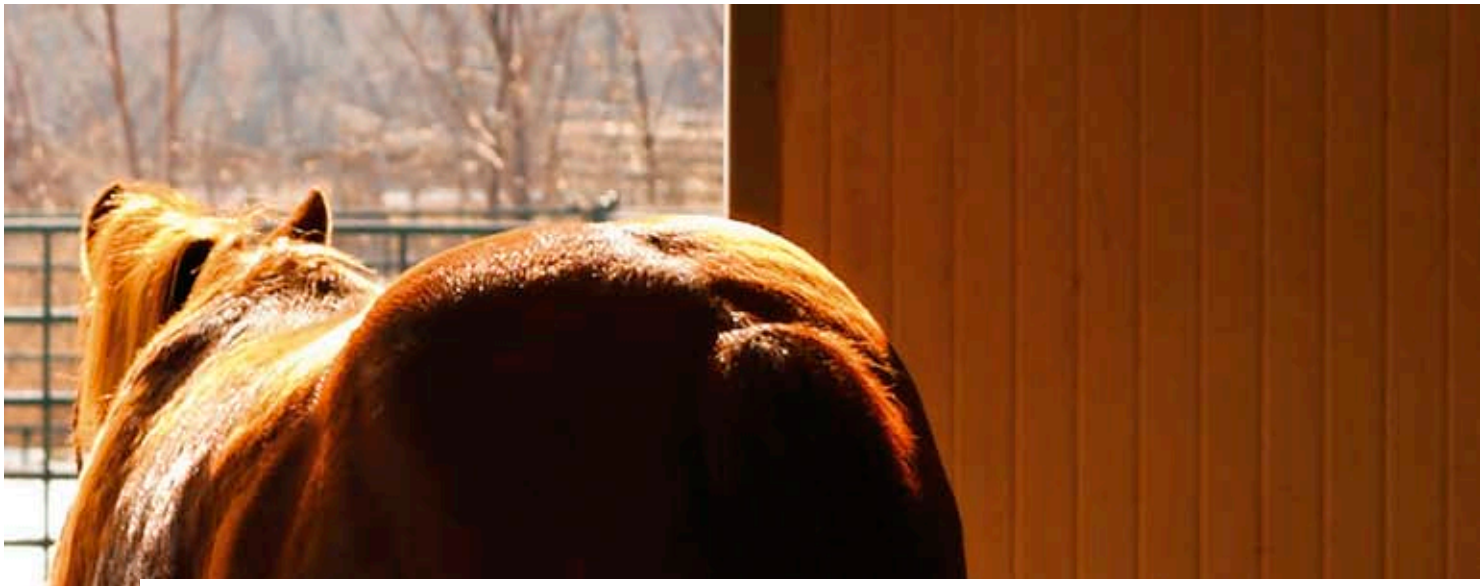
What is a Horse Venue?

Horse venues can take many forms. They range from single horse paddocks to stables housing large numbers of horses – pony club event grounds to large racing tracks – permanent fixtures to highly mobile events. The same principles apply to minimise disease incursion and spread, regardless of size or location. How these principles are implemented will vary depending on individual site requirements, circumstances and management strategies.

Examples of horse venues include:

- horse paddocks
- riding schools
- pony clubs
- breeding operations
- horse veterinary centres
- tourism stays
- event venues
- show grounds
- stables (owned or agistment)
- stables (competition and racing)
- racing facilities
- training facility
- riding centres
- private or public property.





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Implementation

Promoting the implementation of farm biosecurity measures is the responsibility of each horse sector. This is in line with Clause 14 of the *Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)*[1], where "*each industry will promote improvements*".

The development of sector specific practices is fundamental to the success of improved biosecurity for all horse venues. It is acknowledged that each venue will have a different range of biosecurity threats, challenges and operating environments, which should be addressed with the relevant approaches identified in the workbook.

The *Horse Venue Biosecurity Workbook* is available as a resource for the education of staff and the development of training and awareness programs. By implementing the measures outlined in the workbook, horse venue managers will reduce the likelihood of introducing and spreading disease onto the venue they manage – reducing the industry's liability under the EADRA, and protecting their livelihood.

1 http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/eadra.cfm

Glossary

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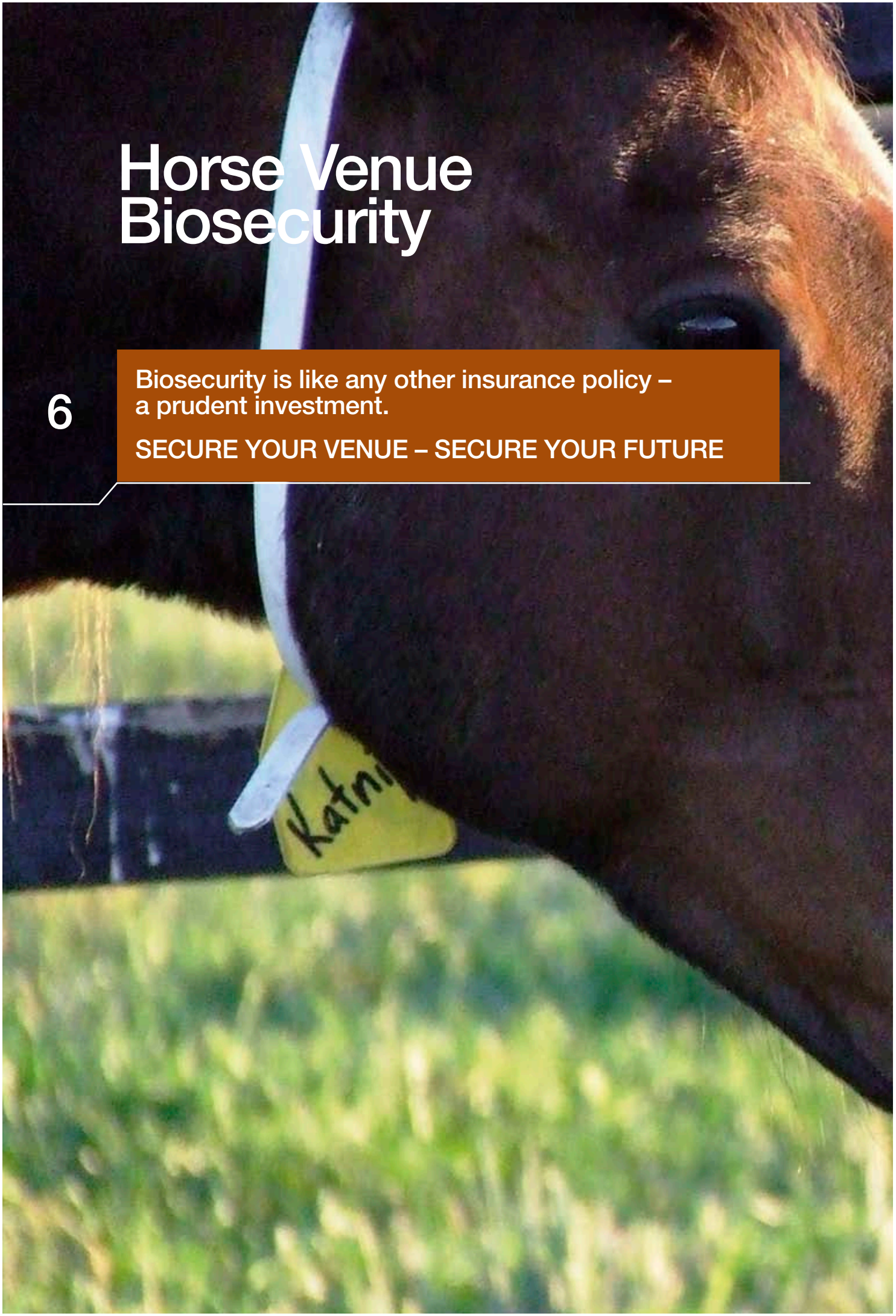
biosecurity	described as the management and individual hygiene practices that minimise the movement of disease onto, off and within a venue.
contaminants	substances which are present in and/or on feed and feed ingredients, and constitute a risk to horses' health.
fomite	any inanimate object, such as equipment, vehicles or objects, that can carry disease.
manager	the person responsible for the daily management of the husbandry of horses on-site.
SOP	standard operating procedure.
venue	a place frequented by horses, and includes private or public property, agistment stables, competition and racing stables, showgrounds, racecourses, event venues, pony and riding club grounds, tourism stays and riding centres.

Image credit: Vicki Griffiths

Horse Venue Biosecurity



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Biosecurity is like any other insurance policy – a prudent investment.

SECURE YOUR VENUE – SECURE YOUR FUTURE

OBJECTIVES

- **To prevent the introduction of infectious disease agents to horses.**
- **To prevent the spread of disease agents from an infected area to an uninfected area.**
- **To minimise the incidence and spread of disease agents of public health significance.**

Biosecurity should be an integral part of the management of any horse venue. It is about managing risk to meet the objectives stated above. Biosecurity refers to the measures taken to prevent, or control, the introduction and spread of infectious agents to horses. Such diseases, whether clinical or subclinical, significantly reduce the productivity, profitability and long-term financial viability of a horse venue.

Biosecurity measures are venue specific, and can vary greatly depending on factors like site design, management, cost of implementation and climate. As such, we use the acronym PECCS to help assess what measures might be appropriate:

Practical	how practical is the measure?
Effective	how effective is the measure?
Cost	how much will the measure cost to implement?
Capability	does the venue have the capacity and staff capability to implement the measure?
Sustainable	is the measure sustainable?

Everyone that visits, works at, or enters a horse venue – such as horse owners, competitors, jockeys, stable hands, trainers, farriers, drivers, vets or spectators – must follow the directions of the manager in order to ensure biosecurity measures are implemented properly. Everyone is responsible for their actions.

Image credit: Peta Lovell

Major Routes for Disease and Pathogen Transmission

Horses

- Transfer of horses from venue-to-venue
- Dead animal disposal

Other Animals

- Domestic animals – including other livestock and pets
- Flying foxes
- Birds – wild and domestic

People

- Personnel and family members living on-site
- Contractors, maintenance personnel, neighbours, servicepersons and visitors
- Disease can be carried on hands, boots, clothing, hair and even in the respiratory tract

Vehicles & Equipment

- Tack
- Feeding and watering equipment
- Rugs
- Disease can be carried on tyres, etc.
- Horse floats/trucks that have multiple pick-ups

Air

- Transmission as an aerosol or dust

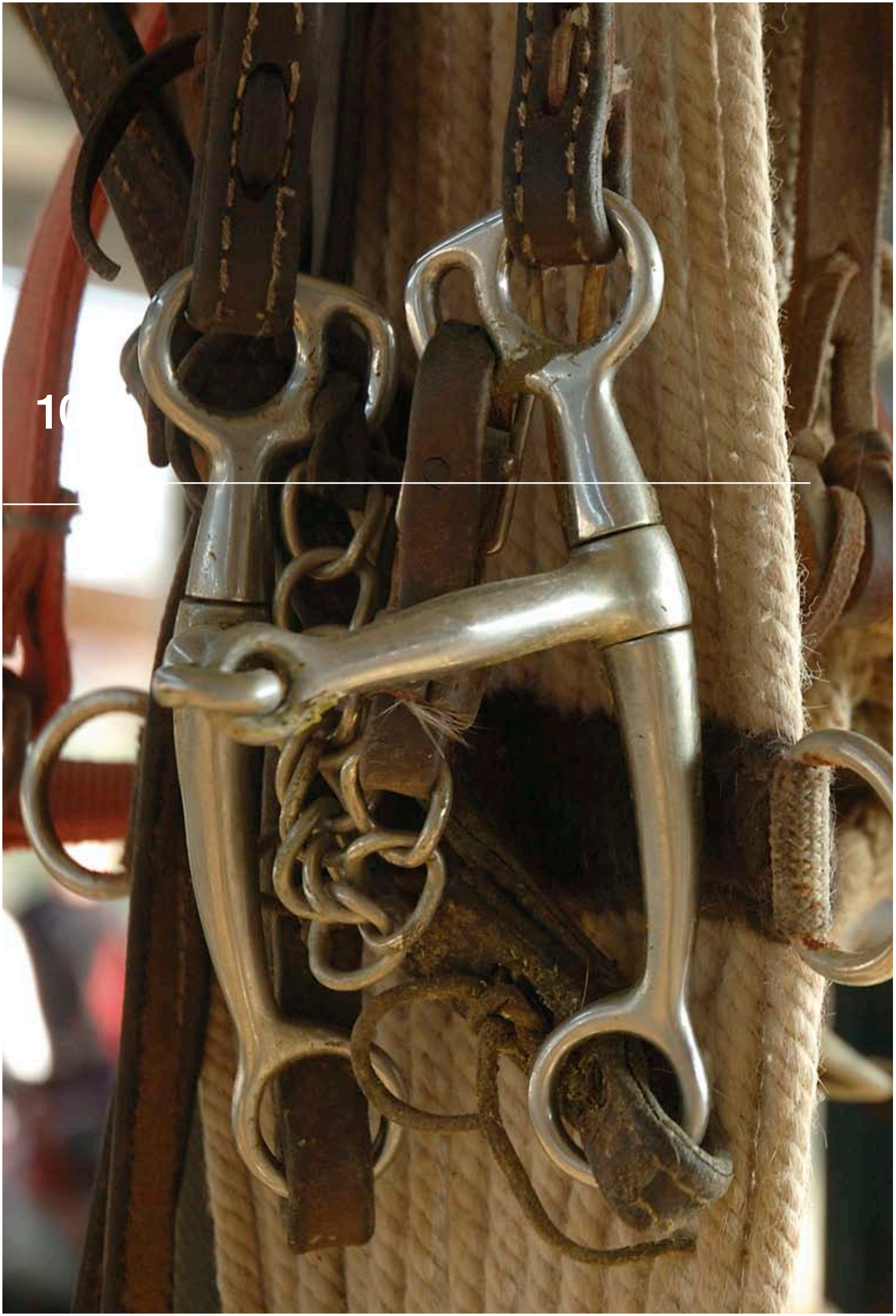
Feed & Water

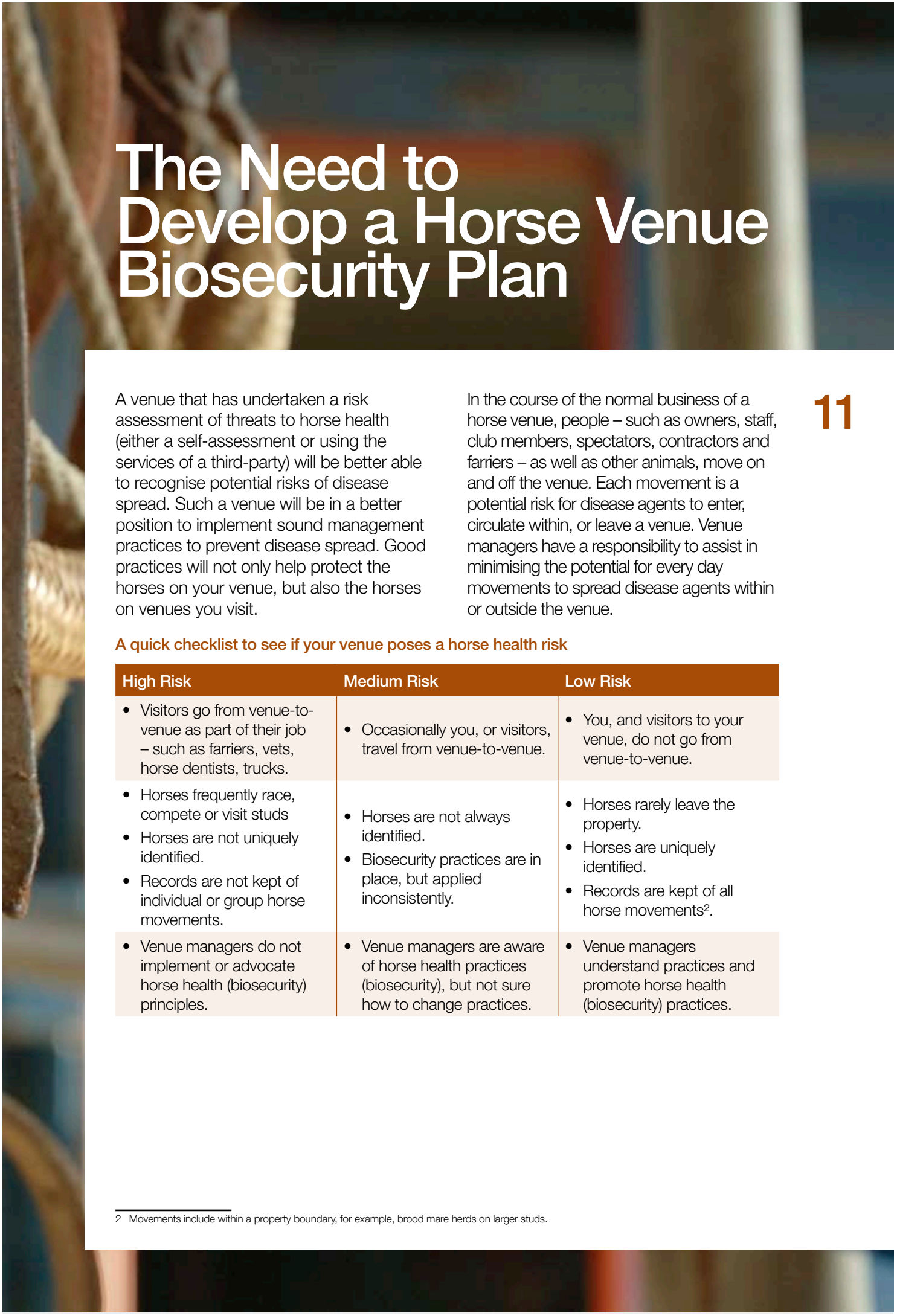
- Feed can be contaminated by the raw materials used during, post-production and transport, or by exposure to rodents and pests on the property. Bacteria and mould in poor quality or damaged feed may also be a concern.
- Water supplies can become contaminated with faeces from contact with the same, or other, species.

Pests & Weeds

- Poisonous plants
- Feral animals
- Rodents – including rats and mice
- Insects

Image credit: Meredith Liebelt





The Need to Develop a Horse Venue Biosecurity Plan

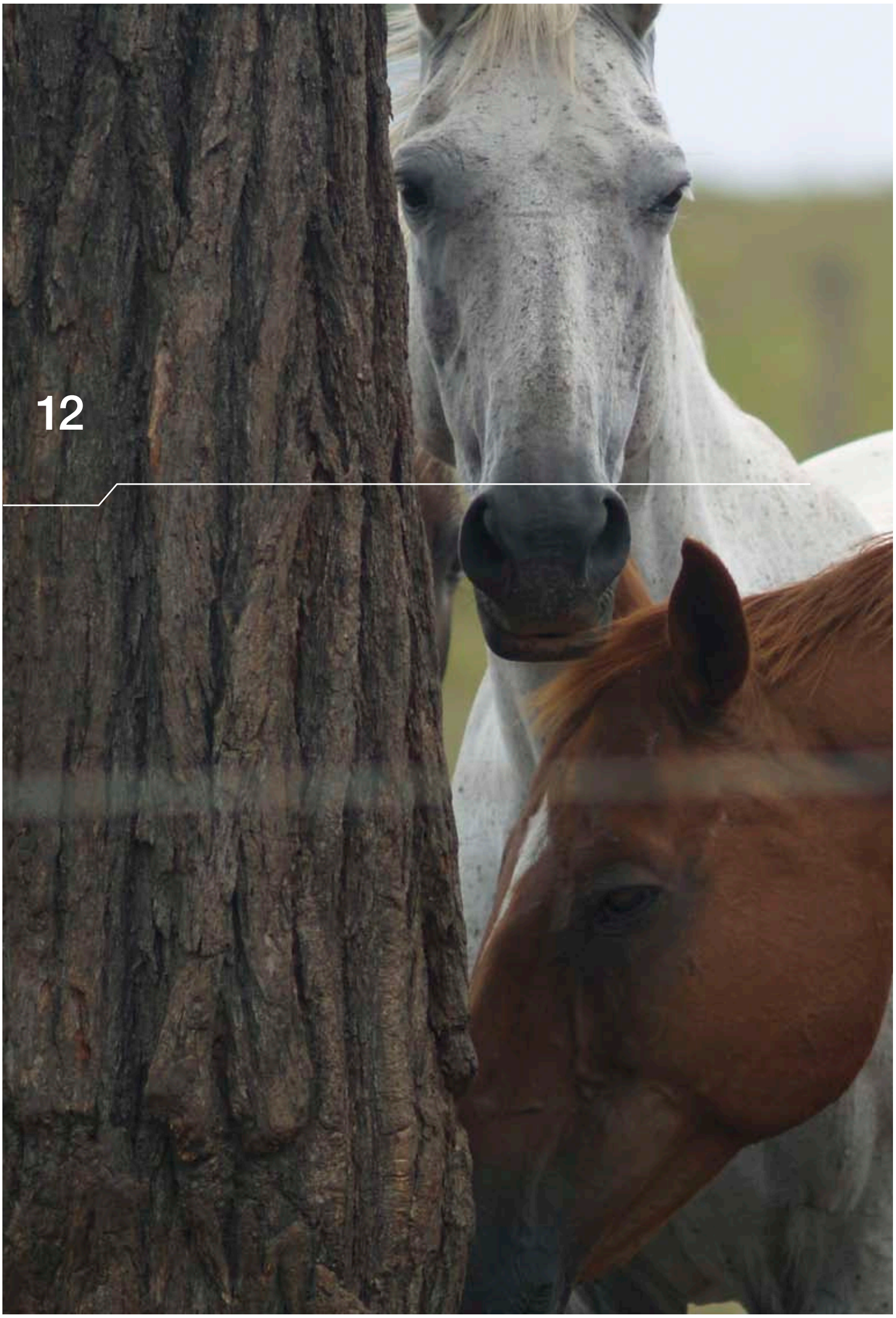
A venue that has undertaken a risk assessment of threats to horse health (either a self-assessment or using the services of a third-party) will be better able to recognise potential risks of disease spread. Such a venue will be in a better position to implement sound management practices to prevent disease spread. Good practices will not only help protect the horses on your venue, but also the horses on venues you visit.

In the course of the normal business of a horse venue, people – such as owners, staff, club members, spectators, contractors and farriers – as well as other animals, move on and off the venue. Each movement is a potential risk for disease agents to enter, circulate within, or leave a venue. Venue managers have a responsibility to assist in minimising the potential for every day movements to spread disease agents within or outside the venue.

A quick checklist to see if your venue poses a horse health risk

High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
• Visitors go from venue-to-venue as part of their job – such as farriers, vets, horse dentists, trucks.	• Occasionally you, or visitors, travel from venue-to-venue.	• You, and visitors to your venue, do not go from venue-to-venue.
• Horses frequently race, compete or visit studs • Horses are not uniquely identified. • Records are not kept of individual or group horse movements.	• Horses are not always identified. • Biosecurity practices are in place, but applied inconsistently.	• Horses rarely leave the property. • Horses are uniquely identified. • Records are kept of all horse movements[2].
• Venue managers do not implement or advocate horse health (biosecurity) principles.	• Venue managers are aware of horse health practices (biosecurity), but not sure how to change practices.	• Venue managers understand practices and promote horse health (biosecurity) practices.

2 Movements include within a property boundary, for example, brood mare herds on larger studs.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Action Plan for Suspected Emergency Animal Diseases

In the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak or serious endemic disease, more stringent practices will need to be implemented on-farm. Respective state and territory governments will implement standard operating procedures that are in line with the AUSVETPLAN disease strategy (please see **www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan/ausvetplan_home.cfm**).

Each venue manager should establish and document clear guidelines regarding the circumstances when an emergency animal disease alert should be raised, and who must be informed. For example, when experiencing an unusual increase in death, illness or drop in production. An example of an *Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan* can be found in the Biosecurity Tool Box section of this workbook.

Image credit: Kodie Payne

Getting Ready to Develop a Horse Venue Biosecurity Plan

The biosecurity workbook has been designed to take horse venue managers through a series of questions relating to how the venue is *currently* operating. A range of 'tips' have also been provided to assist with informed decision-making.

Before starting, it will be useful (but not essential) to have:

1. An aerial map of the venue, showing roads, entrances/exits and watercourses (try Google Maps).
2. A plastic overlay to cover the map, if it is not laminated, and non-permanent whiteboard markers.
3. Any existing documentation relating to the operations of the venue.

It is important to involve family members, committee, club members, staff, agistees or frequent visitors in preparing your *Horse Venue Biosecurity Plan*, where possible. The plan is more likely to have a high-level of uptake if ownership is shared among key people.

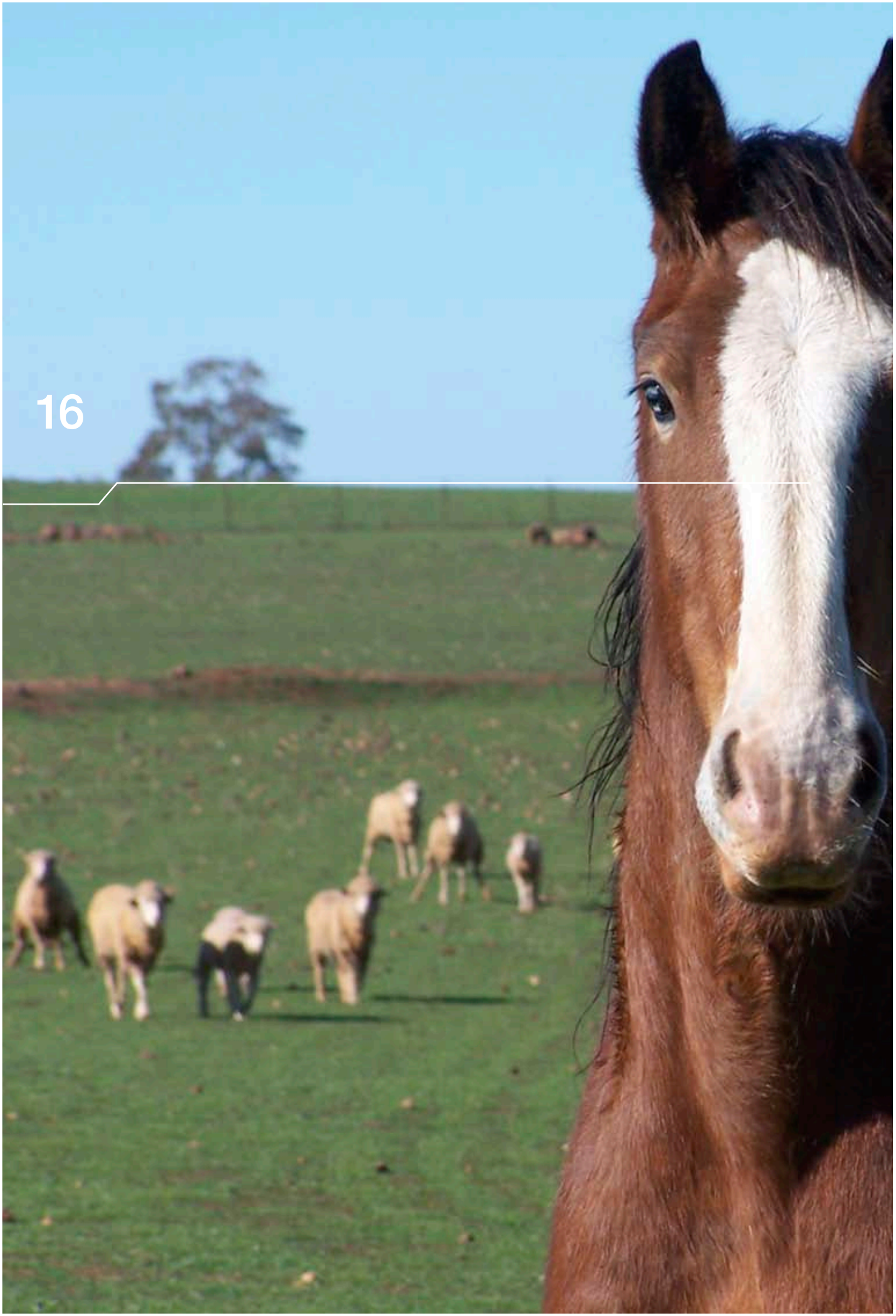
How to Use the Workbook

Step One: To get started – **set your goals**. Clearly state what you aim to achieve – for example, reducing the disease risk for your horses. Then work your way through each section of this resource tool. For each topic, **select the statement** that best reflects *current* management practices.

Step Two: **Summarise** your results in the *'Summary of Results Checklist'.*

Step Three: **Rank the Actions** to be taken to improve horse practices on your venue. Those marked *'haven't thought about it'* or *'just beginning'* should receive the most consideration when **developing your action plan.** This will assist you to better manage and control health risks at your horse venue. An *Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan Template*, citing examples, is included as a guide.

Image credit: Harness Racing Australia



STEP 1 – Getting Started

List what you aim to achieve in relation to horse health at your venue.

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This is a statement that will guide your goals when it comes to biosecurity practices on your venue. It can be an addition or extension to an existing statement you may have already had in your business plan or organisational strategy, noting that smaller venues or weekend events will not have these sorts of plans.

The following pages will guide you through eight steps in the development of a *Horse Venue Biosecurity Plan*.

Image credit: Sarah Edgecombe

Horses and Other Livestock

Objective

1. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by movements of horses and other livestock onto or off the venue.

Tips – General

- Consider any horse returning to the venue from an event as a potential disease risk – such as racing, showing or breeding.
- Ideally, new, returning, or visiting horses should be separated (quarantined) from resident horses for at least 10 days, and have their temperature checked every day. A minimum of 10 days of separation is ideal, as it allows signs of illness to emerge. It may be more practical to group regularly travelling horses together, away from resident horses that do not travel.
- If horses entering the property show obvious signs of disease, do not permit them to offload, or immediately separate them and start strict hygiene procedures. For example, use separate equipment for sick horses and deal with sick horses last.
- Ensure appropriate animal health practices are applied to other animals, such as dogs and cats.
- When moving horses within the venue, minimise contact with other horses.
- Horses that are sick, or suspected of being sick, should be handled by a separate person allocated to the task, or seen to after all other horses have been attended. Sick horses should not be moved without veterinary advice, unless for veterinary treatment.

Tips – Venue Managers

- Make sure all horses entering the event grounds are known and recorded – including visiting horses, lead ponies and non-competitors. Record details of ownership and the identification/description of the horse.
- Stables, yards or paddocks for resident horses should be separate from those for visiting horses at a venue.
- Observe horses, preferably on arrival, to confirm identification, check travel records (if required by state legislation) and for general signs of good health.
- Horse venues should have enforceable (and enforced) rules for refusing the entry of unhealthy horses to the venue.
- Ensure other animals entering the venue, such as sheep, cattle, goats and alpacas, have animal health practice (biosecurity) principles applied to their management. This could include working closely with other show/event section co-coordinators at showgrounds/events.

Tips – General for Travel

- Prior to travel, reduce the horse's stress levels by ensuring the horse is in good condition, fed and watered before the journey.
- If a horse is suspected of being unwell, or has come into contact with a sick horse, separate (quarantine) the horse, and delay or modify travel plans until the horse is fit to travel.
- Promote to staff and competitors the requirement for horses, and their hooves, to be free of visible dirt, weed seeds and other contaminants, prior to entering or exiting the venue.
- Avoid mixing different animals during transport, especially when coming from different venues.
- Engage a transport company that has a quality assurance program in place.

Guidelines for horses and other livestock	Additional threats from horses entering the venue	Potential risks of disease transfer from horses leaving the venue
Recommended situation at the venue 1. The health status of horses is known. 2. Horse movement is managed to minimise the transfer of disease – both on, off and within the venue. 3. Horses are prepared for travel before arriving at the venue, or before leaving. 4. The health status of other livestock is considered as part of horse health management. 5. Sick or suspect horses are separated, or refused entry.		
1. How do you currently manage the health of horses residing at the venue? **2. What steps can you take to improve horse health management?**	**Examples:** • Out-of-date administrative processes? • Multiple entry points to venue? **Notes:**	**Notes:**
Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it		

Vehicles, Equipment, Feed and Bedding

Objectives

1. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by movements of vehicles and equipment onto or off the venue.
2. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by movements of feed and bedding onto or off the venue.

Tips – General

- Designate a specific parking area for visitors and contractors, and encourage them to report to one area. Have a bell or other device they can use to call your attention. This area becomes the 'control point'.
- Avoid placing vehicle parking areas within horse traffic areas, to prevent the transfer of potentially contaminated manure or feed. Ensure deliveries are made close to the venue boundary, or have designated travel routes or delivery entry points. Some venues may consider developing feed delivery protocols. Feed and bedding entering or leaving the venue should be checked for contaminants, and accompanied by a *Commodity Vendor Declaration* **(www.mla.com.au/TopicHierarchy/IndustryPrograms/LivestockQualitySystems/LivestockIntegrity/default.htm)**, where possible.
- Staff should have dedicated work boots and clothing on-site, to avoid the potential transfer of contaminants from outside the venue.
- Aisles in stables areas should be kept clean. No manure, bedding or urine should be present in traffic or drainage areas.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, such as tooth rasps, twitches, stomach tubes and endoscopes, between horses. Consider separate handling equipment, like halters, especially for visiting horses and between age groups.
- Promote to staff and competitors the requirement for vehicles and equipment to be free of visible dirt, weed seeds and other contaminants, prior to entering or exiting the venue.
- Identify designated travel corridors and parking areas for vehicles, floats, farm bikes and other traffic. Car parks and delivery points should be on venue boundaries where practicable, and/or have managed travel routes through a venue.
- Select contractors and suppliers with a quality assurance program in place.

Tips – Venue Managers

- Separate horses entering the venue for events from resident horses and their equipment, including feed and water containers.
- Ensure events have a feed policy which is made known to clients and competitors before arrival, including feed types and storage procedures.
- Promote a 'clean venue', encouraging competitors to follow a standard of cleanliness during their stay, including a venue cleaning routine.
- Avoid providing communal water troughs.
- Equipment, which may be used on a range of horses at an event, should be assessed for its risk level. For example, a measuring bay would be considered low-risk, whereas a twitch would be high-risk.

Guidelines for vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding	Additional threats from vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding entering the venue	Potential threats of disease transfer from vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding leaving the venue
Vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding movement on to, within, and leaving the venue is managed to prevent transfer of disease.		
3. What procedures do you currently use to manage vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding? **4. What steps can you take to improve your management of vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding?**	**Examples:** • All equipment for resident horses is stored in a separate room from equipment used by visitors **Notes:**	**Notes:**
Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it		

People

Objectives

1. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by movements of people (staff, contractors, family, competitors) onto or off the venue.
2. To minimise the risk of spreading diseases or contaminants by the movement of people within the venue.

Tips – General

- *People* includes invited and uninvited visitors, persons collecting manure, or entering the property in response to signage or other indirect invitation. It also includes friends, staff, volunteers and competitors.
- Promote property hygiene practices to all people through signage and other methods. Highlight the additional risk posed by visitors recently travelling overseas, to a saleyard or to an event.
- Restrict visitor access to horse facilities that are essential only. Isolation areas for sick horses should not have general visitor access.
- Manage horse contact with feed, manure or other waste.
- Locate hand washing facilities at strategic points, such as isolation areas, arrival/dispatch sites or husbandry areas, and install appropriate signage. Provide foot baths, separate footwear, or disposable protective wear for movement in and out of isolation areas. Washing facilities must be placed in work stations to increase the adoption of hygiene procedures.

Tips – Venue Managers

- Try to keep people not associated with the horses away from them – such as spectators.
- Have designated entry points, signage and separation areas for spectators and competitors.
- Provide information to competitors to discourage entering stables of horses from other venues, especially at showgrounds and sales. Authorised horse attendants, venue staff – such as veterinarians, stewards, and authorised venue attendants – should be called to enter a restricted area.
- Identify all tasks that take place on the venue requiring horse-to-horse contact, and take measures and provide facilities to manage the risk. For example hand washing, and other precautions, when checking horses' mouths.
- Locate hand washing facilities at strategic points and install signs to encourage use.

Guidelines for people	Additional threats from people entering the venue	Potential threats from people leaving the venue
People coming onto the venue, moving within and leaving the venue are managed to prevent transfer of disease.		
5. How do you currently manage people coming onto, moving within and leaving the venue? **6. What steps can you take to improve your management of people coming onto, moving within and leaving the venue?**	**Notes:**	**Notes:**

Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it

Venue Design

Objective

1. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants through the incorporation of specific design attributes in the construction of the venue.

Tips – General

- Avoid locating permanent and temporary horse venues in swampy areas, near bat colonies or intensive piggeries, to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.
- Include isolation areas for sick horses in venue designs. Introduce double fencing or boundary roadways between mixed stock, to prevent nose-to-nose contact with external horses or other livestock. Feed and waste from isolation areas should be kept separate from the main venue stores.
- Horse wash areas should be designed to avoid contact between horses. Enforce rules for sand rolls/rolling areas.
- Horse entry is easier to manage with single, or few, venue entry points. Manage traffic areas to minimise or prevent dust, mud or water flowing over the tread surface.
- Stables with cement floors and walls made of, or covered with, a solid material are easiest to clean and disinfect. Good ventilation is essential. Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) should be developed for regular stable cleaning and periodical sanitation. Sanitation includes the removal of all manure and feed followed by washing, scrubbing and rinsing, or pressure washing all surfaces with hot water and detergent. This is followed by applying disinfectant. Give consideration to stable access for mechanical cleaning devices, such as bobcats.
- Venue design should feature gates or systems to secure sections of the venue. Control points can be established to assist in management, in addition to venue access and exit points. Install designated travel corridors and parking areas for vehicles, floats, farm bikes and other traffic. Car parks and delivery points should be on venue boundaries, where practical, and/or have managed travel routes through a venue.
- Ideally, a quarantine area should be coupled with an insect control program. Insects and flies can spread disease from mucus, wounds or other fluids.
- Facility designs for waste management should consider heavy rain and flooding. Waste includes uneaten feed, soiled bedding, manure, medical waste, rubbish, and water runoff.
- State or local regulatory requirements for the management of waste water must be met.
- Watercourses entering the venue, such as streams, creeks, rivers, dams, ponds and lakes, need to be identified and managed for water quality. For example, sending samples to laboratories to test for potential disease contaminants.

Guidelines for venue design	Additional threats relating to venue entrance	Potential threats relating venue exit
Venue design facilitates horse health (biosecurity) practices for general operations.		
7. How does the current venue design assist you to manage horse health? **8. What steps can you take to improve the venue design?**	**Examples:** • Having multiple entrances makes monitoring of horse and vehicle movements difficult. **Notes:**	**Notes:**

Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it

Venue Management

Objectives

1. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by implementing management practices specific to the venue.
2. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by feral and domestic animals and pests.

Tips -General

- Identify and manage pest animals, including rodents, feral cats, dogs and pest birds. An integrated pest animal control program should be in place to deter pests. Avoid keeping horses, feed or equipment in areas that may be contaminated by bats.
- Ensure isolation areas contain separate coveralls, rubber boots and gloves for handlers. Keep protective clothing within the area and wash frequently. A separate wash area must include a hand basin, paper towels and garbage containers. A separate supply of basic veterinary stocks is also required, such as bandages and syringes. SOPs should also promote using new needles and syringes each time.
- Establish a work schedule for staff or volunteers that ensures they do not move between isolated horses and other resident horses.
- Yellow medical containers – ‘sharps containers’ – should be placed at each work station, such as vet boxes at a racecourse and the breeding crush on a stud, for the immediate disposal of all syringes and needles.
- A venue waste management policy should consider how waste types are moved, collected, stored and disposed. Waste from isolation areas needs to be kept separate to avoid contamination from flies and water.
- Develop stock disposal regulations to reduce the risk of contaminating water courses, water tables, soils or wild animal movement.
- Select contractors and suppliers who have a quality assurance program in place.

Tips – Venue Managers

- Consider the venue layout when planning event programs, to minimise horse-to-horse contact – for example, marked traffic lanes. Also consider the separation of spectator and general vehicles from competitors, with designated entry/exit points, marked with clear signage.
- Investigate and designate stock disposal options.
- Waste disposal should be part of the overall event management plan and should include water from wash bays and truck washes.

Guidelines for pests, waste and stock disposal	Additional threats relating to pests, waste and stock disposal	Potential threats relating to pests, waste and stock disposal
• Waste management practices for movement, collection and storage, to minimise disease transfer – including water. • Pest animals and vermin are identified and a control program put in place. • A plan for the disposal of deceased horses.		
9. How do you currently manage pests, waste and stock disposal? **10. What steps can you take to improve your management or venue design?**	**Examples:** • Feed room is swept clean and feed bins closed to prevent rodent access. **Notes:**	**Notes:**

Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it

Record Keeping

Objective

1. To assist in the early detection of horse health issues and respond to any horse health issue.

Tips – General

- Develop, and regularly review, an emergency disease response plan. This plan may include policies for postponing or cancelling events, or policies that outline the reasons the business can refuse to accept a horse onto a venue.
- Keep, or sight, health and travel records for each horse.
- Keep internal movement records of horses – this is particularly important on large studs.
- Keep feed, bedding, veterinary drug and delivery records.
- Ensure records are organised and readily accessed for updating and backup.
- Ensure records are linked to industry data-bases, where applicable, to assist with disease management.
- Documentation should include provision for recording identification, point-of-origin and destination information.
- Check policies of venues in relation to dogs and other visiting animals.
- Where practical, record visitors.
- Venues should have enforced minimum requirements for health status, for example, inoculations.
- Travel records, including vaccinations, should be up-to–date, prior to travelling.
- Keep records of test or standard mare servings, and semen transport, storage and use – both frozen and chilled.

Tips – Venue Managers

- Develop, and regularly review, an emergency disease response plan. This plan may include policies for postponing or cancelling events.
- Documentation should include the provision for recording identification, point-of-origin and destination information – preferably on entry forms.
- Ensure movement records are linked to industry data-bases, where applicable, to assist with disease management.

Guidelines for record keeping	Additional consideration relating to stock/feed/personnel/ equipment entering the venue	Potential threats relating to stock/feed/ personnel/ equipment leaving the venue
Record keeping procedures for venue operations are up–to-date.		
11. How do you currently manage record keeping? **12. What steps can you take to improve your management?**	**Examples:** • Lack of regulations and standards – commercial and legal lack of technology **Examples:** Recording vet and farrier visits • Records are kept in a diary but there is no computer database • When we are busy, records are incomplete **Notes:**	**Examples:** • Poor disease trace-back capabilities, therefore higher potential for reoccurrence. **Notes:**

Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it

Training of Venue Staff and Volunteers

Objective

1. To ensure awareness by training all venue employees in relevant horse health requirements.

Tips – General

- Ensure induction for all new employees includes venue horse health practices.
- Ongoing training opportunities should be provided for existing staff.
  - Training may include mentoring, focus groups, workshops, field days, lectures, online, self-directed, CD, DVD and information sheets.
  - Training can include sessions involving staff/volunteers in the development of SOPs, review of workplace safety practices, and the provision of new information relating to research findings, legislation updates and news – as this often provides a time to discuss how and why procedures on your venue are carried out.
  - Accredited or information style training for members, to grow organisational capacity, can be provided.
- Record the training each employee participates in.

Tips – Venue Managers

- Venue personnel includes key officials and volunteers.
- Ensure people are informed of horse health practices on entry to the venue, for example closing gates, designated areas, etc.
- Signage or information promoting horse health practices should be provided to competitors.

Guidelines for training of personnel	Threats/risks from new staff and volunteers	Threats/risks from staff/volunteers leaving
Training records of venue personnel are kept		
13. How do you currently manage staff/volunteer training programs? **14. What steps can you take to improve your management?**	**Notes:**	**Notes:**

Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it

Information

Objective

1. To minimise the risk of introducing diseases or contaminants by providing relevant information and infrastructure that promotes relevant horse health messages.

Tips – General

- Gate signage will inform visitors that horse health (biosecurity) is taken seriously on your venue.
- Use signage to restrict entry by persons to designated isolation areas, to encourage hand washing, to close gates, or as triggers for SOPs.
- Place a copy of the action plan in the venue staff room, with additional reference material.
- Have training, or information sessions, for staff and volunteers, including horse health messages and practices.
- Ensure visitors are informed of minimum practices or restricted areas.
- Brochures, posters and stickers can be used to promote venue horse health messages.

Tips – venue managers

- The key message is that all people are responsible for horse health at the venue. Use a range of methods to promote key information – including signage, public announcements and competitor information in event programs. Key messages can be included on clubroom noticeboards, magazine articles, media releases, club newsletters or websites. Brochures, posters and stickers can also be used to promote venue horse health messages to spectators.

Guidelines for information provision	Incoming threats	Outgoing threats
Information is provided on venue horse health practices		
15. How do you currently manage information provision? **16. What steps can you take to improve your provision of information?**	**Examples:** • Promotion of horse health practices needs to be at all levels – including horse owners, venue managers and the public. **Notes:**	**Examples:** • Organisational capability • Reputation and image **Notes:**
Where are you now? ◯ Ideal ◯ Nearly there ◯ Just beginning ◯ Haven't thought about it		

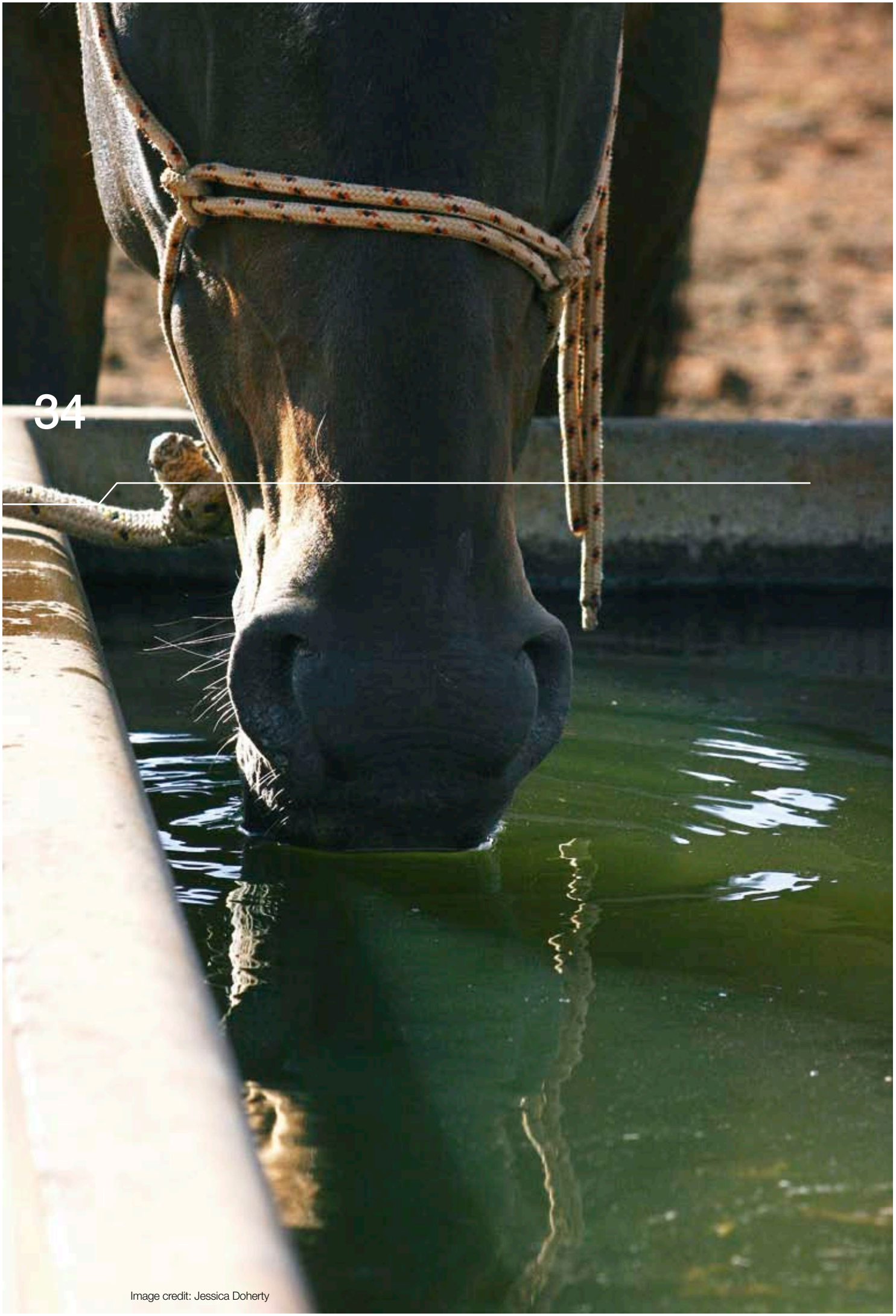
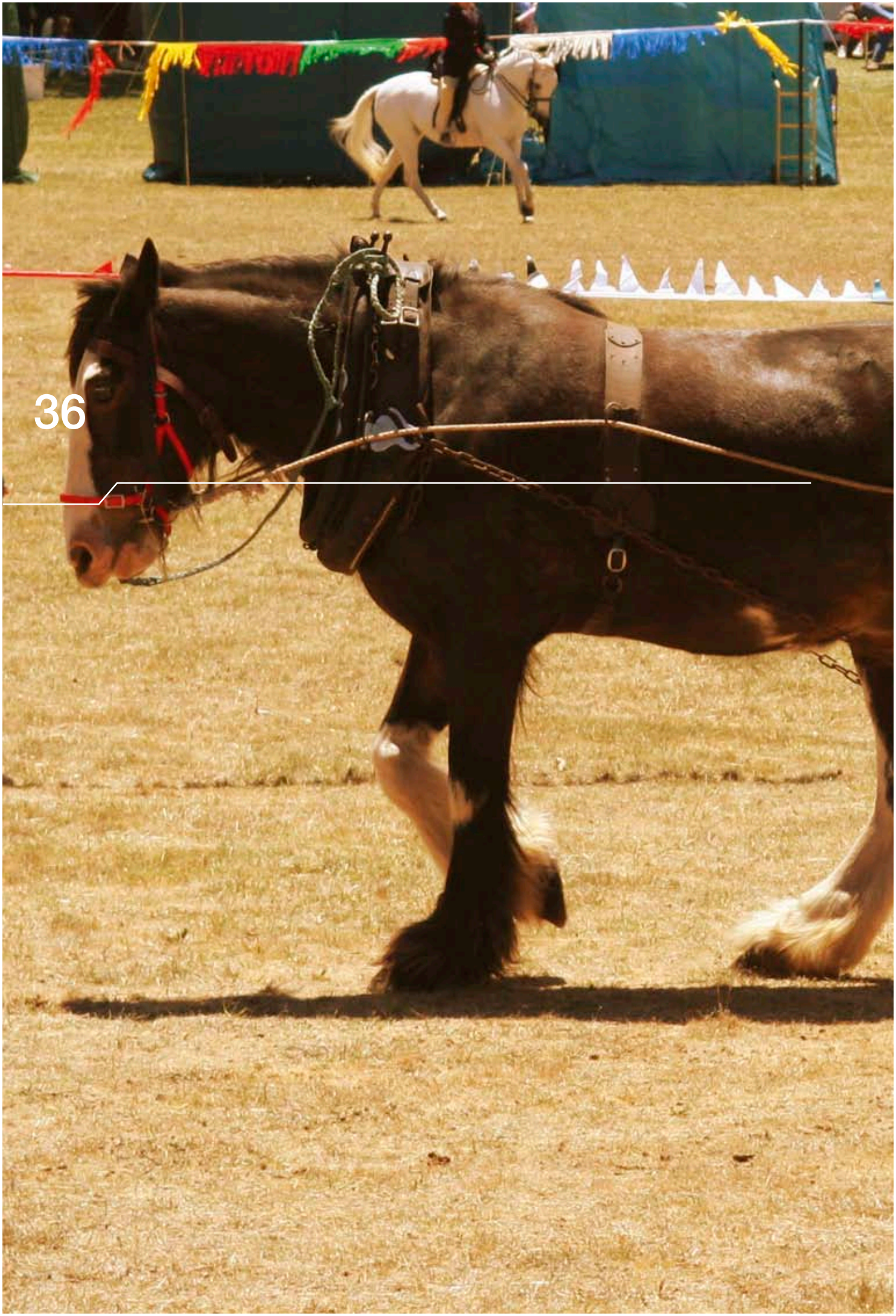


Image credit: Jessica Doherty

STEP 2 – Summary of Results

In the following table, record your rating for each topic, then assign each an action and a **HIGH**, **MEDIUM** or **LOW** ranking.

	Ideal	Nearly there	Just beginning	Haven't thought about it	Ranking
Guidelines for horses and other livestock					
1. The health status of horses is known.					
2. Horse movement is managed to minimise transfer of disease on, off and within the venue).					
3. Horses are prepared for travel.					
4. The health status of other livestock is considered.					
5. Sick or suspect horses are separated.					
Guidelines for vehicles, equipment, fodder and bedding					
6. Vehicles, equipment, feed and bedding movement onto, within and leaving the venue is managed to prevent the transfer of disease.					
Guidelines for people					
7. People coming onto the venue, moving within and leaving the venue are managed to minimise disease transfer.					
Guidelines for venue design					
8. Venue design facilitates horse health (biosecurity) practices for general operations.					
Guidelines for pests, waste and stock disposal					
9. Waste management movement, collection and storage practices minimise disease transfer – including water.					
10. Pest animals and vermin are identified and a control program put in place.					
11. A plan exists for the disposal of deceased horses.					
Guidelines for record keeping procedures					
12. Records for venue operations are up-to-date.					
Guidelines for training of staff and volunteers					
13. Training records of venue personnel are kept.					
Guidelines for information about horse health practices					
14. Information is provided on venue horse health practices.					



STEP 3 – Developing a Biosecurity Action Plan

A biosecurity *action plan* will help you prioritise the implementation of horse venue biosecurity practices. Now that you have ranked your priorities, you may also like to consider which ones you can achieve in the short and long terms.

As a guide, short-term activities can:

- Be planned and conducted within 12 months.
- Help your venue comply with regulatory requirements.
- Be financially feasible in the short-term.
- Fit in with venue/operations/enterprise time commitments.

Long-term activities:

- Are planned and conducted over more than one year.
- Need additional financial or personnel resources, not currently available.
- Enhance the overall quality of service, aesthetics and reportable administrative procedures.

The *Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan Template* is only a guide and you may wish to develop your own model. Some key points to remember are that all actions must be:

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Realistic

Timely

If this workbook is being used as part of a group workshop, plan for participants to decide on one short-term and one long-term goal.

With each action, set-out the steps needed to achieve the task – this is especially helpful if a committee is working on a venue. A responsible person will need to be appointed to oversee the implementation of the action by a certain date.

A successful plan will provide for continuous improvement. As part of determining if the action has been planned and carried out successfully, a monitoring or recording system will need to be put in place. A monitoring program needs to consider:

- What are you monitoring?
- Where and when are you going to monitor?
- How will the monitoring take place?
- What records will you need to keep?

A responsible person will need to manage the monitoring process. This could be a different person to the one that implemented the plan.

A plan may also use a number of tools. The aerial photo (try Google maps) of the venue can be linked to tasks that need to be achieved. You may use technology as part of the recording processes – remember, good practices:

- Must be built into normal operational procedures.
- Need not be costly.
- Must be easy to follow.

Image credit: Katie Hunt

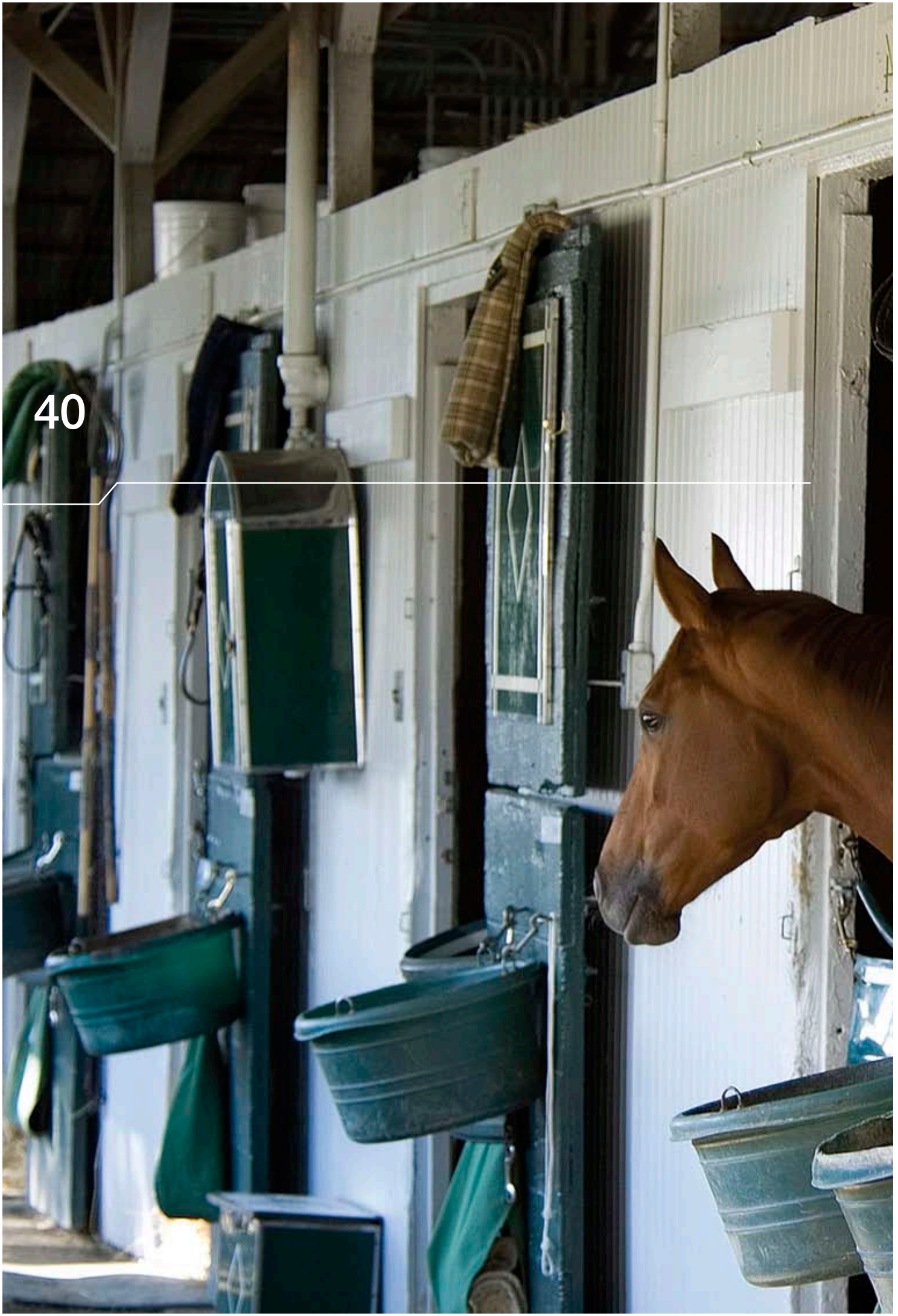
Horse Venue Biosecurity Action Plan Template

Name of Venue:

Vision Statement (aim or goal)

Short Term				
	List the changes you can implement this year. **Risks ranked EXTREME or HIGH must be attended to.** **Action:** **Steps needed to achieve the action:**			
When to do it	Start date	Responsibility	Any special notes, additional resources, training, etc.	Action completion date
How will monitoring and recording take place?				
Review date				

Long Term				
	List the changes you can implement this year. **Risks ranked EXTREME or HIGH must be attended to.** **Action:** **Steps needed to achieve the action:**			
When to do it	Start date	Responsibility	Any special notes, additional resources, training, etc.	Action completion date
How will monitoring and recording take place?				
Review date				



Biosecurity Tool Box

Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan 41

Visitor Register

Visitor Risk Assessment

Useful resources and website links

Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan

42 This document details the actions and responsibilities that are necessary in the event of an emergency disease outbreak.

[A] Important Contact Details

	Name	Contact Number
Property name or PIC number		
Manager		
Person responsible for the EAD Action Plan		
Consultant veterinarian		
District veterinary officer		
Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline		1800 675 888

[B] Management Commitment

Management undertakes that unfamiliar signs of disease will be investigated, and the following actions undertaken, without delay, if an emergency disease is suspected.

[C] Action Plan

Develop an action plan allocating responsibilities to relevant personnel.

1. Contact the relevant authority through the district veterinary officer or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline – 1800 675 888.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
2. Follow all instructions as directed by the relevant authority.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
3. **Do not dispatch any livestock** from the farm until authorised by the relevant authority.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
4. Ensure suspect livestock are **isolated** within the farm.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
5. Ensure companion animals of the suspect livestock are **segregated** from other livestock.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
6. Ensure movement of all other livestock within the farm, and surrounds, is **restricted**.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
7. Delay or halt the shipment of livestock onto the farm.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
8. Delay or halt the delivery of all non-essential commodities.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
9. Secure the farm perimeter, limiting access to the farm and ensuring all vehicles and visitors only enter the farm under controlled conditions.
   Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
10. Remove unnecessary personnel and machinery from livestock feeding and holding areas.
    Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
11. Ensure that any personnel, equipment or machinery do not leave the farm until authorised by the relevant authority.
    Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
12. Compile a list of all livestock (number of head, identification and location), personnel and machinery movements over the past seven days. Prepare a site plan that details current allocations of livestock.
    Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
13. Ensure all staff are made aware of the actions being taken and their individual responsibilities towards the action plan.
    Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
14. Ensure that customers are advised if they are immediately affected by the delay in the supply of livestock.
    Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**
15. If an emergency disease is identified, the farm will follow the requirements of the AUSVETPLAN, and directions from the relevant authority.
    Responsibility: **[Insert person responsible for action]**

Visitor Register

In the interest of biosecurity, all visitors are required to fill in this Record Sheet

Date	Name	Vehicle Plate	Company	Phone	Reason for Visit	In/Out

Visitor Risk Assessment

Date:		**Visitor's Name:**	
Service or Occupation:		**Contact Number:**	
Time In:		**Time Out:**	
Reason for Visit:			

Farm visitors can be classified by the risk they represent. These visitors are… [*please tick*]

	Low-risk visitors	People coming from urban areas and do not contact livestock. They present almost no risk of introducing disease. No need to impose restrictions.
	Moderate-risk visitors	People who travel from farm-to-farm, but do not directly come in contact with livestock or manure. Need to ensure footwear and clothing is clean.
	High-risk visitors	People who travel from farm-to-farm and work directly with livestock or manure. These people must be the most diligent with their biosecurity practices. Need to ensure footwear and clothing is clean and disinfected. Alternatively, provide clean footwear and clothing on arrival.
Comments		

Movement[3] Records

Date of movement	Property or place of origin	Horse/s being moved (description/name/id)	Property or place being moved to	Reason for move	Comments

3 A movement may be any movement on to or off a venue as well as within the venue.

Husbandry Records

Date	Horse Being Treated (description/name/id)	Treatment[4]	Batch Number (if drugs or Vet chemicals are applied)	Person administering the treatment	Staff responsible for the treatment	Comments

4 A treatment includes the application of a drug or veterinary chemical, farrier treatment, physiotherapy, dental care.

Useful Resources and Website Links

For copies of 'AUSVETPLAN' and biosecurity materials

Animal Health Australia
Suite 15, 26-28 Napier Close,
DEAKIN ACT 2600
Phone: (02) 6232 5522
Fax: (02) 6232 5511
Email: aha@animalhealthaustralia.com.au
Web: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

To download horse related biosecurity resources

Primary Industries & Resources South Australia (PIRSA)
33 Flemington Street,
GLENSIDE SA 5065
Phone: (08) 8207 7900
Fax: (08) 8207 7909
Web: www.pir.sa.gov.au and search for 'Horse Alert' or Horse SA at www.horsesa.asn.au for a free download

To download a copy of 'Horse Alert Victoria'

Racing Victoria Limited
400 Epsom Road,
FLEMINGTON VIC 3031
Phone: (03) 9258 4258
Fax: (03) 9258 4707
Email: see Racing Victoria Limited website
Web: www.racingvictoria.net.au and search for 'Horse Alert'

To find a horse veterinary specialist

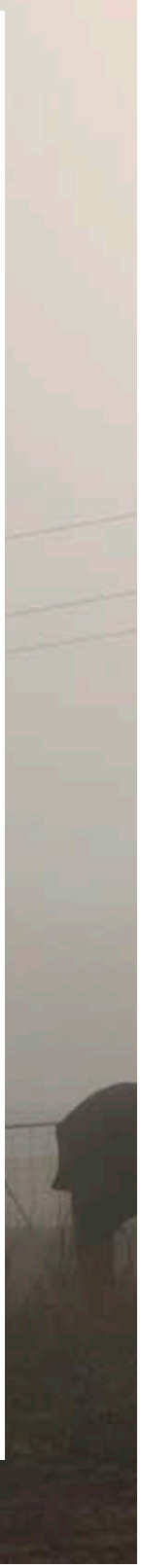
Equine Veterinarians Australia
Unit 40, 2A Herbert Street,
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065
Phone: (02) 9431 5081
Fax: (02) 9437 9068
E-mail: admin@eva.org.au
Web: www.eva.org.au

For biosecurity tips

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

For a reference book on horse diseases

'Equine Exotic Diseases' – available for purchase from
Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation
Level 1, AMA House, 42 Macquarie St,
BARTON ACT 2600
Email: rirdc@rirdc.gov.au
Web: www.rirdc.gov.au



The following organisations are members of Animal Health Australia:

Harness Racing Australia
Level 7, 390 St Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE VIC 3004
Phone: (03) 9867 803.
Fax: (03) 9866 8356
Email: hra@harness.org.au
Web: www.harness.org.au

Australian Horse Industry Council
PO Box 802,
GEELONG VIC 3220
Phone: (03) 5222 665.
Fax: (03) 5229 8244
Email: secretary@horsecouncil.org.au
Web: www.horsecouncil.org.au

Australian Racing Board
Level 7, 51 Druitt Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 9551 770.
Fax: (02) 9551 7708
Email: arb@australianracingboard.com.au
Web: www.australian-racing.net.au

Equestrian Australia Limited
PO Box 673.
SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129
Phone: (02) 8762 777.
Fax: (02) 9763 2466
Email: info@efanational.com
Web: www.equestrian.org.au

Image credit: Animal Health Australia

AnimalHealth
AUSTRALIA
Australian Animal Health Council Ltd ACN 071 890 956

Animal Health Australia
Royal Lifesaving House
Suite 15, 26-28 Napier Close
DEAKIN ACT 2605

Phone: (02) 6232 5522

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

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