



MEDIA

release

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ACT REMAINS IN QUARANTINE

ACT Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Will Andrew, today confirmed that the ACT will remain in quarantine until further notice.

“The ACT is aware of zoning proposals in NSW and we are considering the most appropriate arrangements for the ACT,” said Dr Andrew.

“The ACT Government is working closely with industry and community groups to assess the implications of the zoning and appropriate implementation measures for the region.

“The quarantine will remain in place in the ACT until we are sure the appropriate decisions with regard to zoning are made and correct protocols are in place.

“It is essential that all Canberra horse owners and equine industry professionals maintain strict biosecurity disinfection procedures to help keep the ACT free of equine influenza.

“The ACT has had no reported cases of equine influenza and it is still important for people to be watchful of symptoms.

“All Canberran horse, donkey and mule owners should continue to keep a close eye on their animals for symptoms of equine influenza and report any signs of the disease.

“Clinical signs of equine influenza are usually a deep dry hacking cough, a watery nasal discharge that may become cloudy or coloured and a sudden increase in temperature to between 39 and 41 degrees Celsius.

“If people are concerned about their horse or suspect symptoms it’s recommended they speak to their private vet in the first instance.

“Horse owners and carers are being asked to avoid contact between their horses and other horses where possible and are required not to move their horses,” said Dr Andrew.

Dr Andrew also reminded horse owners that breaches of the quarantine could incur fines of up to \$5,000 or 6 months imprisonment.

For updates and information on the equine influenza call **1800 234 002** or visit www.outbreak.gov.au and www.tams.act.gov.au/live/equineinfluenza.

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