



# Vetcommunique

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## Animal Health Committee Meeting 02, 27-29 October 2003

The aim of Vetcommunique is to improve communication links between Animal Health Committee (AHC) and client industry bodies.

The upcoming face-to-face meeting of AHC will be held in October in Alice Springs. Face-to-face meetings are held twice each year, with the venue moving around the States and New Zealand.

The face-to-face meetings are attended by the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of the States, the Northern Territory and New Zealand. The Commonwealth CVO, CSIRO and Animal Health Australia.

### KEY AGENDA ITEMS

#### Emergency Animal Diseases

AHC will further consider detailed aspects of the FMD-BSE Implementation Plan, developed earlier this year at the Policy Forum.

The issue of disease investigation and a need for case definition/ what do you do if you find a disease, will be progressed.

Emergency vaccine use and Screw Worm Fly preparedness are on the agenda to be discussed.

#### Surveillance

The Frawley Report on rural veterinary services has been released and recommendations 1-8 fall under the jurisdiction of AHC members. A progress report on these recommendations is expected.

Antimicrobial resistance and the National Information Management capacity are current issues that AHC will advance.

#### Johne's Disease (JD)

BJD: An assurance based pilot program for "beef only" cattle has been developed by the Cattle Council of Australia (CCA). Details of planning for a proposed field trial of the system in early 2004 will be discussed with industry representatives.

OJD: The outline of an Assurance Based Credits (ABC) trading scheme has been endorsed in principle by AHC and will be further considered in light of OJD post 2004 Framework discussions in mid September.

#### Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia (AHA) will be reporting to AHC on Tuberculous Freedom Assurance Program 2 (TFAP2) progress and the BJD national approach, along with other AHA managed programs.

#### Post TFAP2 Funding

AHC and CCA representatives will consider a working group report on options for funding TB eradication activities, including compensation, post TFAP2.

#### Veterinary Public Health

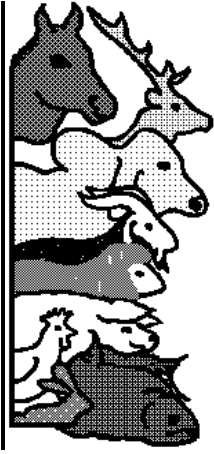
A paper on workshop outcomes in controlling and eradicating *Salmonella Enteritidis* will be presented and discussed.

An informal review of Australian pet food standards is currently being undertaken by AHC. Issues to be discussed include who sets the standards and who's responsible.

#### SCAHLs

A report from the Sub Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards (SCAHLs) addressing progress with the manual of Australian New Zealand Standard Diagnostic Techniques and the domestic pathology register will be presented.

Further details of agenda items can be obtained by contacting: [ahc@affa.gov.au](mailto:ahc@affa.gov.au)



## Animal Health Committee: What is it?

Animal Health Committee (AHC) is a sub-committee of the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC).

Its prime purpose is to provide scientific and technical advice on animal health issues to PISC. In so doing, it contributes to national policy development on animal health issues. AHC conducts its business in close conjunction with Animal Health Australia, providing technical and policy advice and consulting over program development.

The membership of AHC comprises the Chief Veterinary Officers of the Commonwealth, States, Territories and New Zealand. There are representatives from CSIRO, and Animal Health Australia on the Committee. The position of Chair of the Committee is rotated annually.

AHC considers issues and reaches decisions by means of out-of-session papers, teleconferences and face-to-face meetings. Teleconferences are held approximately every 6-8 weeks and the face-to-face meetings are held twice a year, usually in April and October.

## AHC Contacts

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