



UPDATED: May 20, 2011, 2:00 pm EST

S.C. EHV-1 Status: No suspects Identified

Equine Herpesvirus Awareness

An outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) has been traced to horses that attended the National Cutting Horse Association's (NCHA) Western National Championships in Odgen, UT on April 30 - May 8, 2011. South Carolina does **not** currently have any exposed or positive horses. Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health will continue to monitor the situation in other states. Owners of exposed horses in other states are being advised by State Animal Health Officials to isolate their exposed horses for at least two weeks, follow good biosecurity practices, and watch for possible clinical signs. Please contact the state veterinarian's office if you suspect a horse that may have been exposed or is showing neurologic signs.

Current States Affected (Exposed, Positive, or Euthanized)

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| Arizona |
| California |
| Colorado |
| Idaho |
| Illinois |
| Iowa |
| Minnesota |
| Montana |
| Nebraska |
| Nevada |
| New Mexico |
| Oklahoma |
| Oregon |
| South Dakota |
| Texas |
| Utah |
| Washington |
| Wyoming |

Current State Health Certificate Updates

Colorado- Standard requirements for horses entering Colorado include a health issued certificate within 30 days of their arrival and a negative Coggins test within 12 months. The new requirement consists of a permit to enter the state. Horse owners who wish to bring their horse into Colorado must first call their veterinarian. That veterinarian can then contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office at (303) 239-4161 and request a permit number. That number would then be included on the health certificate.

Wyoming- The Wyoming Livestock Board immediately requires an official certificate of veterinary inspection within **72 hours** prior to entry into Wyoming for imported Equine. The certificate must include the temperature recorded for each horse listed. The statements **"No horse listed have been exposed to any horse with or exposed to EHV-1."** and **"No horses listed are showing any clinical signs of EHV-1."** must be written on the certificate.

Please note, if shipping horses interstate please contact the state veterinarians office for the state of destination prior to shipping to determine if any regulations have changed due to EHV-1 situation.

*Currently SC has **not** changed our import regulations, but we may require permits if the situation with EHV-1 in the western states continues to deteriorate.

EHV-1 Information

Equine Herpes Virus is a common virus in equine populations worldwide. There are several strains of the virus, with EHV-1 and EHV-4 being most often involved in clinical disease. EHV-1 can cause respiratory disease, abortion and neurologic disease. The neurologic disease is sometimes referred to as Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM.) ***Although EHV-1 is highly contagious among horses, it does not pose a threat to human health.***

Transmission

EHV is transmitted primarily by aerosol and through direct and indirect contact. Aerosol transmission occurs when infectious droplets are inhaled. The source of infectious droplets is most often respiratory secretions. In the case of abortions, virus may be present in the placenta, fetal membranes and fluid, and aborted fetuses.

Direct horse-to-horse contact is a common route of transmission of the virus, but indirect transmission is also important. This occurs when infectious materials (nasal secretions, fluids from abortions, etc.) are carried between infected and non-infected horses by people or fomites (inanimate objects such as buckets, etc).

Signs of EHV-1

Fever is one of the most common clinical signs and often precedes the development of other signs. Respiratory signs include coughing and nasal discharge. Abortions caused by EHV generally occur after 5 months of gestation. Neurologic signs associated with EHM are highly variable, but often the hindquarters are most severely affected. Horses with EHM may appear weak and uncoordinated. Urine dribbling and loss of tail tone may also be seen. Severely affected horses may become unable to rise.

It is important to remember that none of these signs are specific to EHV, and diagnostic testing is required to confirm EHV infection. Also, many horses exposed to EHV never develop clinical signs.

What to do if you suspect your horse has been exposed

If you suspect your horse has been exposed to EHV, contact your veterinarian. In general, exposed horses should be isolated and have their temperatures monitored twice daily for 10 days. If an

exposed horse develops a fever or other signs consistent with EHV infection, diagnostic testing should be performed. Testing of healthy horses is generally not recommended.

Useful Links/Resources

- <http://www.clemson.edu/public/lph/ahp/equine.html>
- http://www.nchacutting.com/ag/shows/pdf/csu_20110515.pdf
- http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Equine%20Herpes%20Virus.pdf
- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

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