

2020-21 NSDIP animal disease investigation training

Evaluation and final report

Project overview

The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) received approval to deliver animal disease investigation training for non-government veterinary practitioners in the NT using \$8,500 of the NT's 2020/21 allocation of National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) funding.

Objectives and scope

The objectives of the training were to

1. To improve the quality and increase the quantity of livestock and wildlife disease investigations conducted by non-government veterinary practitioners in collaboration with governments.
2. To promote effective collaboration between non-government veterinary practitioners and governments in livestock and wildlife disease investigations.

Activities

Private veterinarians were asked for expressions of interest for workshops in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. There was minimal interest expressed for a Katherine workshop and therefore this location was removed from the agenda. For those attending that lived outside the Darwin and Alice Springs regions, travel subsidies of up to \$1300 were offered.

The Darwin workshop was held on Sunday June 27 at the Oaks Elan Hotel, Darwin. 15 private veterinarians and 9 government veterinarians attending on the day. Unfortunately half way through the workshop a Covid lockdown was announced. The reduced attendance may be somewhat due to brewing Covid concerns.

The Alice Springs workshop was held on Sunday July 11 at the Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs, with 10 private veterinarians and 3 government veterinarians attending on the day. Fortunately the Alice Springs work shop was completed without issue. Some presentations were pre-recorded, as some presenters could not attend in person due to Covid-related travel challenges.

Agenda

Topics were presented by veterinarians from the Livestock Biosecurity Branch, Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory and the Australian government's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS). Topics included:

- Overview of disease preparedness collaboration The role of NT government, Australian government, private veterinarians and industry
- The National Significant Disease Investigation Program and funding for private veterinarians

- Emerging threats to north Australia: African Swine Fever, African Horse Sickness, Lumpy Skin Disease
- The North Australian Quarantine Strategy
- Case study: Wild bird disease investigation
- Case study: Pig disease investigation
- Emergency neurological diseases of small animals
- Disease refresher: Brucellosis, lyssavirus, foot-and-mouth disease
- Regulatory updates: Swill feeding, Restricted Animal Material, Property Identification Codes
- Update on *Ehrlichiosis*

All attendees received a folder with written information on topics presented.

Pivot to virtual delivery

Due to the interruption to the EAD workshop in Darwin, presentations were pre-recorded and delivered to attendees in virtual format (via email link). A repeat of the face-to-face event was not attempted, due to Covid-related logistical travel challenges.

My files > Emergency Animal Disease workshop 2021

The grid displays 11 presentation slides from the Emergency Animal Disease workshop 2021. The slides are arranged in three rows. The first row contains slides 1, 10, and 11. The second row contains slides 5, 6, and 7. The third row contains slides 2, 3, and 4. Each slide includes a title, a brief description, and a date of September 21.

- Slide 1: Overview of biosecurity in the NT and ...** (September 21)
- Slide 10: Private vets and eligibility for funding...** (September 21)
- Slide 11: Ehrlichiosis canis update Dr Elizabeth ...** (September 21)
- Slide 5: Pig disease investigation with Dr Ayrial...** (September 21)
- Slide 6: Wild bird disease investigation Dr Cath...** (September 21)
- Slide 7: Neurological EADs in small animals Dr ...** (September 21)
- Slide 2: African horse sickness Dr Peter Saville....** (September 21)
- Slide 3: African swine fever Dr Amy Hardwick....** (September 21)
- Slide 4: Lumpy skin disease Dr Amy Hardwick....** (September 21)
- Slide 8: Exotic vesicular diseases of livestock Dr...** (September 21)
- Slide 9: Swill feeding, ruminant feed ban, prop...** (September 21)

Expenditure

Budget	Budget	Actual
Catering	7800	1014.63
Presenter travel expenses	7500	2295.33
Participant travel expenses	0	2059.81
AVA vet ed points	550	550
Admin & printing	900	926.37
Total	16750	6846.14

Evaluation

34 veterinarians attended workshops, representing 25% of all primary registered veterinarians in the NT.

Participants completed a post-workshop survey, with over 90% indicating the workshops had:

- ✓ Increased their confidence in identifying and reporting significant animal disease events
- ✓ Increased their confidence collecting and submitting diagnostic samples
- ✓ Increased their confidence in accessing support and subsidies for investigating significant disease events
- ✓ Improved their understanding of the role of the private vet in disease surveillance and response
- ✓ Improved their understanding of how significant disease investigations contribute to the national animal health system

All reported that the workshop had improved their understanding of the current and emerging animal disease threats to Australia, and all were interested in attending future workshops. Respondents also provided topics to be explored in future activities.

Summary

DITT wishes to thank the presenters: Lorna Melville, Peter Saville, Jo Schmidt, Amy Hardwick, Storm Gifford, Megan Pickering, Ayrial Foster, Cathy Shilton and Lil Stedman.

DITT also gratefully acknowledges the support of the National Significant Disease Investigation Program, without which this training would not take place.