NATIONAL SIGNIFICANT DISEASE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

Procedures for private veterinary practitioners (2018-19)

Eligible significant disease events are:

Significant morbidity and mortality events in livestock:
- 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
- where an emergency animal disease has been excluded and further investigation (field and/or laboratory work) is important to support a producer 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.

An eligible investigation includes the submission of appropriate (in type and quality) laboratory samples as well as background details as specified in the attached ROADE form. Cases where necropsy is conducted at the Mt Pleasant Animal Health Laboratory are now 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.

A remote case would require a total of at least 2 hours travelling.

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
- Follow-up investigation without necropsy, additional $250 + GST
- Where a necropsy or very time consuming investigation is conducted, up to $450+GST may be approved.

Laboratory cost reimbursement of up to $200 + GST may be available if the laboratory invoices the submitter veterinarian directly.

Wildlife incidents:

Note that significant incidents involving wildlife are separately administered by the Natural and Cultural Heritage Division (NCH) of DPIPWE. Queries regarding financial support of wildlife disease incidents should be directed to NCH (03 6165 4301) in the first instance.
**Initial NSDIP case approval**

1. Private practitioners contact the SVO (Livestock) or the Primary Wildlife Coordinator (PWC) (Wildlife) with a likely case and the information needed for approval.

[Note it is preferable that a ROADE is filled out prior to contacting the SVO/PWC for approval so there is sufficient information available to the SVO/PWC to make a decision.]

For livestock:

2. SVO approves case, advises the ‘NSDIP’ Reference code to be written on the Lab Advice Note if laboratory samples are involved and forwards a formal Investigation Request which includes payment conditions and amount to the vet.

3. SVO advises Specimen Reception, Mt Pleasant Animal Health Laboratory of the NSDIP case with reference code.

4. Vet submits completed Initial ROADE to the approving SVO.

5. SVO signs off completed Initial ROADE.

6. Vet submits invoice for $250 to $700 + GST (incentive) to SVO as advised in the Request.

7. SVO forwards completed ROADE and Invoice to NSDIP coordinator for processing.

**Follow-up investigation**

SVO approves a follow-up visit if required and the process is repeated. If the maximum $700 has already been allocated to the case only laboratory cost support may be offered.

**Laboratory costs**

The NSDIP subsidizes relevant lab costs. This subsidy applies where samples have been sent to the Mt Pleasant Animal Health Laboratory prior to or after case approval. Where sent prior to case approval and they have been included in the approved case the clinic will need to submit an appropriate invoice to the SVO for reimbursement. Lab costs relevant to the case and accrued after case approval will not be passed on to the Veterinarian/client. **No subsidy is available for samples sent to other laboratories.**

**SVO/PWC CONTACTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SVO Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Mary Lou Conway</td>
<td>61653258</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Marylou.Conway@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Marylou.Conway@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0408356407</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWC</td>
<td>Annie Philips/Judy Clarke</td>
<td>61654301</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Judy.Clarke@dpipwe.tas.gov.au">Judy.Clarke@dpipwe.tas.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACRONYMS:**

AHL – Mt Pleasant Animal Health Laboratory, Prospect

ROADE - Record of animal disease event form

PWC – Primary Wildlife Coordinator

SVO – Senior Veterinary Officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request Reference:</th>
<th>Interim copy: ☐</th>
<th>Final copy: ☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PIC:</td>
<td>Owner name:</td>
<td>Investigation date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Phone 1:</td>
<td>Owner Phone 2:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading/Property name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet/VO name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Phone 1:</td>
<td>Vet Phone 2:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet address:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species:</td>
<td>Breed:</td>
<td>Sex:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal location (Address):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS Lat:</td>
<td>No. at risk</td>
<td>No. sick:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical/ Necropsy findings:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Number/s (if this is a follow-up):</td>
<td>Lab samples: Blood smear, EDTA, Heparin, Plain blood, Aq. Humour, Urine, Swab, Fresh tissue, Fixed tissue, Plant, Ingesta, (please tick) and/or Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory results to date:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predisposing factors: (ie animal, mgmt, environment)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of outbreak to producer:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations to producer:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations to SVO/PWC contact:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments:</td>
<td>(signed) .......................................................... (date) ..............................................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email interim and final copies to SVO/PWC as notified on Request.
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.

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
LYMPHADENOPATHY
MASTITIS
NASAL DISCHARGE
NERVOUS SIGNS + ORGANS OF SPECIAL SENSE
No suitable syndrome (REQUIRES FURTHER DETAIL)
ORAL LESIONS/SALIVATION
PRODUCTION DROP (NOT MASTITIS)
PRURITIS
RESPIRATORY SIGNS
SKIN LESIONS
SUDDEN DEATH
URINARY TRACT/HAEMATURIA
WEAKNESS/DEPRESSION