

EHV (Equine Herpes Virus type 1 -EHV-1) found at UT Veterinary Med Center in East Tennessee

Dr. Charles Hatcher - Tennessee State Veterinarian

The Tennessee State Veterinarian has placed the Equine Hospital at the University of Tennessee Veterinary Medical Center under quarantine. Due to the potential for spread of Equine Herpes Virus type 1 (EHV-1) among horses, movement to and from the equine hospital is restricted.

EHV is a common virus found in horse populations around the world. Almost all horses older than two years of age have been exposed to it. While many horses can carry the virus with no or minimal signs of illness, it occasionally causes some to develop serious clinical signs. It is unknown what causes some horses to develop the serious neurological form, however most cases are associated with a mutated of the virus. EHV-1 can manifest itself in four ways: neurological form, respiratory disease, abortion, and neonatal death. **It is not contagious to people.**

EHV-1 can manifest itself in horses as a neurological or respiratory disease. This particular disease incident appears with neurological symptoms and is called equine herpes virus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). Some symptoms of this particular virus include:

- Fever preceding neurologic signs
- Decreased coordination
- Urine dribbling
- Loss of tail tone
- Hind limb weakness
- Leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance
- Lethargy
- Inability to rise

The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse –to –horse contact. This virus is passed to uninfected horses by respiratory secretions, or through direct or indirect contact with an infected aborted fetus and fetal membranes. The virus can also be spread through contact with physical objects contaminated with infectious virus such as:

- Tack
- Wipe rags or other grooming equipment such as brushes, combs.
- Feed and water buckets
- People's hands, clothing, and boots

The air around an infected horse can also be contaminated with infectious virus.

Horse owners can stop the spread of EHV-1 by:

- Do not share equipment among horses on the facility.

Other recommendations from local vets include:

- Spraying stall areas with a 50/50 bleach-water solution or hydrogen peroxide solution before bedding is put down.

As always the health and safety of our horses are foremost to NWHHA

**NO HORSE SHALL BE PERMITTED ON THE GROUNDS WITHOUT NEGATIVE COGGINS CERTIFICATE (12 month)
AND**

**All horses transported from out of state shall have an official certificate of veterinary inspection or
Equine Interstate Event Permit (a/k/a an equine passport) a 30 day health certificate**