

EHV Update 6/20/11

USDA has released the fifth national EHV-1 situation report, web link below. There was one newly identified premise with a suspect or confirmed EHV/EHM case during this last reporting period. No cases have been reported in the State of Alaska. The Office of the State Veterinarian recommends that horse owners and equine event organizers to stress biosecurity measures and responsible ownership practices to help contain the spread of EHV-1 and other infectious diseases.

A summary of the updated EHV information as of 6/16/11:

- A total of 90 confirmed EHV-1 or EHM cases have been reported in 10 states (AZ, CA, CO, ID, NM, NV, OK, OR, UT, WA)
- Of the 90 confirmed EHV/EHM cases, 54 (corrected from previous reports) cases are horses that were at the Ogden, Utah event.
- There are 13 horses associated with this incident that are dead or have been euthanized.
- There is 1 newly identified premises with suspect or confirmed cases identified this reporting period.

The complete USDA EHV-1 Situation Report* provides detailed information on the number of exposed, positive, dead, and euthanized horses on a state by state level. The USDA will release another national situation report at the end of next week.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/ehv_2011_sitrep_061611.pdf

EHV Update 6/3/11

Situation continues to remain stable. No reported cases in Alaska. In the lower 48, many premises that had horses under hold orders or quarantine are now being released. Recommended management options that most states are using for release from quarantine are as follows:

- 1) Positive cases and stable mates isolated for at least 21 days past the resolution of clinical signs or of the date of testing positive will be released if they test negative on nasal swab and/or blood sample.
- 2) Positive cases and stable mates isolated for at least 28 days past the resolution of clinical signs or of the date of testing positive will be released with no testing required.

USDA's third EHV-1 situation report is available at
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/ehv_2011_sitrep_060211.pdf

Remember to be on your guard and practice good biosecurity when traveling to equine related events. The following are links that provide basic biosecurity information, your best protection for any infectious disease.

http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Instructions%20to%20grooms.pdf

http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Biosecurity_instructions%201.pdf

EHV Update 5/31/11

The current response measures enacted by the horse industry in coordination with state animal health officials, appears to have the current EHV-1 outbreak under control. Only two new cases have been reported over Memorial Day weekend and two more suspects being closely watched. These horses are in California and Idaho, and were on premises already under quarantine as they were linked to the Ogden, Utah outbreak.

Due to the rapid response of the folks in the horse community and the state veterinarians in the affected states, the risk of the EHV-1 virus responsible for this outbreak coming to Alaska is extremely low. But horse owners should know that because the EHV virus very common in horses, there is always a risk that Alaskan horses can become ill.

The only way to decrease the risk is for horse owners, equine centers, and show or fair coordinators, to identify and implement proper biosecurity policies; such as quarantine or isolation areas, vaccination requirements, and eliminating shared equipment among horses. Work with your local veterinarian to develop a biosecurity plan for you and your horse(s).

EHV Update 5/26/11

TheHorse.com's live webinar event, "Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) Outbreak: What Horse Owners Need to Know," is now archived and available to view for free.

[See: <http://www.thehorse.com/Videos/Webinars.aspx>]

The current outbreak of the sometimes fatal neurologic disease caused by equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) in several Western states and Canada has generated widespread concern throughout the horse industry. How many horses are really affected in this outbreak? Is this a new, mutated form of the virus? What are the signs that tell you a horse has EHV-1? Will affected horses recover? How can horse owners and veterinarians work together to prevent the disease from spreading? These questions and many more were answered in this timely webinar presented by TheHorse.com and Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health.

EHV Update: 5/26/2011

The Office of the State Veterinarian has no "confirmed" cases of the neurologic form of EHV-1 to report. We are working with horse owners and private practitioners in the state on any questions regarding diagnostic testing and biosecurity procedures for horse shows/events and recent imports into the state. The state is following USDA guidelines for reporting "confirmed" and "suspect" cases. The guidelines can be found on the USDA web page: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

Horses that attended the National Cutting Horse Association event were put under hold orders or quarantines to prevent the further spread of the disease. At this time animal health officials from affected states will soon start to release primary exposed horses (those attending the Ogden Show) and their cohorts (stablemates) if none of the horses have shown any sign of illness.

EHV is a reportable disease in Alaska and we will provide support to local veterinarians with any reported cases of EHV or situations where horses are displaying symptoms consistent with that of the neurologic form of EHV-1.

May 20, 2011

CONTACT: Dr. Robert Gerlach, State Veterinarian, (907) 375-8214

DEC Issues Caution on Horse Virus Outbreak

(JUNEAU, AK) – An outbreak of equine herpesvirus (EHV) has been identified in several horses that participated in the National Cutting Horse Association's (NCHA) Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah, on April 30 to May 8, 2011. The affected horses are from a number of western states, including Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Western Canada. No horses from Alaska participated in the competition, however many horses come to Alaska every spring from these states.

There are no official travel restrictions on the movement of horses at this time, and infected horses could arrive in Alaska.

EHV is highly contagious among horses and has been known to affect llamas and camelids occasionally as well, however it does not pose a threat to human health. Fever is typically the first sign of infection. Symptoms can be severe and include respiratory disease (coughing, nasal discharge), aborted pregnancy, and neurologic disease. Neurologic symptoms include lethargy, weakness in the hind end and lack of coordination. Urine dribbling and loss of tail tone may also be seen. Most importantly, none of these signs are specific to EHV so contact a veterinarian, as diagnostic testing is required to confirm EHV infection. The virus may also remain dormant for many years and be activated by stressful conditions.

The common transmission route is direct horse-to-horse contact, but indirect transmission is also possible. The virus is primarily spread by aerosol from the respiratory tract, or contact with an infected aborted fetus or birthing materials. EHV can also be spread by people or equipment, such as tack, grooming

equipment, feed/water buckets, and trailers. The virus can stay viable in the environment for several weeks.

Steps to combat EHV infection include:

- If a horse is exposed to the virus, monitor its temperature twice a day for 14 days.
- Immediately report temperatures over 101.5 F to a veterinarian.
- Restrict movement on or off the premises.
- Isolate sick horses a minimum of 30 feet away from all other horses for 21 days.
- Wash hands and sanitize boots after handling isolated horses.
- Use separate equipment, bucket, halters/leads for isolated horse.
- Ideally, use separate personnel for isolated horses. If unable to, use protective clothing such as coveralls, boot covers, and gloves. Do not use same clothing with other horses.

More information on equine herpesvirus, including prevention tips can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

<http://www.aaep.org/images/files/EquineHerpesvirusGuidelines051711.pdf>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/HorseBioSecurity_final.pdf

http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Biosecurity_instructions%201.pdf