

Movement of Horses in the NT in Relation to Cattle Ticks

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HISTORY

Cattle ticks (*Boophilus microplus*) and the tick fever organisms (*Babesia bovis*, *Babesia bigemina* and *Anaplasma marginale*) were introduced into northern Australia in the 1880s.

The life cycle of the cattle tick may be completed outside the endemic area if viable ticks are introduced to the marginal or tick free areas at periods of suitable climatic conditions. The infestation may persist for weeks or for a couple of years, depending on seasonal conditions. Serious cattle losses due to tick fever (mainly babesiosis) and 'tick worry' could occur.

The reason for the regulation of horse movements relating to cattle ticks is to prevent the spread of the tick.



HORSES ENTERING THE NT

All horses entering the NT must carry a health certificate and waybill and must meet the entry requirements for the Southern Protected Area (Free Area). Details of any exemptions can be obtained from the Inspector issuing the health certificate.

TICK AREAS

The NT has four cattle tick areas.

The infected zone protected area is tick infested. The free zone protected area has been tick free for many years. The Central control zone protected area is a buffer zone and has been tick free for about 15 years. The Northern control zone protected area is a buffer zone separating the infected and free zones.

CONDITIONS FOR MOVEMENT WITHIN THE NT

This section summarises the movement conditions relating to cattle ticks, effective from August 2003.

From the infected zone protected area to another area i.e. across the tick-line

- A clean inspection.
- Supervised treatment*.

From the Northern control zone protected area to Central control zone protected area and free zone protected area

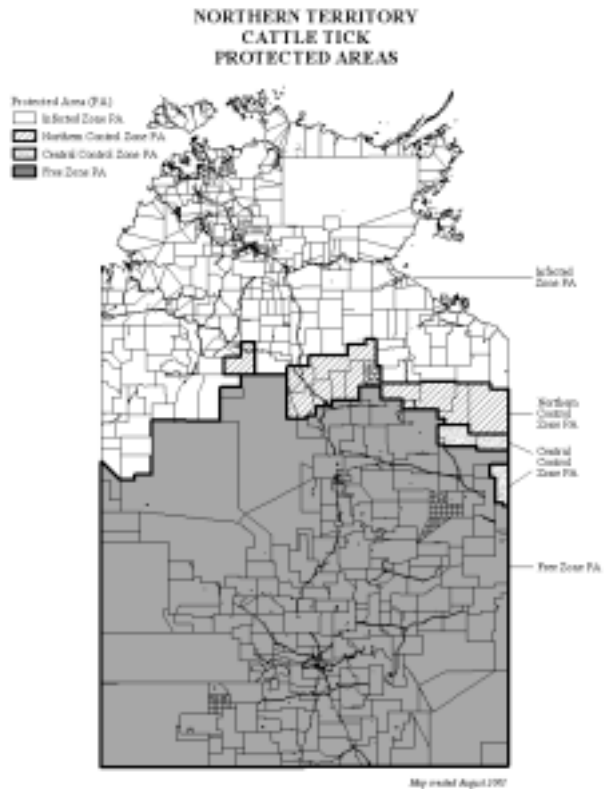
- A clean inspection and supervised treatment*.

From the Northern control zone protected area through the Central control zone protected area and free zone protected area to a tick infested area

- A clean inspection.

From the Central control zone protected area to the free zone protected area

- A clean inspection



* Supervised treatment: plunge dipping in an approved dip or spray treatment for led and manageable horse under the supervision of an Inspector of Stock

Within an area

No restrictions unless moving through another area (conditions for entry into the area apply) or from properties quarantined for Parkhurst resistant ticks. Contact the Regional Stock Inspector in Darwin on (08) 8999 2031 for details on Parkhurst resistant ticks.

Movement must be within 48 hours, except with the permission of an inspector.

NOTE: Brumbies will be permitted to move from the tick infested area to clearing dips in the new Northern protected area, e.g. the Elliott dip, with a clean inspection if an approved dip is not available locally.

PERMIT

A permit issued by an inspector authorises movement into a protected area.

OFFENCES

A penalty up to \$20,000 applies if unauthorised stock travel to a protected area. From July 1997 an on-the-spot fine of \$200 applies for horses that enter protected areas without the required treatments and documentation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ARRANGE INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Contact your local Stock Inspector.

Please visit us on our website at www.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au

Form C: STOCK PERMIT IN RELATION TO A PROTECTED AREA (Stock other than Cattle and Buffalo)

Northern Territory of Australia
Stock (Quarantine Act)
Regulation 2

FORM C No. 02176

1. Date and address in the corner of the stock

2. Name of owner or manager of breeding stock

3. Date from which stock is to be moved

4. Date to which stock is to be moved

5. Name and address of person making application for the stock

6. Particulars of Stock

SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	BRANDS

7. Treatment of Stock prior to the Movement

DATE	PLACE	TREATMENT	NUMBER	CONTACT OR SUPERVISOR BY

Date of commencement of movement: _____ Date of completion of movement: _____

8. Other Conditions

9. Issuing Inspector

I hereby give permission for the stock described in these conditions to move into the protected area for _____ (to be completed with the stock particulars)

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Inspector: _____

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