

Introductory training in epidemiology and disease outbreak investigation

Attwood Motel and Convention Centre, 13-15 March 2012

About the Course

Australia periodically experiences outbreaks of new or unusual diseases in both farmed and wild aquatic animal species. Recent examples include oyster herpes virus in New South Wales and Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis in Victoria and Tasmania. Proper epidemiological investigation early in such outbreaks can assist greatly in identifying source and risk-factors for infection and can often provide clues for future control. Such an investigation goes beyond the identification and characterisation of the causal agent and is an essential part of the response to any disease outbreak or incursion.

However, specific training in epidemiology and the principles of epidemiological investigation has not been routinely provided to aquatic animal health professionals in the past. This 3-day workshop will provide introductory training in epidemiological principles and disease outbreak investigation for up to 25 aquatic animal health professionals, and provide resources for future training activities. A combination of presentations and practical exercises are used to build your knowledge and skills about the basic principles underpinning epidemiological principles and their application in investigating disease outbreaks.

This course is designed to provide a practical introduction to epidemiology and outbreak investigation. It starts with the basic concepts and then builds on these concepts using case studies and practical examples to reinforce the learning outcomes. By the end of the workshop you will be able to apply the lessons learned to your own disease investigation activities, to ensure that they are being done in a cost-effective and professional way.

Where and when?

Workshop: Epidemiology and Outbreak Investigation

When: 13-15 March 2012

 9.00am to 5.00pm each day

Where: Attwood Motel and Convention Centre,
 Attwood, Victoria

Who should attend?

The course is targeted primarily at aquatic animal health professionals responsible for planning or implementing disease investigation and related activities at administrative, planning or field levels. This includes students undertaking postgraduate degrees, as well as researchers, laboratory professionals, animal health managers, epidemiologists and field staff.

Basic computer skills and understanding of simple mathematics are assumed. An understanding of basic concepts of epidemiology and disease investigation will help, but is not essential, as these topics will be reviewed during the workshop.

Course Outline

Below is a brief outline of the topics covered in the workshop. A more detailed outline is available on our website at <http://training.ausvet.com.au>.

Introduction to disease outbreak investigation

Patterns of disease

Diagnosing and screening for disease

Sampling populations

Case studies

Day 1 is an introduction to epidemiology and outbreak investigation concepts, as well as the introduction of a detailed case study which will be used for examples throughout the remainder of the workshop. Day 2 introduces concepts of understanding and applying diagnostic tests and sampling of populations, using examples from the case study while day 3 continues the main case study and provides an opportunity for participants to work on additional examples and case studies.

Presenter

This workshop will be presented by [Evan Sergeant](#). Evan is a Director of AusVet and has been working as an epidemiologist for more than 15 years. He has extensive experience as a field veterinarian, as well as being State epidemiologist for NSW Department of Primary Industries for five years and having almost 10 year's experience with AusVet. He is a Member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in Epidemiology and has a PhD on the epidemiology of ovine Johne's disease. Evan also has extensive experience in training in epidemiology, disease surveillance and outbreak investigation in terrestrial and aquatic animals in Australia and Asia.

Computers

Laptops are not essential, but please bring a laptop if you have one. We will be doing some computer-based exercises in groups, so if you don't have a laptop you will be able to share with someone else.

Registration

There is no charge for registration for the workshop, which is sponsored by the FRDC. However, please note that the maximum number of participants is 25 and participation will be limited to no more than 2 people from each agency/organisation, unless vacancies occur.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses. Accommodation is available at the motel if required, but this is participants' responsibility.

Registrations close 31 December, unless filled beforehand.

Further information

<http://training.ausvet.com.au>, or contact:

Evan Sergeant

AusVet Animal Health Services

Ph: +61 2 6362 1598

Fax: +61 2 6369 1473

Email: evan@ausvet.com.au