



# Private Veterinarians and Emergency Animal Diseases (EADs)

This guideline has been developed for private veterinarians to ensure you know what to do in the event that an EAD is suspected.

**There are 3 steps you MUST follow if you suspect an EAD:**

## 1. Report

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

Note: this is a legal requirement with actions causing or likely to cause livestock to become affected with a notifiable condition and is an offence under Section 28 of the *Livestock Act 1997*.

## 2. Comply

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

## 3. Decontaminate

Ensure you are not responsible for spreading disease by attending further calls until appropriate decontamination has occurred and negative results have been returned (PIRSA will guide you through this).

Although private veterinarians have no legal provision to impose quarantine, you should advise the producer/owner that it is an offence under Section 30 of the *Livestock Act 1997* for animals suspected to be affected by a notifiable condition to be moved off the property without the approval of the Chief Inspector. You can also suggest basic biosecurity measures such as restricting property access and not leaving the property until PIRSA has provided advice.

## 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. This usually includes movement restrictions (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 (but you will be guided through this).
- ✗ Expect you to know 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.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL  
DISEASE WATCH  
HOTLINE

1800 675 888

## For more information

For any signs of unexplained, unusual or suspicious animal illness please call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 24/7. Private vets play a vital role in the early detection of EADs and in the prevention of disease spread. Remember, as a private veterinarian you will often be the one to recognise the first case of an EAD.

