

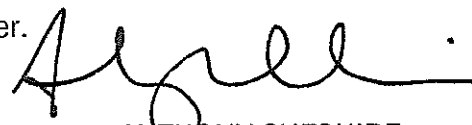
EQUINE INFLUENZA COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RACEHORSE TRANSPORT PTY LTD IN RESPECT OF THE EVIDENCE RELATING TO CONSIGNMENT 6 FROM JAPAN

1. In response to Mr. Henskens' letter of 6 March and in accordance with his invitation, I would seek to note that Mr. Henskens appears to be concerned with a different issue to the one which I raised. If that is correct, then it may not be important to take the matters that I raised any further.
2. Mr. Henskens indicates an inclination to submit "*that Jungle Pocket and Zenno Rob Roy were potential sources of the virus entering Spotswood Quarantine Station and that Snitzel was a potential source of the virus entering Eastern Creek Quarantine Station*".
3. In the light of the uncertainties identified by Dr. Newton in the various possible causal pathways, I would certainly approve of the word "*potential*" as qualifying any horse being the source of the virus entering a quarantine station and would agree with the implicit assumption that no firm conclusions can be drawn in this regard.
4. The only qualification that I would wish to add is that the word "*source*" can have two meanings in this context:
 - a. It can be used to identify the horse that took the virus into a particular quarantine station in the sense that it was actively shedding at that time and so there passed it on to other horses, and in that event it says nothing about how that horse became infected; or
 - b. It can be used to identify the first horse in the Japanese consignment that became infected, presumably from the native population, and then brought the virus into Australia or infected other horses within the Japanese

consignment albeit that it may no longer have been shedding itself by the time it arrived in Australia.

5. By identifying different horses for each quarantine station, Mr. Henskens clearly uses "*potential source*" in the former sense, whereas my submission was aimed at the latter.
6. Put another way, a submission that, for instance, Snitzel was a "*potential source of the virus entering Eastern Creek Quarantine Station*" says nothing as to how Snitzel may himself have become infected.
7. My submission, to which I adhere and which is not affected by anything raised by Mr. Henskens, is that one or more of the five horses Orchid Oasis, Acoustics, Western World, Full of Laughter and Royal Successor (nos. 5 to 9 on my analysis document EII.0006.001.0263) was the original source of the Australian outbreak in the sense that the virus was transferred from the Japanese native population to one or more of them.
8. Zenno Rob Roy, Jungle Pocket and Snitzel became infected later so that whilst they may have been actively shedding at the time that they entered the quarantine stations and so in that sense have been the source of the virus entering those quarantine stations, they were themselves most likely infected by travelling with one or more of Orchid Oasis, Acoustics, Western World, Full of Laughter and Royal Successor.
9. The gaps and issues in the evidence that I raised in my submissions only went to the issue of the first horse or horses infected in the Japanese consignment. If, as appears to be the case, attention is only to focus upon which horse was, or horses were, shedding at the time of entering the quarantine stations and therefore is or are likely to have passed the virus on to other horses in the quarantine stations, then it is probably not vital that the matters that I raised are taken any further.


ANTHONY CHESHIRE
17 March 2008

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