

**E I**

**WAS**

**“EQUINE INFLUENZA”**

**Could it be**

**“ERADICATED INFECTION”**

**Presentation by: John F Coughlan - 27 February 2008**

## **Q. WHAT DO:**

- ❖ **Captain Cook's departure with Endeavour**
- ❖ **Matthew Webb becoming first person to swim English Channel**
- ❖ **First night of bombing of Germany**
- ❖ **Ben Hogan winning PGA Championship**
- ❖ **Arthur Ashe becoming first black to win US Singles Championship**
- ❖ **Carl Lewis running 100 metres in 9.86 seconds**

**HAVE IN COMMON WITH EQUINE INFLUENZA?**

## **A. All occurred for 1st time on 25 August (in different years)**

**\* \* \* \* \***

- ❖ 25 August 2007 was a monumental day in Australian Racing**
- ❖ No Thoroughbred Meeting**
- ❖ No Harness Meeting**
- ❖ Greyhound Meetings Proceeded**
- ❖ Tabcorp Turnover 88% below Budget for day**

# **NSW HARNESS INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE**

## **ACTIONS:**

- ❖ Followed Austvet Plan**
- ❖ Liaised with DPI**
- ❖ Notified Participants by Telephone**
- ❖ Notified Media Through Radio, Television**
- ❖ Regularly attended DPI Meetings and issued Press Releases to assist Participants**
- ❖ Vaccinated almost 4,000 Harness Horses twice in NSW – each with a Microchip because of use of Live Vaccine – Canary Pox**

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT

- ❖ **A need for a specific Emergency Response Plan using Technology to notify each Club/Licenced Participant utilising our Licencing System.**
- ❖ **To be better consulted. Initially the Authority was not advised of Industry Meetings – we found out circuitously. Government Departments could have full time employee to handle Customer Relations in crisis.**
- ❖ **As far as humanly possible have “single voice” coming from DPI Veterinarians.**
- ❖ **Be cognisant of advice provided by external Veterinarians**
- ❖ **The importance of having In House/Employed Veterinarian**
- ❖ **Flow of information to Harness Participants. Because of size/importance, Thoroughbred Industry dominated. All other Equine Sports were “second fiddle”. Need strategy for future to overcome this to ensure our message is delivered.**

- ❖ **To establish and implement more stringent Penalties for Participants who break Regulations to obtain better compliance**
- ❖ **The number of horses we did not know existed – particularly when CHAPS payments commenced.**
- ❖ **More effective use of HaRVEY System to ensure all records are updated – Provides**
  - ❖ **Greater knowledge of horse locations**
  - ❖ **More effective vaccination**
- ❖ **Updated list of Trainers with horses in work/started last 18 months. Easier preparation for vaccinations**
- ❖ **The need to vaccinate as an Eradication Measure on a more timely basis, given results achieved.**
- ❖ **The importance of using a Live Vaccine to prevent spread.**
- ❖ **EI Prevention Free Zones work**

## MATTERS TO CONTEMPLATE

- ❖ **The necessity to have National involvement and consensus in decision making process if the issue relates to only a few States**
- ❖ **The need to ensure future Policy Decisions are not made during the crisis.**
- ❖ **The need to resolve Microchip issue**
- ❖ **If Thoroughbreds had AI, strong possibility there would be no EI**

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