Advancing equine disease surveillance in New Zealand: development of a veterinary practice-based health information and data system

Strategy against surprise – utilising primary care health data

Applicant organisation: New Zealand Equine Health Association in collaboration with the New Zealand Equine Veterinary Association

Project Leader: Dr Patricia Pearce

Across New Zealand, equine primary care data is held in isolation in practice management software systems and currently not utilised to inform population health. Further, the type and depth of diagnostic data collected by different software systems varies and hinders the comparability of data between systems. The equine sector is supporting a new approach to surveillance utilising existing computerised veterinary practice management systems to capture primary care data gathered by veterinarians including standardised terms on presentation reason and diagnoses and forwarding it into a suite of data analysis and visualization tools currently under development. The aim is to provide the New Zealand equine community with a multi-purpose animal health information hub, with comprehensive, detailed, and timely information on the health of the New Zealand equine population. The New Zealand Equine Trust funded objectives that contributed to this project enabled critical planning and user needs analysis such as determining the spread of equine caseload and which practice management software was most used in practices with high equine caseloads across New Zealand. The funds also enabled work to maximise stakeholder benefit, such as incorporation of geospatial layering, data visualisation and search and alert tools.