



# NABSnet

# Newsletter

#38 | 23 August 2022

## New 'business as usual'

Hi everyone in NABSnet

As we're all aware, biosecurity is the long game (well beyond a flare of media attention).

Vets and producers are currently deciding what they must do to establish adequate biosecurity measures for their businesses that are practical in the long-term (ie should become their new 'business as usual').



**DIARY ALERT - The next NABSnet Info Zoom session will be 5th September** - it would be great to share the best ideas for biosecurity advice for clients.

Some suggestions I am making:

- Setting up detergent-based footbaths
- Keeping records of visitors
- Making sure that NLIS records of stock movements are up-to-date
- Reminding clients about accessing NABS SDIs

Lumpy Skin Disease is front of mind for us all – the SDI below shows how responding to producer alerts underscores that we are serious about this.

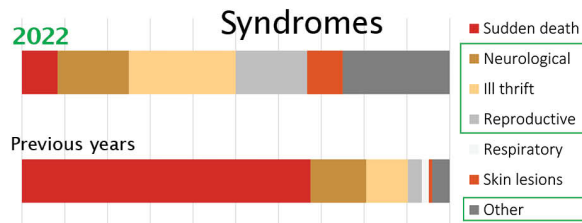
And also - info on the **next NABS Masterclass in Townsville 25-26 November**. NABSnet practices offered two places each with free registration, accommodation and support for travel. Register now!

Cheers  
Kev

## NABS SDIs for 2022



Definitive diagnoses  
Botulism (by rule-out),  
BRD complex, Dermatophilosis,  
Enterococcus septicaemia  
(rumenitis), Thiamine deficiency,  
Viral encephalitis



Inconclusive  
23%

Evidence of absence  
Aujeszky's disease virus,  
Anthrax, BSE, CSF, Equine  
encephalomyelitis viruses,  
Hendra virus, JEV, LSD, JD,  
Rabies virus, Surra



## 5<sup>th</sup> September - NABSnet Zoom discussion

### Producers alert not alarmed !

Supporting clients to make good long-term biosecurity decisions  
in the current environment

- \* Update from Indonesia – Peter Windsor
- \* National arrangements and developments - Cass Wittwer  
– how do private vets fit in?
- \* Practical advice for clients
- \* Network discussion

When – Monday 5th Sept - Qld 7.30-9.00pm / NT 7.00-8.30pm / WA 5.30-7.00pm

Where – By Zoom - Free

[Register here](#)

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## Heifer with 'lumpy' skin lesions – LSD rule-out

In June 2022, responding to the industry alert for increased vigilance around Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), a producer in northern WA reported an animal with 'lumpy' skin lesions and an investigation was undertaken.

The 18-month-old Brahman-cross heifer was part of a mob of about 1200 and was the only animal presenting with lesions of this nature. She was bright and alert, and did not show any signs of fever, lethargy, reluctance to move or inappetence.



The Differential Diagnosis list prior to the visit included:

- Dermatophilosis
- Ringworm
- Warts (Papillomatosis virus)
- LSD – important to rule out, although considered unlikely given the absence of clinical illness and only a single animal.

### Investigation

Close examination of the skin lesions showed that the lumps consisted of very thick encrustations of matted hair and dried exudates that could be peeled off leaving bare areas of normal skin with signs of some new hair follicles just starting to emerge.

Dermatophilosis was the field diagnosis most consistent with these findings.

A biopsy was taken of one of these lesions with a portion fixed in 10% Formalin, another in Viral Transport Medium and another fresh sample. Samples of the matted hair crustations was also collected. Blood samples (Plain and ETDA) were also collected from this heifer as well as 9 other cohorts.



### Laboratory Results

Histopathology identified both the presence of intra-lesional organisms and changes consistent with *Dermatophilus congolensis* infection. Bacteriology isolated a moderate growth of the organism as well as *Trueperella pyogenes*.

Samples were sent to CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (AAHL/ACDP). No virus particles were observed on electron microscopy and capripoxvirus and pan-parapoxvirus PCRs (from EDTA bloods, fresh biopsy, fresh scab, and biopsy swab in VTM) proved negative; capripox antibody ELISAs were also negative. Lumpy skin disease (LSD) was ruled out.

### Conclusions

**This was a confirmed to be *Dermatophilus* and Lumpy Skin Disease was ruled out.**

Though this was a false alarm in regards to an EAD, it is a good example of a producer reporting an unusual presentation. The full work up of the case reinforces to the producer that we take such reports seriously and encourages them to continue to report unusual cases.

## Lumpy Skin Disease

Insects are mechanical transmitters of the virus, so LSD could come into northern Australia on north-westerly monsoonal winds bringing insects across from Indonesia (or Timor Leste/ Papua New Guinea if/when it gets there).

A wide variety of biting insect species (flies, mosquitoes, midges etc) can carry the virus but it doesn't appear to survive as long on mouthparts when it can't replicate inside the insect (unlike eg Bluetongue virus in certain species of midges). More research is underway on spread in Australian conditions and trials in Australian insect species will begin as soon as live virus is available at Australia's CSIRO high level biocontainment laboratory at Geelong (ACDP).

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[The AUSVETPLAN for LSD](#) has recently been updated and released by Animal Health Australia (with input from many people in or associated with our NABS network). It's 'the bible'- the nationally agreed approach for the response to an incident – or suspected incident. It's technical but very accessibly written – well worth downloading, looking through and having as a reference.

## Some quick links on LSD

[NABSnet hub page](#)

[Endemic differentials table](#)

[AUSVETPLAN for LSD](#)

[Sample collection poster](#)

[Sample collection video](#)

## Biosecurity tips for clients

### Choosing and using a footbath

Having a footbath in place provides an immediate reminder about the importance of on-farm biosecurity. But only if it is used appropriately and consistently.

Producer clients may not be aware that there are two different types of footbaths – detergent-based footbaths or disinfectant-based footbaths. In general it is easier to set up and ensure consistent use of detergent-based footbaths – they are cheaper and less harsh on footwear than disinfectants.

To establish use of footbaths as long-term 'business as usual', encourage clients to use detergent-based footbaths to remove organic material (e.g. blood, soil, mud, faeces) present on footwear. If a disinfectant is required it will only work on clean surfaces (they don't work in the presence of organic material), so the habit of detergent cleaning first will set up well for this next step.

### Tips for clients on using detergent-based footbaths

#### What you need

- A shallow, sturdy walled tub
- Small synthetic bristled door mat to go in the bottom of the tub
- Long handled utility brush or a hard bristled scrubbing brush and a hoof pick
- Hose or water source to replenish footbath once water becomes soiled
- All purpose detergent

### Where to place the footbath

- With easy access, where people cannot bypass it
- Where it is not going to get easily contaminated – e.g. on concrete
- With clear signage

### How to use the footbath

- Remove as much of the debris from shoes before stepping into the footbath
  - Includes: sticks, leaves, mud and manure
  - A hoof pick is a useful tool if soles have deep tread
- Immerse the whole tread of the shoe into the detergent footbath.
- Rub shoes vigorously on the plastic mat to scrub the soles thoroughly.
- Use the long-handled brush to scrub the soles and sides of the shoes to remove any remaining material
- Rinse shoes, especially if going to follow with a disinfectant

### Maintaining the footbath

- Clean as soon as the liquid appears dirty - twice weekly or more often
- Don't empty near the footbath - to minimize mud contamination
- Scrub the tub and mat thoroughly to remove any debris and rinse thoroughly
- Place the mat back into the footbath and add fresh detergent.

### Maintaining the habit

- If you want visitors and staff to always use the footbath – make sure you do so yourself





## Next NABS Masterclass - Townsville

When: **November 25 - 26 (Friday & Saturday)**

Where: **JCU, Townsville**

**Two places offered per participating NABSnet practice,  
(with free registration / accommodation and support for travel)  
but places will be limited, so register now.**

How to register: **Contact [Nina.Kung@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Nina.Kung@daf.qld.gov.au)**

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## Key NABS SDI network contacts

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