



AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION
Member Communication



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Unexplained neurological disease in horses

The New South Wales Chief Veterinary Officer has today issued a [bulletin to all veterinarians](#) describing cases of unexplained neurological disease found in horses in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Hendra virus has been ruled out in the NSW cases.

The clinical presentation has varied from animals with extreme hyperaesthesia, a hypermetric gait and difficulty masticating to others that are quadraparetic or 'wobbly'. Most appear to be recovering slowly, although it is reported that two cases in Victoria have died and one horse has been euthanased in NSW.

For suspected cases in NSW, please follow the instructions in the [CVO's bulletin](#) relating to notification and sampling.

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries issued [an alert](#) last week asking veterinarians to report horses displaying neurological signs to the local District Veterinary Officer or Animal Health Officer.

To err on the side of caution, appropriate PPE should be worn when investigating any disease in horses – overalls and footwear, gloves, eye protection, and at least a P2 mask.

FEEDBACK

The Australian Veterinary Association
Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street St Leonards NSW 2065

Phone: 1300 137 309

Fax: 02 9437 9068

Email: members@ava.com.au

Web: www.ava.com.au

