

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANT DISEASE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM (NSDIP)

Standard operating procedures for private veterinary practitioners

Background

NSDIP is a core funded Animal Health Australia (AHA) program. NSDIP provides incentives and laboratory cost support to private practitioners to conduct livestock disease investigations that fit into the given categories describing 'significance'.

Eligible significant disease events are:

Significant morbidity and mortality events:

- a. that are clinically consistent with national notifiable diseases or suspected to be a new or emerging disease (increasing incidence/expanding geographic or host range) and/or
- b. where an emergency animal disease has been excluded and further investigation (field and/or laboratory work) is important to support a producer and veterinarian in achieving a diagnosis.

A significant disease has any of the following characteristics:

- atypical morbidity, mortality and/or rate of disease spread from the expected baseline;
- clinical signs consistent with an exotic disease without a clear alternative diagnosis;
- incidents where an initial investigation fails to establish a diagnosis however findings suggest the potential for significant trade or market access, farm productivity, public health, or wildlife biodiversity conservation impacts.

Important: Where there is a genuine suspicion of a NOTIFIABLE ANIMAL DISEASE, it is the veterinary practitioner's legal responsibility to notify their state or territory animal health authority.

Eligible investigations include:

- a. Case details as specified in the attached ROADE form, and if necessary
- b. Submission of appropriate (in type and quality) laboratory samples to the Animal Health Laboratory, Mt Pleasant Laboratories, 165 Westbury Road, Prospect (AHL).

Cases where necropsy is conducted at the AHL, are eligible for inclusion in the NSDIP. In these cases, the practitioner provides case history and any additional information required by the approving officer; the owner will be charged for the necropsy and the program will cover laboratory testing associated with the necropsy and any other approved follow-ups.

Subsidies available for incidents involving livestock:

A maximum amount of \$700+GST is available to the veterinarian for approved investigations. The subsidies are applied as follows:

- Straight-forward single visit investigation without necropsy \$250 (+ GST) + Laboratory fees*
- Follow-up investigation without necropsy, additional \$250 (+ GST) + Laboratory fees*
- Where a necropsy or very time consuming investigation (eg remote case) is conducted, up to \$700 (+GST) may be approved + Laboratory fees*. A remote case requires a total of at least 2 hours travelling.

*Laboratory fees

The NSDIP subsidises relevant lab costs. This subsidy applies where samples have been sent to the AHL usually after case approval. Where samples have been submitted prior to case approval and testing relevant to the case

have been subsequently included in the approved case, the clinic will need to submit an appropriate invoice to the SVO for reimbursement. Laboratory costs relevant to the case and accrued after case approval will not be invoiced to the Veterinarian/client. No subsidy is available for samples sent to other laboratories.

Livestock NSDIP case approval procedure

1. Private practitioners contact their regional Veterinary Officer (VO) with a potential case and the information needed for approval.

[Note it is preferable that an interim ROADE is filled out prior to contacting the VO for approval so there is sufficient information available for the VO to discuss the case with the veterinarian and with the SeniorVO (SVO) who approves the case to be managed under NSDIP.]

2. If approved, the SVO advises the VO of the '**NSDIP**' Reference code to be written on correspondence such as Lab Advice Notes and invoices. The VO forwards a formal Investigation Request which includes payment offer, conditions, and contact details to the vet.
3. SVO advises Specimen Reception, Animal Health Laboratory, Mt Pleasant, of the NSDIP case with reference code and a short case summary.
4. Vet conducts the investigation; discusses whether any revisits are required with the VO, and completes the investigation and submits the completed ROADE to the VO. If the maximum \$700 has already been allocated to the case only laboratory cost support may be offered for follow-ups.
5. Vet submits invoice for \$250 to \$700 (+ GST) to the SVO as advised in the Request. **NOTE – the invoice must be addressed to 'Biosecurity Tasmania, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment' to be paid.**
6. SVO QAs the investigation and progresses the Invoice for processing.

Wildlife incidents:

Significant incidents involving wildlife are separately funded by Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) and administered in Tasmania by the Natural and Cultural Heritage Division (NCH) of DPIPWE. Queries regarding financial support of wildlife disease incident investigations should be directed to the WHA Primary Wildlife Coordinator (PWC) NCH (6165 4305 or WildlifeVets@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au) in the first instance.

VO/PWC CONTACTS:

VOs	North	Sue Martin	0419 258127
		Marianne Hevern	0436 813016
	Northwest	Debbie Grull	0428 253828
	South	Emma Watkins	0447 329991
SVO	Mary Lou Conway	6165 3258	0408 356 407 Marylou.Conway@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au
PWC	Annie Philips	6165 4405	WildlifeVets@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

ACRONYMS:

AHL –Animal Health Laboratory, Mt Pleasant Laboratories, 165 Westbury Road, Prospect TAS 7250

PWC – Wildlife Health Australia Primary Wildlife Coordinator

ROADE - Record of animal disease event form

SVO – Senior Veterinary Officer

VO - Veterinary Officer

Privacy statement

Information from this form will be used by DPIPWE to operate the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) which benefits the livestock and agricultural sectors within Tasmania. In appropriate circumstances selected data such as name, address, phone and PIC may be provided to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Animal Health Australia, National Livestock Identification Scheme database, abattoir, veterinary practitioners and stock squad. Your basic personal information may also be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary for the efficient storage and use of the information. If you do not provide complete and accurate information you may be in breach of the *Animal Health Act 1995*, and effective tracing of animals that supports domestic and international trade may be jeopardised. Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. You may access your records through any regional office of the DPIPWE. You may be charged a fee for this service. For more information please contact the Animal Biosecurity & Welfare Branch (03) 61653263.

PRIMARY SYNDROMES FOR USE IN THE ROADE/LAB ADVICE FORM

– choose one only that best describes the primary syndrome.

ABORTION/STILLBIRTHS

ACUTE FEBRILE DISEASE

ALIMENTARY SIGNS NOT DIARRHOEA

CIRCULATORY/ANEMIA/OEDEMA

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

DIARRHOEA

FOUND DEAD

GENITAL LESIONS

ILLTHRIFT/WEIGHT LOSS

INFERTILITY

JAUNDICE

LAMENESS

LYMPHADENOPATY

MASTITIS

NASAL DISCHARGE

NERVOUS SIGNS + ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE

NO SUITBLE SYNDROME (provide further detail)

ORAL LESIONS/SALIVATION

PRODUCTION DROP (NOT MASTITIS)

PRURITIS

RESPIRATORY SIGNS

SKIN LESIONS

SUDDEN DEATH

URINARY

TRACT/HAEMATURIA

WEAKNESS/DEPRESSION