



Ticking all the right boxes

Clinical History				
Normal Animal Check	Anorexia	Abortion/Stillbirth	Alimentary System Signs	Skin Lesions/Photosensitivity
Found Dead/Unexpected Death	Diarrhoea/Dysentery	Congenital Abnormalities	Metabolic/Recumbent	Pruritus
Mass Mortality	Ill Thrift/Weight Loss	Genital Lesions	Jaundice	Nasal Discharge
Nervous Signs	Production Drop	Infertility	Lameness	Vesicles/Ulcers of Mouth/Drooling
Respiratory	Weakness/Depression	Perinatal Losses	Febrile	Musculoskeletal Signs
Urinary	Circulatory/Anaemia/Oedema	Mastitis	Lymphoreticular/Lymphadenopathy	Trauma
No. at Risk		No. Affected		No. Dead

The clinical history tick boxes on the production animal and equine sample submission forms are about more than providing clinical history to the lab for the sake of interpretation.

These broad categories of clinical presentations are used by MPI to anonymously collate data from samples submitted to veterinary diagnostic laboratories throughout New Zealand for the purpose of disease surveillance. Such data may be used, for example, to monitor for early indicators of new diseases or for unusual geographic clusters of established diseases within the country.

Where a written history is provided, we are able to extrapolate this information into the appropriate categories, but ticking the applicable clinical history boxes is still appreciated to make sure we have it right.

Where written histories are not provided because of time constraints, or because they are not considered necessary for interpretation of the requested tests, it becomes even more important to take just a few seconds to tick one or more of the clinical history boxes – tick as many as are considered relevant to the case. There is also a “normal animal check” box if samples are for routine screening or if the animal is showing no clinical signs, which is also important to know.

Taking the time to tick the right boxes is much appreciated by your lab staff. Many thanks to those who already routinely use them.