

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF ARAZPA TO QUARANTINE AND BIOSECURITY REVIEW PANEL

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ZOO AND WILDLIFE RELATED DISEASES

Following a discussion at the recent meeting between ARAZPA representatives and members of the Beale panel reviewing Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity processes, ARAZPA would like to submit the following information to the Panel for further consideration.

It has been noted by ARAZPA and other professionals working with wildlife and zoo animals that there is a long standing and current weakness in diagnostic testing capabilities within Australia, specifically with respect to diseases affecting Australian wildlife and/ or exotic zoo animals. The lack of diagnostic testing places Australia's biosecurity and biodiversity at risk.

In general, this lack of diagnostic testing ability is seen to be reflective of a lack of resources and a perceived low priority within Australia's veterinary diagnostic laboratories, rather than due to problems in importation or development of reagents.

The following is a list of diseases for which Australia needs to have improved diagnostic testing capabilities. Please note that in some cases there are limited tests currently available, through Universities, and similar pro bono schemes.

- Ophidian Paramyxovirus (snakes) OPMV
- Herpes B of Macaques (fatal zoonotic disease)
- Elephant Herpes Virus
- Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV)
- Pinniped Morbillivirus
- Cetacean Morbillivirus
- Macropod Herpes Virus (MaHV)
- Herpes viruses in general
- Bat Paramyxovirus (Nipah/Hendra) differentiation
- West Nile Virus /Kunjin Virus differentiation
- Avian Polyoma Virus
- Psittacine Herpes Virus (including Pacheco's disease)
- Avian Influenza Virus - validation in wild birds
- Duck Virus Enteritis
- Duck Virus Hepatitis
- Arboviruses
- Biotxin exposure - in Australia it is possible to identify toxic algae and diatoms, and identify biotoxins in water, but there is no testing for toxins in animal tissues.

- Botulism toxins – at present there are only tests for 2 - 3 of the 5 strains

An adjunct or alternative to developing diagnostic testing capabilities within Australia could be to streamline the current export processes required to send diagnostic samples outside Australia for testing. The existing processes are very cumbersome, with lengthy permit application procedures.

If there are further questions relating to this matter, we will be happy to provide additional information.

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