



May 30, 2011  
Update on EHV-1 Conference Call

Once again this morning a group of Alberta Veterinarians discussed the current situation of EHV-1 in Alberta. Participants of the conference call included the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, members of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, faculty from the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine and local equine practitioners.

To date the reported positive cases of nEHV-1 in Alberta are as follows:

- One neurological case (now recovered) first found positive at the start of May
- Three cases positive with mild respiratory signs/fever all recovered
- Four horses with no clinical signs but positive on PCR for nEHV-1 (Two of these cases are recently positive but are housed with one of the previously reported respiratory cases)

All of these horses except for the neurological case were either at the Ogden, Utah competition or in contact with horses that were at the competition. All of the horses have been appropriately isolated.

At the time of the call, there are three cases (2 new) that are classified as suspects. All cases have been tested and we are awaiting results. None of the suspected cases were at the Ogden competition but were in possible contact with horses that returned from this competition.

- The horse reported as a suspect in the previous report remains a suspect. The mild neurological signs are almost resolved and the horse remains under quarantine. Initial testing was negative for the virus, however, further samples have been submitted for re-testing.
- The two other suspect cases are showing neurological signs and are isolated.

It appears that all of the cases and suspected cases remain in horses associated with the cutting horse industry.

All of the veterinarians involved in the conference call feel that the cancellation of the cutting horse competitions until June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 is commendable. Other disciplines are at this time considered low risk. The decision to cancel competitions and shows in other disciplines should be made in partnership with their associated veterinarian to develop a risk assessment of each situation. Any time we travel to a competition where there is mixing of horses from many locations there is a low risk of transmitting infectious diseases. Biosecurity measures should be followed. Excellent resources on biosecurity protocols for the equine community can be found on the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association website and the Alberta Equestrian Federation website.

Another conference call is scheduled for Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. If any local veterinarians would like to participate they can contact the office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian for further information.

As always we will continue to update our information as it becomes available.