



Media Statement

23 August 2013

Queensland Health has advised the RNA this afternoon of four reported cases of *E. Coli* bacteria (STEC).

We understand that three children and one adult were affected, but thankfully are now recovering.

Queensland Health believes the bacteria may have been originally contracted at the animal nursery at Ekka and are continuing their investigations to understand the root cause.

The RNA is obviously working with Queensland Health and will continue to assist where possible in their investigations.

The health and safety of our Ekka visitors across all aspects of the show, from rides to food hygiene, is so very important to us, which is why we put in place the measures that we do. We work with Queensland Health, Biosecurity Queensland, Workplace Health and Safety and many other organisations in our pre-planning and throughout the show.

We also have rigorous cleaning and hygiene measures for the animal petting area, including:

- A 'one way in' and 'one way out' movement of patrons
- Staff stationed at the entry and exit gates to ensure this one way movement
- 16 hand washing bays positioned at the exit along with 22 hand sanitisers and very visual signage to encourage visitors to wash their hands after touching the animals
- Further hand washing basins are positioned at various points throughout the animal boulevard and milking barn
- A permanent cleaner is stationed at the hand washing bays to ensure the cleanliness of the basins at all times
- Absorbent material is placed under the bedding of all animals
- This bedding is constantly cleaned during the show – with two people dedicated full-time to cleaning and removing manure
- Bedding material is completely changed on the Tuesday night during the show

The Ekka has been held here for 136 years, with millions of people passing through our gates over this time, and this is the first incident of this type that we are aware of. After such a great show, it is just so sad that this has occurred and sad for the families involved.

The Ekka is about bringing the country to the city; and what the kids love most is being able to get close to the animals - an experience they don't get every day.

We will continue to work with Biosecurity Queensland to ensure we are doing all we can. We will also work with Queensland Health to help educate the visiting public on the importance of hygiene and washing hands after handling animals, no matter where you are.

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