

Exotic Diseases

Posted on [August 20, 2010](#) by [Graham](#)

Some time ago I attended a Biosecurity Course aimed at preparing field veterinarians for the part they will play if/when there is an exotic disease outbreak in New Zealand. I must say I was impressed with the organisation and attention to detail by the biosecurity people.

Fortunately New Zealand veterinarians have had the opportunity to study recent overseas exotic disease outbreaks including Equine Influenza in Australia and Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK. It seems that everybody becomes an expert in the face of an outbreak and is ready to give their opinion. We saw this here with the debate in New Zealand over the pros and cons of Equine Influenza vaccination.

We have to rely on good science to make the correct decisions. I was impressed with the decisions already made and the procedures ready and waiting to put into action if/when an exotic disease strikes New Zealand.

Graham