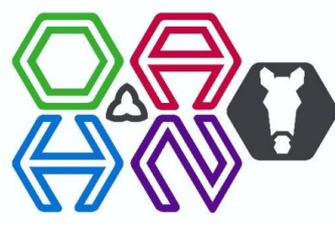


Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM)



EHM is a contagious disease of the nervous system caused by an infection with a virus called equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). There are two strains of the virus and both can cause EHM.

Prevention



Vaccinate for EHV-1 to reduce shedding of the virus. There is no vaccine licensed to protect against the development of EHM.

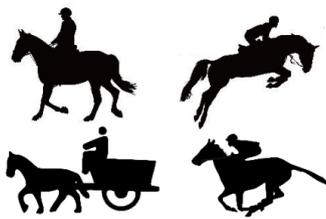


Separate new and returning horses from resident horses for 14 days. Monitor temperatures twice daily. Contact your veterinarian if higher than 101.5°F (38.6°C.)



Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer between handling horses from different risk groups.

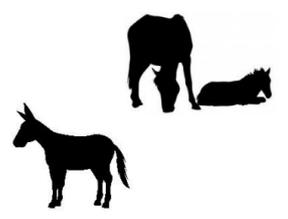
Risk for Disease



Horses that commingle at places such as churches, shows, racetracks and auctions are at a greater risk for becoming infected and spreading the virus.



Stress caused by activities such as transport, weaning, poor nutrition, and extreme weather may cause some horses to start shedding the virus.



Mules and horses may shed the virus and not show any clinical signs of disease. Mares who have aborted due to EHV-1 shed large amounts of virus in the aborted fluids and tissue.

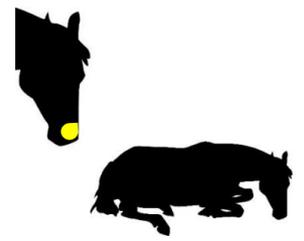
Clinical Signs



A fever of 101.5°F (38.6°C) or higher is often the first indication of infection but often goes unnoticed.



An unsteady walk, especially in the hind end, is typical of EHM. Some horses have difficulty urinating.



Some horses may have a snotty nose but many do not. Some horses may be found down and unable to stand.

Diagnosis



A blood sample may be taken to diagnose EHM early in the disease.



A swab taken from the lining of the nasal passage is the most common sample used to diagnose EHM.



Samples can be taken from horses who have died suddenly. Contact your veterinarian immediately.

Treatment



Treatments for EHM are aimed at reducing inflammation in the brain and spinal cord.

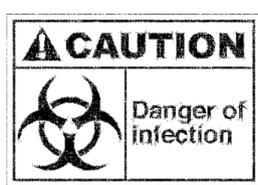
Antiviral medication

Antiviral medications have been useful in some cases of EHM, but treatment may be expensive.



Some horses may need to receive intensive care such as fluid therapy, assistance to stand, and/or help with urination.

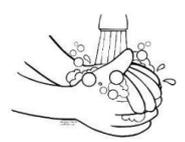
Reducing the Spread of Disease



Isolate horses diagnosed with EHM at least 30ft (9m) from another horse. Do not share equipment, supplies or personnel between areas. Minimize handling of horses. Restrict movement on and off the property. Clean and disinfect contaminated stalls and equipment.



Monitor temperatures twice daily on horses that were in contact with or in the same barn as the horse with EHM. Report results of 101.5°F (38.6°C) or higher to your veterinarian.



Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer between handling horses if in contact with sick or quarantined horses, use a footbath refreshed daily, and change your clothes before leaving the barn.