

May 20, 2011

To: Alberta Horse Owners

RE: Neurotropic Equine Herpesvirus-1 (nEHV-1) in Alberta

Case Summaries:

- There is a confirmed neurologic case of nEHV-1 in an Alberta horse that showed neurologic signs on May 1, 2011 and was isolated at that time. This horse did not attend the cutting horse show in Ogden that has been associated with the US outbreak of the disease; however, it had attended cutting horse events in Alberta. This horse has been under veterinary care and is recovering very well. The origin of the source of contact for this horse remains unknown.
- There is a second confirmed case of nEHV-1 in another Alberta horse that first developed signs of fever and respiratory disease on May 14, 2011. There are no neurologic signs in this horse. This horse had contact with horses and tack that had previous contact with horses at the Ogden show. This horse is under treatment and isolation at this time.
- There is a third confirmed case in an Alberta horse that first developed signs of fever and respiratory disease on May 16, 2011. Again, there are no neurologic signs in this horse. This horse travelled to the show in Ogden and returned to Canada on May 15, 2011. This horse is under treatment and isolation at this time.
- Two more suspect cases of Alberta horses with signs of respiratory disease and fever have laboratory tests pending. These horses are under isolation and treatment at this time.

Current Actions:

- Veterinarians in Alberta and other Western provinces are holding regular conference calls to update the situation.
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development is collecting information on cases of nEHV-1 to help understand the disease situation.

Ongoing Recommendations:

- All horse owners have been asked to carry out normal biosecurity protocols that can be found on the AB.VMA website: AB.VMA Equine Biosecurity



- Any horse that has been in contact with this high risk horses should be monitored closely for signs of respiratory or neurological disease.
- Any horse showing signs of neurologic or respiratory disease should contact their veterinarian.
- To avoid spreading nEHV-1, direct and indirect contact with sick and high risk horses should be avoided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald Hauer DVM".

Dr. Gerald Hauer
Chief Provincial Veterinarian