

ONLINE ARTICLE

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TWO miniature horses have caused a big bill for one New South Wales horse owner, who was fined for illegally moving the animals across the Queensland border.

The woman was reported for illegally transporting the animals into NSW by vigilant members of the local horning community, NSW Department of Primary Industries regional veterinary officer Paul Freeman said.

The Woodburn woman failed to stop at the border for treatment of cattle ticks, a notifiable pest in NSW.

The parasites, which attach to cattle, horses and other livestock, are potentially fatal because they carry tick fever.

The offender was fined \$550 for the breach.

"She was known to have knowledge of the requirements for moving livestock into NSW from Queensland and yet failed to comply with the border regulations," Freeman said.

"Cattle, horses and other livestock coming from tick-infected Queensland must stop at the border and be treated for cattle ticks before they enter NSW

"If people fail to stop at the border and end up bringing cattle ticks into NSW the result can be months of quarantine for affected properties and expensive eradication campaigns."

Freeman said early identification could keep stock losses to a minimum.

"In the past year, there have been 47 properties infected with cattle tick in NSW, including six over winter, and that is down 20 per cent on the previous year," he said.

"The important message for stockowners is to abide by livestock movement requirements, and check stock for cattle ticks because treatments are available."

Farmers who suspect their stock have cattle ticks or fever should contact NSW DPI or their private vet for advice.

For more information call the DPI on (02) 6626 1201.