

June 22, 2011

Neurotropic Equine Herpesvirus-1 (nEHV-1) Update

Cases of nEHV-1 in Alberta Horses Reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian				
Cases since May 1, 2011; data current to June 17, 2011 (2:00pm)				
	Confirmed Cases (PCR Results +ve for nEHV-1)			Suspect Cases (PCR Results Pending or not tested)
	Neurologic Signs	Respiratory Signs (fever, nasal discharge)	Asymptomatic	Neurologic Signs
Number of Cases	4	5	4	2

Summary:

- We have 15 horses reported to our office that are confirmed or suspect cases. Four had no clinical symptoms but tested positive by PCR and 11 had symptoms. Of the 11 that showed symptoms, one died and 10 are recovering or have recovered.
- Of the 11 with symptoms, one suspect respiratory case and one neurological case have been confirmed positive for nEHV-1 by PCR testing since the last update.
- One asymptomatic case reported earlier as confirmed was later determined to be negative for nEHV-1, reducing the case count from 16 to 15.
- Cases have been confirmed in Southern Alberta, in the Calgary area, in the Edmonton area and in the Peace Country and all are in the cutting horse industry.
- Horses that are confirmed positive or are suspects are being voluntarily isolated to reduce the chance of spreading the disease.

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](http://www.abvma.ca/EquineBiosecurity)
- Any horse that has been in contact with high risk horses should be monitored closely for signs of respiratory or neurological disease.
- Any horse showing signs of neurologic or respiratory disease should be examined by a veterinarian.
- To avoid spreading nEHV-1, direct and indirect contact with sick and high risk horses should be avoided.