

Disease Surveillance

Disease Investigation Subsidies and Surveillance Programs

Disease Surveillance – Disease Investigation Subsidies

Version 2: January 2022

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Enquiries

Manager Disease Surveillance
Dr Celia Dickason
Biosecurity SA
Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)
33 Flemington Street, Glenside SA 5065
T 08 8429 0374
M 0423 780 607
E celia.dickason@sa.gov.au

More information

For any signs of unexplained, unusual, and/or suspicious signs of animal illness, please call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (available 24/7). For more information about livestock disease surveillance, visit: https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/veterinarians

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE**

1800 675 888

Contents

SECTION 1: Disease Surveillance Program	5
Why do we do surveillance?	5
Notifiable diseases	5
Emergency animal diseases (EADs)	5
Funding for disease investigations	6
General Livestock	6
Livestock disease investigation subsidy guidelines	7
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) subsidy guidelines	9
Eligible cases	9
How to claim a subsidy	10
Base level herd/flock disease investigation	10
Significant disease investigation (SDI)	10
Emergency animal disease or new disease investigation	10
TSE Program (cattle, sheep, and goats)	10
Species-specific requirements	11
Pigs	11
Poultry (backyard or commercial)	11
Horses	12
Hendra virus exclusion testing	12
Arbovirus exclusion testing	12
How to claim a subsidy	12
Companion animals	13
Bat exposure	13
Disease in companion animals	13
How to claim a subsidy	13
Wildlife	14
Criteria for payment of wildlife submissions	14
How to claim a subsidy	14
National funding through Wildlife Health Australia	14
Working with PIRSA and Gribbles VETLAB	15
What PIRSA won't cover	16
Checklist before submission	16
Laboratory submission form	17
How to complete a laboratory submission form	17
Information required on an invoice	18

Emergency animal disease (EAD) surveillance	19
The role of private veterinarians	19
What is routine EAD surveillance?	19
What if I suspect an EAD?	19
Three key steps if you have a high suspicion of an EAD.....	20
What happens if I notify PIRSA of my suspicion of an EAD?.....	21
SECTION 2: Notifiable Endemic Disease Programs	22
Funding for endemic disease surveillance	22
Footrot.....	22
Johne's disease	22
Footrot.....	23
Investigating sheep and goats for footrot	23
Management when there is suspicion of footrot	23
For more information	23
Johne's disease	24
Investigating livestock for Johne's disease.....	24
Post-mortem sampling	24
Faecal samples	24
Approved laboratory tests for JD.....	24
For more information	24
Other endemic disease programs.....	25
APPENDICES	25
Appendix 1: PIRSA Animal Health Staff and VETLAB Contacts	26
Appendix 2: TSE Clinical History and Post-Mortem Report Form.....	27
Appendix 3: Horse Submission Questionnaire.	28
Appendix 4: Significant Disease Investigation – Case Report.....	29
Appendix 5: Significant Disease Investigation Claim Form.....	30

SECTION 1: Disease Surveillance Program

Why do we do surveillance?

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) works alongside many partners to keep South Australia and Australia free from exotic animal diseases. Effective disease surveillance allows early detection and rapid response to emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreaks if they were to occur in the state. Surveillance information also provides evidence to trading partners that Australia's livestock are healthy and free from disease, which underpins Australia's valuable market exports and profitable livestock industries. Disease surveillance activities also contribute to an understanding of animal health and welfare around the state, including detection of important endemic notifiable diseases, and underpin the development of good animal health policy.

Our disease surveillance program provides funding towards animal disease investigations so that we can continue to maintain and demonstrate our highly regarded animal health status. The program covers all livestock species, companion animals, and wildlife (including feral animals).

Notifiable diseases

Disease surveillance is mostly targeted at notifiable diseases. Notifiable diseases are animal diseases that are either exotic to Australia or significant endemic diseases that require reporting. There is a legal requirement that anyone who suspects or diagnoses a notifiable disease **MUST report it immediately** to their private veterinarian, a government animal health or veterinary officer, or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline. Failure to report a suspicion or diagnosis of a notifiable disease may result in a fine or prosecution. **It is essential that all veterinarians are familiar with the Notifiable disease list.**

More information on notifiable diseases can be found at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/reporting_animal_disease

Emergency animal diseases (EADs)

Emergency animal diseases are a subset of notifiable diseases that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The disease does not normally occur in Australia, and it is in the national interest for the country to be free from that disease.
- The disease is a variation of one that normally occurs in Australia, and if established here would have a national impact.
- A serious infectious disease of unknown or uncertain cause, which may, on the evidence available at the time, be an entirely new disease.
- A disease that occurs sporadically in Australia, but an emergency response is required to ensure that there is neither a large-scale epidemic of national significance, nor serious loss of market access.

Outbreaks of EADs in Australia have the potential to cause significant socio-economic impacts, and affect animal, human, and environmental health. Many of these diseases are exotic to Australia. Early and accurate diagnosis of any case of an EAD is essential for effective control, since controlling localised disease is more effective than managing widespread disease.

Detailed information about EADs can be found in: [Emergency animal diseases – A field guide for Australian veterinarians](#), published by the Department of Agriculture and the CSIRO.

Funding for disease investigations

Subsidies are available to support private veterinary investigations into animal diseases **where an infectious agent is a potential cause.**

PIRSA subsidy programs are aimed at:

- Demonstrating freedom from disease to national and international markets
- Detecting emergency animal diseases or newly emerging diseases as early as possible (thus minimising spread and impacts of an outbreak)
- Financially assisting with disease investigations (in some cases the subsidy may not cover all the costs of investigation)

Eligible cases must have, at a minimum:

- At least one potential infectious differential diagnosis
- Multiple animals affected, except for:
 - high suspicion of an emergency animal disease
 - transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) testing
 - some horses, companion animals, and/or wildlife cases that meet specific criteria
- Appropriate samples submitted for laboratory testing
- A laboratory test to rule out a notifiable disease
- A thorough case history
- A complete laboratory submission form

NOTE: only one disease surveillance subsidy can be claimed for each investigation – e.g. if a case is submitted for a TSE exclusion subsidy, the same case cannot claim an additional Significant Disease Investigation subsidy.

General Livestock

Three levels of funding are available for disease investigations in livestock:

- Base level herd/flock disease investigation
- Significant disease investigation (low suspicion of an emergency animal disease) (SDI)
- EAD or 'new' disease investigation (high suspicion of an emergency animal disease)

Livestock disease investigation subsidy guidelines

All livestock species (including horses – see separate information for horses on [page 12](#))

PIRSA livestock disease investigation subsidies

Base level herd/flock disease investigation

NO PRIOR APPROVAL → send samples directly to VETLAB and notify PIRSA veterinarian

- PIRSA will cover laboratory costs up to \$700 only, without prior approval (excluding PCR tests for endemic diseases, and please [note further exclusions](#))
- There is NO funding for mileage, veterinary fees, drugs, or other treatments
- PIRSA can split bills with the client – *if you wish to test for something not covered under the subsidy or where the cost will exceed \$700, please indicate which tests are for clinic payment on the Gribbles VETLAB submission form*
- Please inform your local PIRSA veterinarian of the investigation

Significant disease investigation (low suspicion of an EAD)

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED → call your local PIRSA veterinarian

A significant disease investigation (SDI) is indicated if:

- there is significant morbidity, mortality, or rate of spread, **OR**
- initial diagnostics and treatment fail to produce expected response (revisit required), **AND**
- there is a low suspicion of an emergency animal disease.

The following subsidy is available towards travel and initial veterinary consult and/or post-mortem costs. The subsidy is a fixed amount and can be claimed on one of the following categories.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| ▪ Consultation only (no post-mortem) | \$225 + GST |
| ▪ Consult including post-mortem | |
| ▪ SMALL SPECIES (sheep/goats/camelids/pigs/poultry) | \$350 + GST |
| ▪ LARGE SPECIES (cattle/horses) | \$600 + GST |

Reasonable laboratory testing costs will also be covered by PIRSA.

Subsidies will not cover the cost of drugs, treatments, or any non-eligible test.

NOTE: if an SDI subsidy is claimed, the case is not eligible for a TSE payment. Only one subsidy type can be claimed per disease investigation.

Claims for the fixed subsidy amount (as outlined above) should be submitted online.

See the website: http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/veterinarians

EAD or new disease investigation (high suspicion of an EAD)

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED → call PIRSA veterinarian or EAD Hotline **IMMEDIATELY**

- High suspicion of an emergency animal disease (EAD) or a new/unusual syndrome

All laboratory costs to confirm or rule-out an emergency animal disease will be covered by PIRSA. Travel time and veterinary fees will be paid for only if appropriate prior approval is sought. For contracted clinics, please see the contract for details. For non-contracted clinics, please contact a PIRSA veterinarian.

Laboratory fees will be paid directly by PIRSA. All other invoices (travel and veterinary costs) are to be sent to PIRSA for payment. Invoices must adhere to correct invoicing standards for payment to be processed. See [Information required on an invoice](#) for specific requirements.

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) subsidy guidelines

Cattle, sheep, and goats

TSE Program

NO PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED[^]



**Send samples directly to VETLAB with TSE
[Clinical History & Post-Mortem Report Form](#)**

[^] Notify the TSE Program Manager (see [Appendix 1](#) for details)

Individual animals with progressive neurological signs, meeting specified program eligibility criteria

Cattle

- Vet incentive \$300 + GST
- Producer incentive \$300 + GST

Sheep

- Vet incentive \$200 + GST
- Producer incentive \$100 + GST

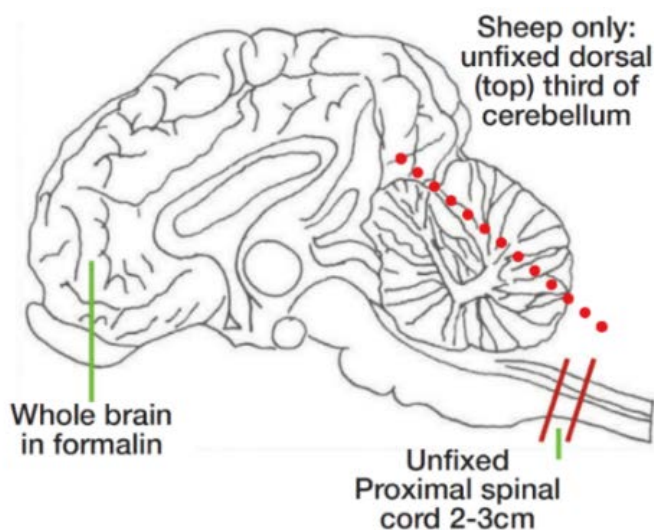
Veterinarians cannot claim a TSE Program payment AND another PIRSA subsidy for the same case.

Incentives will only be paid if specimens submitted are correct and useable

NOTE: If there is a genuine suspicion of an exotic disease such as TSE, then PIRSA should be contacted immediately, as per the EAD or new disease investigation guidelines.

Eligible cases

- Must have been observed alive
- Showing progressive neurological signs
- **Cattle age:** >30 months, < 9 years
- **Sheep age:** >18 months, ideally < 5 years
- Maximum of 2 cases can be claimed per flock or herd in a suspected outbreak
- **Fixed brain and fresh spinal cord essential.** Dorsal (top) third of cerebellum from sheep.
 - Other samples may also be submitted, and reasonable laboratory costs will be covered to further investigate causes of clinical signs



How to claim a subsidy

Base level herd/flock disease investigation

NO PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBLE CASES – notify PIRSA veterinarian

- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

Significant disease investigation (SDI)

PRIOR APPROVAL OF PIRSA VETERINARIAN REQUIRED

- Veterinary services subsidy claims to be submitted online:
http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/veterinarians
- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

Emergency animal disease or new disease investigation

PRIOR APPROVAL OF PIRSA VETERINARIAN REQUIRED

- Invoices for veterinary services to be sent directly to PIRSA (addressed to the Manager – Disease Surveillance). See [Information required on an invoice](#) for specific requirements.
- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

TSE Program (cattle, sheep, and goats)

NO PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

- Veterinary incentive claim to be submitted to TSE Program Manager (see [Appendix 1](#) for contact details)
- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

Species-specific requirements

Pigs

Note that PCR tests for endemic diseases are not covered by PIRSA.

Please contact **Dr Jeremy Rogers on 0427 608 133**, your local PIRSA veterinarian or the EAD Watch Hotline before sending samples.

Poultry (backyard or commercial)

Please contact the EAD Watch Hotline to discuss the PIRSA subsidies available before sending samples.

The base level of information required before submitting samples is:

- Whether the birds are backyard* or commercial
 - Including the total number of birds
- The level of mortality and morbidity – percentage of total birds affected and over what period
- Whether any of the following types of clinical signs are present:
 - Respiratory
 - Neurological
 - Depression[^]
 - Decline in feed or water consumption
 - Egg production drop in layers
 - Diarrhoea[^]
 - Sinusitis[^]
 - Swelling (oedema) of the head and neck[^]
 - Subcutaneous haemorrhage[^]
 - Cyanosis of the skin[^]

* In general, backyard poultry are only eligible for PIRSA funding to rule-out avian influenza and/or Newcastle disease (and infectious laryngotracheitis exclusion where appropriate). If further work-up is required, please note this on the submission form with a note for the owner of the birds to pay.

[^] Backyard poultry must exhibit respiratory and/or neurological signs, plus one or more of these clinical signs to be eligible for PIRSA funding towards a disease investigation, unless otherwise approved by a PIRSA veterinarian (in exceptional cases only).

Horses

The same subsidy categories as described for livestock also apply to horses. However, subsidised laboratory testing of individual animals is available for Hendra virus and arboviruses, as described below.

All laboratory submissions for sick horses must be accompanied by a completed questionnaire on the travel and Hendra virus vaccination history of the horse (see [Appendix 3](#)).

Hendra virus exclusion testing

PIRSA will fund laboratory testing for Hendra virus on any sick horse with signs consistent with Hendra virus. Clinic signs of Hendra virus may include neurological signs, fever, elevated heart rates and nasal discharge. Information about recent travel history, vaccination status, whether the horse is pyrexia, as well as known or potential interaction with flying foxes must be obtained and included with the submission.

Arbovirus exclusion testing

In horses showing neurological signs of unknown cause, PIRSA may pay for laboratory testing for exclusion of notifiable arboviruses, in addition to Hendra virus. PIRSA funding is not available for Ross River virus testing.

How to claim a subsidy

Where multiple animals are affected, the same arrangements apply as for livestock – see [page 11](#).

For individual animals, PRIOR APPROVAL OF PIRSA VETERINARIAN REQUIRED

- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

Please contact **Dr Diana Miller on 0427 427 253** or the EAD Watch Hotline for horse-related enquiries.

Companion animals

Cats, dogs, caged birds, small pets (e.g. rabbit). If in doubt as to what category of subsidy applies, contact the EAD Watch Hotline, or the companion animal contact person listed below.

Laboratory testing at no cost to the owner or veterinarian may be approved where there is a genuine suspicion or risk of a serious emergency, zoonotic and/or notifiable disease.

Prior approval by a PIRSA veterinarian is required before samples are submitted, if a request is made for costs to be covered by PIRSA.

Bat exposure

Because of the risk of significant zoonotic disease, **ALL** incidents where there is a human and/or dog/cat exposure to a Flying Fox (FF) or microbat should require URGENT advice via the **EAD Watch Hotline**.

Disease in companion animals

The following should be reported to your local PIRSA veterinarian, or the **EAD Watch Hotline**:

- Any suspicion of an **exotic** disease – e.g. *Leishmania*, *Brucella canis*
- Any suspicion of a **notifiable** disease – e.g. *Ehrlichia canis*[#]
- Any suspicion of a serious **zoonotic** disease – e.g. Australian bat lyssavirus
- **Multiple** unexplained deaths or clusters of unexplained illness or deaths

Submission and testing of samples MAY be approved without cost to the owner or veterinarian if discussed and approved by your local PIRSA veterinarian prior to sample submission.

[#] *E. canis* was first detected in dogs in South Australia in March 2021. For current information on *E. canis*, see: https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/ehrlichiosis_disease_in_dogs

How to claim a subsidy

PRIOR APPROVAL OF PIRSA VETERINARIAN REQUIRED

- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

Please contact **Dr Allison Crawley on 0459 888 133**, your local PIRSA veterinarian or the EAD Watch Hotline for approval before submitting samples.

Wildlife

All native Australian wildlife and feral animals. Subsidies apply primarily to wild animals (not captive), although there may be some exceptions. If in doubt as to whether a subsidy applies, contact the EAD Watch Hotline, or the wildlife contact person listed below.

Laboratory testing at no cost to the submitter or veterinarian may be approved where there is a genuine suspicion or risk of a serious emergency, zoonotic and/or notifiable disease.

Prior approval by a PIRSA veterinarian is required before samples are submitted, if a request is made for costs to be covered by PIRSA.

Criteria for payment of wildlife submissions

The following criteria apply for consideration of PIRSA funding for wildlife submissions:

- Any bat with a history of dangerous human and/or animal contact **(URGENT)**, **OR**
- Any bat showing unusual behaviour or nervous signs, **OR**
- Three or more bats reported as sick or dead at the same time and/or place, **OR**
- Three or more birds or other wild animals that are sick or have died due to unknown cause at the same time and/or place (clustered).

How to claim a subsidy

PRIOR APPROVAL OF PIRSA VETERINARIAN REQUIRED

- Reasonable laboratory costs will be paid by PIRSA – no invoice required

Please contact **Dr Allison Crawley on 0459 888 133**, your local PIRSA veterinarian or the EAD Watch Hotline for approval before submitting samples.

National funding through Wildlife Health Australia

Separate funding for a significant disease investigation (SDI) in wildlife is also available through Wildlife Health Australia for registered, non-government veterinarians engaged in clinical veterinary medicine, including all veterinarians in university clinics, zoos, and wildlife parks. This program may provide funding for veterinary investigations in wildlife, including laboratory testing. Pre-approval is required.

For more details contact Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) or the WHA state coordinator:

<https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/ProgramsProjects/NSDIProgram-Funding.aspx>

Working with PIRSA and Gribbles VETLAB

Everyone has their role to play in ensuring that each disease investigation supported by PIRSA achieves the best outcome possible.

Effective communication is the key! Keeping in regular contact keeps everyone aware of how the disease investigation is progressing.

- As the **private veterinarian**, you typically undertake the initial field investigation and collection of samples. You are also responsible for the treatment plan and communication of results with the animal owner/producer.
- The PIRSA veterinarian provides the approval for laboratory testing under the disease surveillance program. They are also available for discussion with you as the private veterinarian, if required, about the case, including if further testing/more specific testing is required in complex cases. Any request for further testing should be discussed with the PIRSA veterinarian and the Gribbles VETLAB pathologist before ordering more tests.
- The Gribbles VETLAB pathologist provides the diagnostic pathological expertise. Pathologists are also available to have discussions with private veterinarians and PIRSA veterinarians about their cases and sample selection. Gribbles VETLAB pathologist contact number is 08 8202 3300

What PIRSA won't cover

- Any testing of individual animal problems other than those specified
- Mineral profiles
- Hormone assays
- Water testing
- Feed testing
- Plant identification
- Mastitis cultures
- Calf scours
- Antibody screening, e.g. pestivirus herd tests
- Testing for flock/herd accreditation schemes
- Drugs or other treatments

For more information contact your local PIRSA veterinarian.

Checklist before submission

- ☒ Lab testing MUST include testing for a **possible infectious differential** (laboratory cost for this will be paid by PIRSA) (i.e. not just biochemistry/haematology/internal parasites)
- ☒ Submissions MUST have a **completed Gribbles VETLAB submission form**
- ☒ Private veterinarians MUST calculate the cost of laboratory testing before submission to ensure the subsidy is not exceeded (see below*)
- ☒ If unsure about what tests to request, call a Gribbles VETLAB pathologist 08 8202 3300 to discuss the best approach prior to submission
- ☒ **Bills may be split** between PIRSA and the clinic (i.e. some tests charged to PIRSA and others to the clinic). Clearly list on the Gribbles VETLAB submission form which tests are to be billed to the clinic (e.g. mineral profiles) and which are to be billed to PIRSA.

* Approximation of **what \$700 in laboratory costs may cover:**

- 1 x full blood count
- 1 x biochemistry
- 2-4 histology slides
- 2 x culture and sensitivity
- 1 x faecal scours panel (adult animal)

Laboratory submission form

The laboratory submission form **MUST** be filled in correctly and **MUST** include:

- PIC number
- Number of animals at risk, sick and dead
- Subsidy scheme – e.g. base level, SDI, TSE
- Name of PIRSA veterinarian who approved the subsidy or was notified of the investigation
- Total laboratory cost amount that has been approved (if lab fees >\$700)

How to complete a laboratory submission form

1. Enter PIC, property address, name, and phone to identify.
2. Tick account to PIRSA.
3. Number of animals at risk, sick and dead and if a notifiable disease is suspected.
4. Provide detailed history (can attach print out of clinic record).
5. Enter Syndrome Code (see list on inside of Gribbles *Production Animal Submission Forms* cover).
6. Fill in specimens and tests required sections.
7. Write the type of subsidy 'base level', 'SDI', 'TSE', etc. and the name of the approving PIRSA veterinarian (if applicable).

For split billing, clearly list clinic-to-pay tests.

Information required on an invoice

When you submit an invoice to PIRSA Animal Health, it must include the following information:

- ☒ Identify the document as a TAX INVOICE
- ☒ Veterinary clinic name
- ☒ Veterinary clinic ABN
- ☒ Date the invoice was issued
- ☒ Address the invoice to Animal Health and the appropriate Manager (TSE or Disease Surveillance)
- ☒ Identify the program/subsidy under which the claim is made – TSE, SDI, Disease Surveillance
- ☒ Total amount for payment – invoice MUST show the GST amount
- ☒ Provide details of the case
 - *Date(s) of consultation and/or submission of samples to laboratory*
 - *Laboratory submission number*
 - *Producer name*
 - *Property Identification Code (PIC)*
 - *Species*

Emergency animal disease (EAD) surveillance

The role of private veterinarians

Private veterinarians play a vital role in the early detection of emergency animal diseases and in the prevention of disease spread. Remember, as a private veterinarian you may be the first one to see the clinical signs of an EAD in the course of your daily work. Your ability to recognize the signs that could indicate the presence of an emergency animal disease and notify PIRSA of what you have observed, could be the key to detecting an EAD early, so that it can be controlled easily.

Our disease surveillance program and associated subsidies are designed to help support private veterinarians conduct disease investigations where financial limitations would otherwise be a limiting factor to submitting samples for appropriate laboratory testing.

What is routine EAD surveillance?

Routine surveillance for EADs helps to contribute to the body of evidence that Australia is free from important diseases. This is vital to maintaining Australia's export markets.

Routine surveillance can be conducted when there is no/very low suspicion of an EAD and you are confident that you are dealing with an endemic disease, but the animals have a condition that causes similar clinical signs. For example, when doing footrot testing, routine foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) testing could also be conducted.

IMPORTANT: Regardless of the level of suspicion, PIRSA needs to be aware of all cases where samples for EAD exclusion are being submitted to Gribbles VETLAB. All these diseases have significant trade implications, and we need to know about all laboratory testing to manage communication around the submission.

What if I suspect an EAD?

If you have suspicion of an EAD, regardless of whether you have a low or a high suspicion, you have a legal obligation to notify PIRSA (under the *Livestock Act 1997*) by "*the quickest practicable means*".

Phone a PIRSA veterinarian or the EAD Watch Hotline (1800 675 888).

PIRSA's national obligation is to determine an appropriate response and ensure that the appropriate investigations are done in an acceptable timeframe.

Three key steps if you have a high suspicion of an EAD

1. REPORT

Immediately call PIRSA on the 24/7 Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (before leaving the property or before attending the property if suspicious) 1800 675 888.

2. COMPLY

Comply with all instructions given to you by PIRSA and provide information that may assist the investigation.

3. DECONTAMINATE

Ensure you are not responsible for spreading disease.
Decontaminate off the property and do not attend further calls until negative results have been returned (PIRSA will guide you through this).

Although private veterinarians have no legal provision to impose quarantine on a property, you can provide basic biosecurity recommendations to a producer/owner about preventing spread of disease, for example, not moving animals, restricting property access, and not leaving the property, until PIRSA has provided further advice.

What happens if I notify PIRSA of my suspicion of an EAD?

WHAT PIRSA WILL DO

- ✓ Investigate the report, including obtaining information to inform epidemiological investigations, and take appropriate diagnostic samples. This may include engaging private veterinarians to assist in gathering preliminary information and diagnostic samples.
- ✓ Ensure a diagnosis is obtained within the shortest possible time, aiming for 24-48 hours where there is a high level of suspicion.
- ✓ Place the property under quarantine if, or when, indicated – this can occur immediately by phone while a private vet is on property if required, and usually includes movement restrictions which may involve animal, vehicle, people, and fomites.
- ✓ Provide advice on appropriate decontamination and biosecurity measures to be followed by anyone involved in the case.

WHAT PIRSA WON'T DO

- ✗ Place properties under quarantine WITHOUT a high level of suspicion of an EAD.
- ✗ Ask you to place a property under quarantine.
- ✗ Ask you to manage the investigation in cases where there is a high level of suspicion of an EAD, however in some instances you may be requested to gather preliminary information and diagnostic samples for PIRSA (you will be guided through this).
- ✗ Expect you to know exactly what samples must be taken to rule out EADs.
- ✗ Expect you to know precisely what decontamination is required for every EAD and leave you without clear instructions.

SECTION 2: Notifiable Endemic Disease Programs

Some endemic diseases are notifiable to detect unusual incidents involving mortality or sickness of animals and diseases of public health significance, as well as being key livestock industry priorities. They can also have significant market access implications.

Two of PIRSA's key endemic disease surveillance programs are for:

- Footrot
- Johne's disease

Funding for endemic disease surveillance

Through the funding for EAD surveillance (as described in [SECTION 1](#)), laboratory testing for some endemic diseases is provided. The requirements of this are outlined in SECTION 1. However, specific funding is available for footrot and Johne's disease, as outlined below.

Footrot

PIRSA funding available for investigation of lameness in sheep (and goats):

- Laboratory testing of up to 6 swabs (in Stewart's Transport Media) from foot lesions

Basic guidelines are provided on [page 23](#), however if in doubt on how to approach sampling, contact your local PIRSA animal health adviser or PIRSA veterinary officer.

Johne's disease

All susceptible species

If Johne's disease (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*) is suspected in any species in the course of a disease investigation, testing of individual animals for Johne's disease can be funded through the disease surveillance programs (see [Section 1](#)).

Sheep only

If Johne's disease is detected via laboratory testing in sheep, PIRSA can providing funding to cover the cost of two additional faecal cultures for testing of the rest of the flock. Any additional testing will be at the owner's own cost.

Footrot

All forms of footrot are notifiable under the *Livestock Act 1997* in South Australia. All clinical presentations will be assessed for virulence through laboratory testing. **Anyone who suspects footrot (including veterinary practitioners, contractors, and livestock agents) is required to notify PIRSA of their suspicion of footrot (under the *Livestock Act 1997*), unless a report has already been made.**

Footrot is diagnosed by both clinical observations and laboratory virulence testing (elastase test) in South Australia.

Investigating sheep and goats for footrot

When investigating reports of lameness in sheep (and goats) always consider footrot as a possible cause and follow these simple recommendations:

- Visit the property rather than have lame sheep brought into the clinic
- Examine at least 10% of the affected mob, not just one or two sheep (seek assistance from PIRSA if you do not have time)
- Use hoof paring shears to expose potential covert underrun lesions
- Always collect samples (up to 6) into Stewart's Transport Media (available through Gribbles VETLAB) rather than standard bacterial transport media.
- Tick "Account to PIRSA" on the Gribbles VETLAB submission form
- Notify your nearest PIRSA animal health adviser or veterinary officer as soon as you suspect a footrot case (see [Appendix 1](#))
- PIRSA animal health advisers and veterinary officers can work with private veterinarians and producers in flock-based lesion scoring, and development of a property disease management plan (PDMP)
- Do not supply or prescribe antibiotics for suspected footrot cases until an accurate flock diagnosis has been achieved or you have spoken to PIRSA regarding the impacts that use of antibiotics may have on the management program.

Management when there is suspicion of footrot

Movement restrictions apply under suspicion of footrot regardless of the perceived severity.

Sheep must not be moved without permission of the Chief Inspector of Stock and until an accurate flock diagnosis has been performed.

Neighbouring properties will be sent a notification letter only once a virulent footrot diagnosis is confirmed.

For more information

Contact **Chris van-Dissel (Footrot Program Manager)** on **0427 183 165**

Johne's disease

In Australia, Johne's disease (JD) has been detected in cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and camelids. Johne's disease is notifiable, but is classified as "report only", so no specific action is taken to a positive diagnosis of Johne's disease in South Australia. Further to this:

- Quarantine/movement restrictions relating to JD are no longer in place by PIRSA
- Producers can sell through saleyards or feedlots (if the saleyard/feedlot requirements allow)
- There are restrictions for entry into Western Australia and some export markets

PIRSA is able to work with private veterinary clinics and producers to develop a property disease management plan (PDMP), if required. National accreditation programs are available for goats, alpaca, and sheep. Johne's Beef Accreditation (JBAS-7 and 8) herds in South Australia can also be accredited by PIRSA. See contacts below for details.

Investigating livestock for Johne's disease

When investigating cases of unexplained weight loss or ill thrift in JD-susceptible species, JD should be considered as a potential differential diagnosis.

Post-mortem sampling

The following preserved (fixed) tissue samples should be submitted:

- Section of terminal ileum adjacent to the ileo-caecal valve
- Section of the caudal jejunal lymph node
- Any other site with suggestive lesions, particularly from the ileum or adjacent lymph nodes

The following fresh samples (chilled) should also be submitted:

- 5 cm segment of terminal ileum, in a sterile container
- Fresh faecal sample (12 pellets) in a sterile container

All samples should be submitted to an approved laboratory within 48 hours of collection.

Faecal samples

Individual animals:

- Fresh faecal sample (12 pellets) in a sterile container

Flock testing (sheep):

- 1 pellet each from 50 sheep in the flock, in a sterile container (for pooled faecal culture)

Approved laboratory tests for JD

- Pooled faecal culture (PFC)
- High-throughput Johne's (HT-J) PCR
- Histopathology

For more information

- Johne's disease in sheep – **Rachel van-Dissel (0428 283 073)**
- Johne's disease in cattle – **Dr Jeremy Rogers (0427 608 133)**
- Johne's disease in other species – contact your local PIRSA veterinarian

Other endemic disease programs

For questions about other endemic disease programs, such as for lice and ovine brucellosis, see the contacts list in the [Appendices](#).

APPENDICES

The following appendices are included:

Appendix 1: PIRSA Animal Health Staff Contacts

Appendix 2: TSE Clinical History and Post-Mortem Report Form

Appendix 3: Horse Submission Questionnaire

Appendix 4: Significant Disease Investigation – Case Report

Appendix 5: Significant Disease Investigation Claim Form

Appendix 1: PIRSA Animal Health Staff and VETLAB Contacts

Animal Health Management Team	Name	Phone	Mobile
Chief Veterinary Officer	Mary Carr	8429 0766	0437 328 592
Business & Quality Control Manager	Jack Van Wijk	8429 0886	0401 122 083
Market Access Manager	Cleopas Bamhare	8429 0885	0477 365 802
Epidemiology Manager	Emma Rooke	8429 0566	0491 218 976
Disease Surveillance Manager	Celia Dickason	8429 0374	0423 780 607
Field Operations Manager	Chris van-Dissel	8568 6415	0427 183 165

Program Contacts	Name	Phone	Mobile
Bovine Johne's Disease Manager	Jeremy Rogers	8539 2110	0427 608 133
Enhanced Abattoir Surveillance	Allison Crawley	8429 0866	0459 888 133
Interstate Livestock Movements	Mikaela Peach	8539 2125	0408 897 583
National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)	Denice Rendell	8429 0860	0421 056 601
One Biosecurity	Cleopas Bamhare	8429 0885	0477 365 802
Overseas Export Certification	Diana Miller	8735 1312	0427 427 253
Ovine Brucellosis Accreditation Scheme	Karen Greenhalgh	8429 0869	
Ovine Brucellosis Technical Support	Jack Van Wijk	8429 0886	0401 122 083
Ovine Johne's Disease Coordinator	Rachel van-Dissel	8568 6417	0428 283 073
Public Health and Zoonotic Diseases	Jane Owens	8429 0381	
Footrot Program Manager	Chris van-Dissel	8568 6415	0427 183 165
Sheep Lice Manager	Jessie Thomson	8735 1310	0427 274 102
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Program	Diana Miller	8735 1312	0427 427 253
Laboratory Diagnostic Services	Heather Smith	8429 0865	0401 121 904

Species	Name	Phone	Mobile
Horses	Diana Miller	8735 1312	0427 427 253
Pigs	Jeremy Rogers	8539 2110	0427 608 133
Poultry	Cornelius Matereke	8688 3436	0408 539 060
Sheep, Cattle, Goats and Alpacas	Refer to RVO (below)		
Companion Animals, Aviary Birds, Wildlife and Wild Birds	Allison Crawley	8429 0866	0459 888 133

Regional Veterinary Officers (RVO)	Name	Phone	Mobile
Murraylands and Upper South East	Jeremy Rogers	8539 2110	0427 608 133
Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas, Mid North and Far North	Cornelius Matereke	8688 3436	0408 539 060
Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas, Mid North and Far North	Nigel Baum	8842 6222	0427 604 191
Mid-South and Upper South East	Tom Couston	8762 9147	0438 192 424
Lower and Mid-South, South East	Diana Miller	8735 1312	0427 427 253
Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island	Jeremy Rogers	8539 2110	0427 608 133

PIRSA Animal Health Offices			
Glenside	8207 7900	Nuriootpa	8568 6400
Clare	8842 6222	Port August	8648 5166
Kingscote	8553 4949	Port Lincoln	8688 3400
Mount Gambier	8735 1300	Struan	8762 9100
Murray Bridge	8539 2112		

Gribbles VETLAB contacts

- Gribbles VETLAB, Glenside: 08 8202 3300
- Gribbles/Australian Clinical Labs Couriers: 08 8205 5678

Appendix 2

TSE Clinical History and Post-Mortem Report

ALL details are essential for payment to be made.

Date examined:	Owner/manager:			
PIC of property:	Property address:			
NLIS number for cattle:	Home bred? (please circle)		YES	NO
Species (please circle)	BOVINE	OVINE		
Enterprise type (please circle)	Meat	Milk	Fibre	Feedlot
Imported animal (please circle)	YES	NO		
Age (please circle)	Cattle (> 30 months to < 9 years) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (years)			
	Sheep (> 18 months to < 5 year) 1 2 3 4 5			

Clinical history including any treatments and post-mortem findings. *Please note: animals must be observed alive to qualify*

Provisional diagnosis:

Essential samples that need to be submitted:

- ☐ **Fresh samples** (kept at 4° or frozen at -20°C or -70°C): Cervical spinal cord (2-3cm), top third of cerebellum (sheep only)
- ☐ **Fixed samples:** whole, undistorted brain
- ☐ Submission of other tissue specimens is optional but should be done to support your provisional diagnosis.

Maximum payment = 2 animals per disease outbreak

Tick a **minimum of 2 relevant boxes** below that describe neurological and behavioural changes consistent with BSE or scrapie shown by this case:

Mental Status	Sensation	Posture/Movement
<input type="checkbox"/> Apprehension	<input type="checkbox"/> Hyperaesthesia	<input type="checkbox"/> Ataxia
<input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour change	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypoaesthesia	<input type="checkbox"/> Paralysis/paresis
<input type="checkbox"/> Temperament change	<input type="checkbox"/> Head shyness	<input type="checkbox"/> Fetlock knuckling
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in herd hierarchical status	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive licking/flank licking	<input type="checkbox"/> Falling
<input type="checkbox"/> Nervous of entrance	<input type="checkbox"/> Head rubbing or pressing	<input type="checkbox"/> Tremor
<input type="checkbox"/> Teeth grinding	<input type="checkbox"/> Kicking when milked	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal head carriage
<input type="checkbox"/> Frenzy	<input type="checkbox"/> Itching	<input type="checkbox"/> Circling
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered consciousness	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubbing	<input type="checkbox"/> Recumbency
<input type="checkbox"/> Excitability	<input type="checkbox"/> Wool loss	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal ear position
<input type="checkbox"/> Moribund	<input type="checkbox"/> Blindness	

Name of submitter (AHO/Veterinarian): (Print):

Business name and address: (Print):

NOTE: Incentives are NOT paid where:

- ☒ An inappropriate report or specimens are submitted ☒ The animal does not meet eligibility criteria

Submitter signature

Date:

Office use only

Clinically consistent animal ☐ OR Fallen (Dead) animal ☐ OR Casualty (Down) slaughter animal ☐

NTSESP Coordinator's signature:

Date:

Eligible cattle are: older than 30 months of age but not older than 9 years, are refractory to treatment and displaying progressive behavioural changes or neurological signs without evidence of infectious disease.

Eligible sheep are: 18 months of age or more, but preferably not more than 5 years old, that display progressive clinical signs compatible with scrapie.

Horse Submission Questionnaire

PIRSA

May 2021

For ALL laboratory submissions from horses displaying clinical signs, please answer the following:

1. Has the horse travelled from New South Wales or Queensland within the past 30 days?

YES ☐

NO ☐

2. a. Is the horse vaccinated against Hendra virus?

YES ☐

NO ☐

- b. If yes to 2 (a), have you confirmed this via the Hendra virus register?

YES ☐

NO ☐

For personnel safety, this form, or answers to these questions, MUST accompany the Gribbles VETLAB submission form when sending in samples from sick horses. Your cooperation is appreciated and will help prevent delays in sample processing.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH
HOTLINE
1800 675 888

For any queries regarding these questions please contact:

VETLAB: 8202 3300
Biosecurity - Animal Health: 8207 7900

 **Gribbles**
Veterinary
PATHOLOGY

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Case Report Form

PIRSA

*This form is optional and can be submitted with a subsidy claim online.
An electronic copy is available on the PIRSA website.
A copy of the clinical records can also be substituted.*

Significant Disease Investigation – Case Report

Date of report: Click or tap to enter a date.
Veterinary Clinic: Click or tap here to enter text.
Veterinarian: Click or tap here to enter text.
PIC of affected property: Click or tap here to enter text.
Species: Click or tap here to enter text.
Date of visit: Click or tap to enter a date.
Laboratory submission no.: Click or tap here to enter text.

Presenting clinical syndrome:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion / stillbirth | <input type="checkbox"/> Lymphadenopathy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acute febrile disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Mastitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alimentary signs (not diarrhoea) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nasal discharge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circulatory / Anaemia / Oedema | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervous signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congenital defect | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral lesions or salivation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhoea | <input type="checkbox"/> Production drop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Found dead | <input type="checkbox"/> Pruritus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genital lesions | <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Generalised oedema | <input type="checkbox"/> Skin lesions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infertility | <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness / depression / anorexia / malaise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ill thrift / weight loss | <input type="checkbox"/> No clinical signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase mortality / sudden death | <input type="checkbox"/> No suitable syndrome (please describe): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jaundice | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lameness | |

Affected flock/herd numbers: Number sick: Click or tap here to enter text.
 Number dead: Click or tap here to enter text.
 Total number at risk: Click or tap here to enter text.

Any relevant history not specific on the laboratory submission form: Click or tap here to enter text.

Final diagnosis (if known): Click or tap here to enter text.

Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Claim

The following information is needed to submit a claim for travel and/or veterinary consultation fees for an SDI. Claims are to be submitted online: http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/veterinarians

Invoice number (if you have generated your own invoice – this is optional):			
Do you have approval from a PIRSA veterinarian for payment of this claim? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
CLINIC DETAILS			
Clinic Name:			
Clinic Address:			
Clinic ABN:			
Clinic Email Address:			
CLAIM/CONSULTATION DETAILS			
Date of consultation:			
PIRSA veterinarian who approved payment:			
Laboratory submission number:			
Producer name:			
Property Identification Code (PIC):			
Species (select correct category):		<input type="checkbox"/> sheep/goat/camelid/pig – with post mortem <input type="checkbox"/> cattle/horse – with post mortem <input type="checkbox"/> consultation ONLY – NO post mortem	
AFFECTED FLOCK/HERD NUMBERS AND DETAILS OF DIAGNOSIS			
Number sick		Number dead	
Total number at risk			
Final diagnosis			
Notifiable diseases excluded			
PAYMENT DETAILS			
Have your EFT payment details changed?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	If 'YES', please provide:
Account Name			
BSB		Account Number	

ATTACHMENTS (optional): client invoice, invoice to PIRSA, case report

