



# BSL: your partner in animal disease diagnostics and surveillance

Queensland's Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL) in Coopers Plains provides world-class testing and diagnostics to monitor and protect Queensland's agricultural and fisheries industries and natural environment from animal pests and diseases.

BSL is critical in managing emergency animal diseases (EAD), from detection to ongoing testing informing a response and providing proof of freedom.

BSL accepts samples and conducts fully subsidised testing from any animal that presents a significant biosecurity risk to animal or human health.

In addition to monitoring and diagnosing animal pests and diseases, BSL provides animal disease testing for health, accreditation and export purposes. Service charges apply in these circumstances.

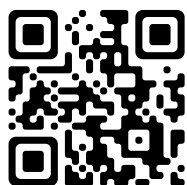
BSL reports to the Queensland Chief Veterinary Officer and is a part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

BSL has strong partnerships with other veterinary laboratories and animal health authorities including the Laboratories for Emergency Animal Disease Diagnosis and Response (LEADDR) Network, the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness in Geelong, Animal Health Committee, Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program, Animal Health Australia and all the other State and Territory veterinary laboratories.

## Essential BSL information

BSL accepts specimens from any animal species in Queensland if a disease incident presents an unacceptable risk to the health of the community or commercial livestock. Subject to the conditions outlined in BSL's specimen receipt policy, these specimens will be processed free-of-charge. The cost of transportation of submissions to BSL is the responsibility of the submitter.

The *Veterinary laboratory users guide* provides a comprehensive guide for sampling, testing and diagnostics in an easy-to-navigate format.



Veterinary laboratory  
users guide

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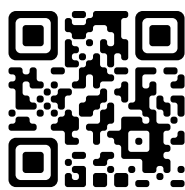
🌐 [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au)

📘 BiosecurityQld

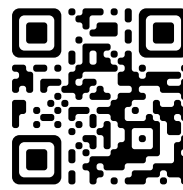
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It is essential that a fully completed specimen advice sheet: Form A accompanies the samples.

For guidance on the specimen advice sheet: Form A, results timing and sample retention and transporting samples to BSL visit [business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/lab](http://business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/lab).



Submit sample



Sample  
packaging video

Watch a video with more information on packaging samples for testing.

## Biosecurity in Queensland

### Emergency Animal Disease Hotline

- The EAD Hotline, 1800 675 888, is a national toll-free number that connects callers to the relevant state or territory animal health authority to report concerns about potential emergency animal diseases.

### General biosecurity obligation (GBO)

Under Queensland's general biosecurity obligation (GBO), individuals and corporations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a biosecurity event, and limit the consequences if an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

### TSE Surveillance Program

In Queensland, veterinarians can submit samples from animals with clinical signs consistent with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) to BSL for TSE exclusion testing. Testing is free-of-charge and incentive payments are available under the TSE Program.



Queensland  
Government

# Be alert for **emergency animal diseases**

## BSL: your partner in animal disease diagnostics and surveillance

### Registered biosecurity entity (RBE)

If you own or keep any of the following designated animals in Queensland, you must be registered as a biosecurity entity:

- one or more cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer alpacas, llamas, or other animals from the Camelidae family, horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, zebras or other animals from the Equidae family.
- 100 or more birds that either are raised for human consumption (e.g. poultry), are raised for the production of eggs for human consumption (e.g. poultry), have been released into free flight since they started being kept in captivity (e.g. pigeons).
- 1 or more European honey bee hives.

You need to register if you:

- are a landowner
- are a lessee
- agist your animals on someone else's land
- keep beehives on someone else's land.

Veterinary premises need to be registered if they hospitalise or agist any of the above designated animals.

To manage emergency incidents, we need to know where susceptible animals and beehives are and who is responsible for keeping the animals or hives.

Registration allows us to communicate directly with you, so we can act quickly in an emergency response.



### Other useful resources

- The Business Queensland animal disease pages identify and manage disease and disorders that affect animals and livestock
- NABSnet helps practitioners in northern Australia share their experiences and provides a financial subsidy to acknowledge the additional time and cost involved in doing a significant disease investigation to the NABS standard. Make sure your clinic is part of the network!
- Animal Health Australia (AHA) hosts a variety of online courses related to emergency animal disease (EAD) preparedness, arrangements and biosecurity on its eLearning platform.
- *Emergency animal diseases: A field guide for Australian Veterinarians* details important emergency animal diseases that do not exist in Australia or that are rare. It will help you to include appropriate EADs in your differential diagnosis list and take appropriate action if you see signs of an unusual disease.
- [daf.qld.gov.au](http://daf.qld.gov.au) has important information on the difference between a biosecurity plan and a biosecurity management plan. On-farm biosecurity helps protect properties against entry and spread of pests, diseases and chemical residues. On-farm biosecurity is everyone's responsibility – from property owners to every person who visits or works on the property.

### Contact BSL

Address: Specimen Receipt (Loading Dock 12)  
Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory  
Health and Food Science Precinct  
39 Kessels Road  
COOPERS PLAINS QLD 4108

Phone: 07 3708 8762

Email: [bslcl@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:bslcl@daf.qld.gov.au)

Website: [business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/lab](http://business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/lab)



The Biosecurity  
Sciences Laboratory