

Biosecurity and emergency animal disease preparedness for the kangaroo harvesting industry



Like any traditional livestock industry, the kangaroo harvesting sector faces very similar risks of disease and pest incursions, many of which have the capability of impacting entire livestock industries. And, just like traditional farming sectors, the best way to avoid and combat pests and diseases is by having a robust biosecurity plan in place when harvesting kangaroos.

WHAT IS FARM BIOSECURITY AND HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO THE KANGAROO HARVESTING INDUSTRY?

Farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests, diseases and weeds. Farm biosecurity is the producer's responsibility and that of every person visiting or working on a property including animal harvesters.

Animal harvesters can play a key role in protecting Australian plant and livestock industries from pests and diseases by implementing sound biosecurity measures when moving between properties.

If a new pest or disease becomes established on a farm it will affect business through increased costs (for monitoring, production practices, additional chemical use and labour), reduced productivity (in yield and/or quality) or loss of markets. Early detection and immediate reporting of an exotic pest or disease increases the chance of effective and efficient eradication.

For more information about implementing a biosecurity plan when visiting properties go to www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE?

An outbreak of a serious emergency animal disease (EAD) can be disastrous for producers, harvesters and the environment as a whole, causing significant personal stress and anguish as well as financial hardship. Livestock and harvesting industries can lose sales opportunities, both domestically and internationally, in the wake of a damaged reputation for our produce, and the broader Australian economy could lose billions in trade and employment.

An EAD is likely to have a significant effect on livestock, potentially resulting in livestock deaths, production loss, and in some cases, impacts on human health and the environment.

Diseases that could affect kangaroos such as Leishmania and rabies are examples of EADs. However, the definition also includes unusual, severe outbreaks of established diseases that may cause sudden trade disruptions, such as the 1997 anthrax outbreaks in Victorian dairy cattle. It also includes new diseases where it is not immediately apparent what the disease is, such as the occurrence of Hendra virus in Queensland horses in 1994.



Farm biosecurity is your responsibility, and that of every person visiting or working on your property.

WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT AN EMERGENCY DISEASE WHILE HARVESTING ON A PROPERTY?

Early intervention is vital in an EAD outbreak! If you suspect a pest or disease outbreak in the animals you are harvesting or have seen something unusual and you're not sure whether it's an exotic pest or disease, report it! Don't worry how insignificant it may be. Small signs may be an early indication that something's wrong.

Your suspicions of a serious animal disease must be reported to your local government or private vet, or you can call the free Emergency Disease Watch Hotline – 1800 675 888. The hotline operates to assist the early reporting of EADs.

Early intervention is vital in an EAD outbreak!

Hop on the biosecurity bandwagon to ensure you're not spreading pests and diseases when out harvesting kangaroos



Call the emergency animal disease watch hotline if you suspect anything unusual in the kangaroos you are harvesting or the properties you are visiting.

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE
1800 675 888**



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