

Information checklist for advising owners on managing ABLV risk in a clinically well animal

General information

- ABLV is a fatal zoonosis that can be transmitted by a bite or scratch to humans and other mammals (including pets).
- There is a low, but not zero, possibility that the exposed animal has been infected and, at a later time, the animal may become ill (and die) and transmit ABLV to a person or other animal.
- The owner has a general biosecurity obligation in relation to ABLV. This means they must take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk to human health. They may do this by:
 - vaccinating the animal, or
 - euthanasing the animal, or
 - monitoring the animal for and reporting the onset of clinical signs consistent with ABLV.
- Also, to meet their obligation, they should minimise contact between the animal and people and other animals until the vaccination program is completed, or the animal is euthanased, or for at least 6 months.
- More information about ABLV (including the pros, cons and limitations of the options for meeting the general biosecurity obligation) is available from business.qld.gov.au.

Vaccination

- No vaccine works immediately. The vaccine is more likely to be effective if given as soon as possible, and two vaccinations are required 7 days apart. There is a residual risk period of 35 days between when the first vaccine is given and when immunity can be assumed to have taken effect.
- During the residual risk period, the animal may still develop ABLV disease and could transmit infection to others.** Contact with the pet should be minimised until the program has been successfully completed. The vaccine program does not end until the 35-day residual risk period has passed with the vaccinated animal remaining well.
- The earlier the vaccine can be given, the better.** If the owner's private veterinarian does not have the vaccine in stock, options for reducing the delay include seeking veterinary services from a veterinarian that has the vaccine in stock or the owner's veterinarian sourcing the vaccine from another veterinarian pending supply by a veterinary wholesaler.

Euthanasia

- Euthanasia is not necessary to reasonably minimise the risk and is entirely at the owner's discretion.

Monitor and report

- This option is appropriate when the likelihood of exposure is relatively low, or for short periods while awaiting further information (e.g. a laboratory result, the outcome of observation). This is the most risky option and the hardest to implement effectively, as it is natural for a person's awareness, alertness and perception of the risk to wane over the long incubation/risk period for ABLV.

Note: Where there has been exposure to a confirmed source of ABLV, this option is not recommended and should be discouraged when reasonable.