

LEWISTON ROUNDUP



April 5, 2019 | EHV-1 In Idaho

The Lewiston Roundup Association would like to bring to everyone's attention that there have been two confirmed cases of Equine Herpes Virus type 1 (EHV-1) in Idaho. The first case was an Ada County horse that had traveled to the Salty Dash Futurity in South Jordan, UT from March 15-17. It was diagnosed on March 28 with Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), which is the neurologic form of the disease caused by EHV-1 resulting in fever, ataxia and urinary incontinence. It had not traveled to any other events since then and is in quarantine under veterinary care. The second case of EHV-1 was at a private equine training facility in Bannock County and was a mare that aborted a pregnancy. It is stated that there is no evidence suggesting that this case is in any way connected to the EHV-positive horse diagnosed March 28 in Ada County.

EHV-1 is a viral infection that is spread from horse to horse through contact with nasal discharge or spread as aerosol droplets. Horses can also contract the virus by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces such as stalls, water, feed, tack and transport vehicles. Humans can spread the virus from horse to horse by contaminated hands, equipment and clothing. The virus has an incubation period of 2- 10 days, so after exposure a horse may not show clinical signs for almost 2 weeks. Horses can be asymptomatic during the incubation period yet still be shedding the virus. Infected horses can shed the virus and be contagious for up to 3 weeks.

Clinical signs can vary – fever, nasal discharge, lethargy/depression, late term abortion, urinary incontinence, diminished tail tone and neurologic disease. Treatment is a lot of supportive care, anti-inflammatories, and isolation from other horses. We encourage owners to contact their veterinarian immediately if they observe any symptoms of illness in their horses.

If you are worried about a possible exposure, one of the best things to do is to screen for early signs of disease taking your horse's temperature twice a day (prior to exercise). If your horse has a fever (over 101.5) we recommend calling your veterinarian immediately, and you are required to notify the directors/veterinarian at the Lewiston Roundup Grounds.

Lewiston Veterinary Clinic Large Animal Service 1-208-743-6361.

Prevention is key and appropriate biosecurity measures implemented. Vaccination is important in prevention of the respiratory signs of disease but none of the vaccines effectively prevent development of the neurologic form of EHV-1.

If your horse is vaccinated it may also decrease the amount of virus that affected horses shed. We urge all that are traveling to make sure your horses are up to date on vaccinations. This means a vaccination for Flu/Rhino within the last 6 months. It is also recommended to vaccinate the horses at home and not just the ones traveling as they are also at risk.

Please incorporate preventative biosecurity measures while transporting, boarding horses at facilities, and events where horses are coming into contact with new horses/ facilities. The Lewiston Roundup Association and PRCA urges horse owners to follow these steps for preventing the spread of livestock diseases such as EHV.

- Do not share water buckets, hay nets or any other feeding/drinking equipment.
- Do not submerge the water hose in your bucket when filling.
- Do not share tack including halters, head stalls, bits, brushes, etc.
- Avoid nose to nose contact with your horse and others.
- Avoid unnecessary contact with other horses.
- Do not tie your horse to fences and rails where other horses are tied.
- Disinfect stalls before use.
- Clean and disinfect trailers, barns, and other equine contact surfaces thoroughly.
- Thoroughly wash hands, change footwear and clothing after being around other horses or other facilities.

A great source of current information on infectious disease outbreaks throughout the United States is the Equine Disease Communication Center: www.equinediseasecc.org

The Idaho State Veterinarian also releases regular updates on disease outbreaks on their website: agri.idaho.gov/main

Resources:

<http://aaep.org/.../files/Documents/DiseaseFactsheetEHV.pdf>

<http://aaep.org/.../Guidelines/BiosecurityGuidelinesFinal 1.pdf>