

Issue: Equine Herpes Virus Update
Veterinary Services
01/05/07

As of January 5, 2007, the State of Florida has quarantined a total of 10 premises and there are currently 12 infected horses with 6 associated deaths. There have been no additional cases outside of Florida.

While under quarantine at the New York Animal Import Center, the 15 horses from Germany were tested for diseases as required and listed in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's regulations. While at the Import Center, one of the horses developed a fever. Clinicians at the Import Center are required to treat any horses showing clinical signs of infectious disease, such as fever or nasal discharge, prior to release. When a horse shows signs of illness, a clinician will examine the animal and determine the appropriate treatment protocol to be used while still in quarantine.

If a horse tests negative for the listed regulatory diseases and shows no clinical signs of infectious disease, it will be released. Horses that are treated for clinical signs of infectious disease will be released after the treatment is concluded and they no longer exhibit signs of infectious disease, including fever.

The horse that developed a fever while at the Import Center was treated by a clinician while in quarantine. When the treatment was concluded and it did not exhibit a fever or any other clinical signs of infectious disease, it was released.

Issue: Equine Herpes Virus in Shipment of 15 Horses from Germany
Veterinary Services
12/29/06

On November 24, 2006, a shipment of 15 horses from Germany arrived at the New York Animal Import Center in Newburgh, NY. These horses were kept in federal quarantine together. While there, one of the horses developed a fever. This horse was treated and displayed no clinical signs of illness before it and the others were released on November 27.

Eight states received horses from the original shipment. One state, California, received a horse that shortly thereafter died of laboratory-confirmed equine herpes virus (EHV). Florida, after receiving five horses from the original shipment, has now confirmed 11 cases of EHV-1 with two confirmed deaths. The other states that received horses have closely monitored and finalized their quarantines with no deaths or new cases reported.

The trace-back details are as follows:

California: One horse was sent to California and died shortly thereafter of laboratory-confirmed EHV-1.

New Hampshire: Four horses were sent to the same premises in New Hampshire. The state veterinarian quarantined all of the horses after learning of the first EHV-1 case. No clinical signs or fevers were noted and the quarantine was lifted 12/26/06.

Massachusetts: A mare and a gelding were shipped to a farm in Massachusetts. These animals were observed in quarantine by an accredited equine practitioner for 30 days. Neither horse showed signs of illness.

North Carolina: A gelding was shipped to North Carolina and quarantined. The state reports there have been no signs of illness.

South Carolina: Two weanlings, not part of the shipment of 15 horses from Germany, were being shipped to South Carolina and mingled with the index horse which was on its way to California. Both of the weanlings were EHV-1 vaccinates. They were placed in voluntary isolation by the owner for 21 days with no signs of illness thus far.

Pennsylvania: A gelding that was shipped to Pennsylvania and quarantined has shown no signs of illness according to attending veterinarians.

Kentucky: A mare was shipped to Kentucky where it was put under quarantine after the state veterinarian learned of the EHV-1 situation. The horse was released from quarantine on Dec 19, after no signs of illness surfaced and it was confirmed PCR test negative for EHV-1.

Florida: Five horses were shipped to Florida. These horses, along with horses they mingled with, are currently under a state quarantine. Florida has confirmed 11 cases of EHV-1 with two confirmed deaths. For more information on Florida's EHV outbreak, please visit their website at: <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/>

EHV-1 can be a serious disease of horses that can cause abortion and death. Clinical signs include high fever, neurological symptoms and nasal discharge. The virus can spread through the air, contaminated equipment, clothing and hands. EHV-1 is endemic to the United States and is usually handled by the states involved. In this instance, the shipment of horses was divided and shipped to multiple states. Since the animals crossed state lines, USDA is assisting involved parties by tracing the animals' path from entry to end point.